

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
AND THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,
AND EXTENSION SERVICE

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), establishes policies and procedures that will provide for a cooperative working relationship between the NWTF and the CSREES, USDA. This cooperative effort will enhance cooperation in planning, coordinating, and developing wildlife information exchange procedures and educational programs of mutual interest to sustain and enhance natural resources for the economic, social and environmental benefit of the Nation's people. This MOU may be referred to as a Partnership Agreement (PA) by the NWTF in communication with its membership to facilitate their understanding.

II. BACKGROUND AND AUTHORITIES

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is a nonprofit, Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to the wise conservation and management of the American Wild Turkey, comprised of over 600 state and local affiliates with over 120,000 members. It supports an annual research grant program, cooperative management programs, and both adult and youth educational programs.

CSREES, USDA engages in agricultural research, education and extension work including activities carried out under the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 1672, the Hatch Act, 7 U.S.C. 361, et seq., and the Smith-Lever Act, 7 U.S.C. 341, et seq. These programs are implemented through the 1862 and 1890 land grant universities created pursuant to the first and second Morrill Acts, and the Agricultural Experiment Stations and the State Cooperative Extension Services (SCES's) in every state and territory of the United States.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. NWTF will:

1. Provide available research and educational information to CSREES.

2. Cooperate with CSREES in the development, design, and support of educational programs and materials through which useful and practical research and management information generated by the NWTF may be disseminated to the people of the United States through the Cooperative Extension System (CES).
3. Cooperate with CSREES in the preparation of training and educational materials concerning dissemination of new technologies and development of biological research that may be used by the CES and NWTF staffs on a national, regional, state or local basis to assist landowners and managers in the implementation of sound natural resource management practices.
4. Keep CSREES informed on the status of NWTF national and regional objectives relevant to the purposes of this MOU.
5. Encourage effective involvement of State Fish and Wildlife agencies in cooperative programs between NWTF and SCES'S.
6. Refer members and customers of state and local chapters of NWTF to SCES's for research-based educational assistance related to agricultural and natural resource information needs.
7. Encourage the private sector to actively participate in expanded partnerships that will improve stewardship of biological resources and their sustainability and enhancement.

B. CSREES will:

1. Cooperate with NWTF in the development, design and dissemination of information and educational programs and materials concerning new technologies and development of biological research to the people of the United States through interested SCES.
2. Encourage an expanded involvement through the 4-H program of youth and adult volunteers in educational programs about individual and community responsibilities to support and provide sound stewardship of biological resources.
3. Provide channels of communication through the SCES's for distribution of information on biological resources best management practices and environmental concerns.
4. Coordinate with NWTF in the development of biological research, the dissemination of new technologies, and other educational programs for local, regional, state and national use where appropriate.

5. Provide current agricultural and natural resource research information results and recommendations for inclusion in educational programs for use by private landowners and managers to improve management for the wild turkey and other natural resources on their lands.
6. Encourage active involvement of State Fish and Wildlife agencies in NWTF and CSREES programs and training projects developed under this MOU, and in partnerships created through existing USDA authorities for cooperative agreements with private landowners and managers.
7. Provide current information from CSREES and the SCES's to NWTF concerning current biological resource issues, research needs, and new program opportunities.
8. Work with NWTF to avoid duplication of effort and to better organize the dissemination of useful management information to landowners and managers.
9. Encourage private sector involvement at all governmental levels in cooperative activities, within the applicable authority that will contribute to improved stewardship of biological resources and the sustainability of a productive natural resource base.

C. It is mutually agreed and understood that both parties will:

1. Meet annually to review implementation of this MOU and to recommend any appropriate modifications.
2. Agree to cooperate fully with the terms of this MOU to provide research and educational programs, products and assistance to end users for the improvement of natural resources (including wild turkeys) stewardship to benefit the people of the United States.
3. Acknowledge all matters that may require administrative action or approval will be effected through the established administrative procedures of each party, to this MOU.

IV. PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING, AND REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This MOU does not obligate any funds. Any joint endeavors involving reimbursement of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws and NWTF and CSREES-USDA procedures and will be subject to a supplemental agreement which shall be effected in writing by representatives of the involved parties.

V. PUBLIC AFFAIRS/PRESS LIAISON

Releases to the press, public announcements and communications with the Congress concerning joint programs may be made by either of the parties to this MOU following coordination by representatives of each involved party. For CSREES, this means coordination with the Office of Communications, USDA. Credit will be given to NWTF, and CSREES interests as appropriate, and as agreed upon in advance of any such announcement.

VI. AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

This MOU will be reviewed annually and may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the parties. The MOU may be subject to reconsideration at such other times as may be required and as agreed to by representatives of the parties.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

The NWTF and CSREES will assign senior staff to serve in a liaison capacity to satisfy requirements of this MOU.

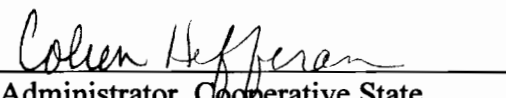
VIII. TERMS OF THIS MOU

This MOU will become effective upon the date subscribed to by the last signature of the approving officials of the respective agency/organization entering into this MOU. The terms of the agreement will remain in effect until terminated by: (1) mutual agreement, or (2) a ninety day advance written notice by either of the parties.

1/2/96
Date


Executive Vice President
National Wild Turkey Federation

21 Dec 95
Date


Administrator, Cooperative State
Research, Education, and Extension Service