

MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL SUPPORT
between
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE INC.
and
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

This MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL SUPPORT is entered into by and between the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF).

I. CONTEXT

NWTF, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage, is a recognized leader in wildlife conservation and has local chapters in every state. NWTF members are sportsmen, women and children who care deeply about natural resources and the wild places they love to hunt. Through partnerships with other non-profits along with state and federal agencies, NWTF helped restore wild turkey populations throughout North America. NWTF's "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." ten-year initiative promotes active forest management and conservation of upland habitat.

- II. SFI® is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management, including protection of water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value. SFI sets standards for forest management and fiber sourcing, as well as chain-of-custody practices — all of which are third-party audited by accredited certification bodies. SFI and its many partners work together to continually improve forest management and promote responsible wood fiber sourcing. Over a quarter-billion acres in the U.S. and Canada are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, of which ninety seven percent is available to the public for outdoor recreation.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Mutual Support is to establish a partnership agreement for cooperation and collaboration between SFI and NWTF to recognize contributions of each organization towards promoting well-managed forests that provide wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and recreational opportunities while supporting conservation, communities and family traditions in North America.

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMON GROUND

Leaders in Conservation:

- NWTF and SFI recognize the benefit of responsibly and actively managed forests for wildlife habitat, clean water and air, recreational access, and forest products.
- SFI has long regarded NWTF as a leader in upland wildlife habitat conservation dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting heritage and hunting opportunities in North America. NWTF has a strong history of supporting forest management techniques including prescribed burning, clearcutting, selective use of forest herbicides, and harvesting as viable and appropriate management practices to create and enhance habitat for many game and non-game wildlife species.
- NWTF recognizes SFI's goals to promote responsible forest management, wildlife habitat, biological diversity and recreational opportunities through the SFI Forest Management Standard. NWTF also recognizes SFI's goals to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry, logger training, landowner outreach and responsible wood procurement practices through the SFI wood procurement requirements.

Promoting Healthy Forests:

- Healthy forests increase the quality of life for current and future generations. Sustainably managed forests provide wildlife habitat to support viable wildlife populations, contribute to biological diversity, support healthy communities and local economies, and provide countless recreational and social benefits.
- SFI Program Participants implement responsible forestry practices on more than a quarter billion acres in the U.S. and Canada certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard. In addition, millions more acres are positively impacted by the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, which insures BMPs for water quality are implemented and landowners are informed about opportunities to help contribute to wildlife conservation efforts.
- Since 1973, the NWTF has contributed over \$412 million to conserve and enhance 7.25 million acres of upland wildlife habitat in North America.

NWTF and SFI Programs Benefit Hunters, Anglers and Outdoor Enthusiasts:

- Every year, millions of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts throughout North America benefit from, and have access to, recreational opportunities on well-managed forests responsibly managed to the SFI Standards.
- NWTF's membership includes men, women and children throughout North America who care deeply about our natural resources.

Promoting Youth Education:

- SFI promotes youth education in conservation through partnerships with Boy Scouts of America and other leading outdoor youth education and scouting organizations.
- NWTF also promotes youth education in conservation through programs such as JAKES, Boy Scouts of America and the Families Afield initiative to give more youth a chance to carry on America's time honored hunting traditions.

Supporting Research:

- Both the SFI Forest Management Standard and the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard require support for forest research. SFI Program Participants have invested more than \$1.5 billion to support and engage in research activities to improve forest health, wildlife habitat and biological diversity, productivity and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.
- For nearly 40 years, the NWTF has supported research in wild turkey management to continue conserving and improving upland habitat for the good of the wildlife species that rely upon those habitats.

V. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL SUPPORT

SFI and NWTF have agreed to recognize, support and/or promote programs of common interest including, but not limited to:

- SFI Forest Partners® Program to increase forest land certification by 10 million acres, beginning in the U.S. South;
- NWTF "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." initiative to conserve or enhance more than 4 million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat;
- Participation in annual meetings and/or conferences such as the SFI Annual Conference and the NWTF Convention and Sport Show;
- NWTF's involvement in SFI Implementation Committees where appropriate;
- Use of products certified to the SFI Standard, where available, for items such as: NWTF Turkey Transport Boxes, NWTF's "Turkey Country" magazine, etc.;
- Development of content for separate communication efforts such as web sites, newsletters, T.V. shows, on-line videos, magazines, annual reports, etc.; and
- Educational materials (signage, brochures, etc.) at the NWTF Hunting Heritage Center at NWTF's Headquarters in Edgefield, SC to help educate the public about responsible forestry practices and certification.

SFI and NWTF agree to seek opportunities to collaborate on funding of projects of common interest through their existing grants programs such as SFI's Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program and NWTF's Super Fund project grants program, and to recognize the value of each partner's project contributions to research, conservation and community outreach for mutual support.

VI. ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

SFI and NWTF staff will meet annually to develop and update an "Annual Action Plan," specifying annual goals, priorities, tasks, deadlines, and roles.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Any official press releases concerning this Memorandum of Mutual Support that is released by one party shall be shared with the other party prior to release.

VIII. PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY

This Memorandum of Mutual Support does not imply consensus agreement on matters of public policy or programs advocated by individual organizations.

IX. RESOURCES

SFI and NWTF will administer their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. Activities requiring shared financial or significant staff resources will be agreed to in advance under separate agreements. NWTF will continue to work with SFI Program Participants (i.e., forest product companies, land owners, etc.) individually to achieve a variety of outcomes.

X. FISCAL

This Memorandum of Mutual Support is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties of this Memorandum of Mutual Support will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors, if any, will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate authority.

XI. MODIFICATION, TERMINATION, AND OTHER CONDITIONS

- A. This Memorandum of Mutual Support may be modified or amended at any time by mutual agreement of all parties in writing, and may be terminated by any party upon sixty (60) days prior written notice.
- B. This Memorandum of Mutual Support in no way restricts SFI or NWTF from participating with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. Both parties recognize the importance of continuing cooperation and participation with non-governmental organizations and institutions in programs of mutual interest.
- C. If any provisions of this Memorandum of Mutual Support are determined to be inconsistent with existing laws or regulations or directives governing the signatories, then the provisions of this document not affected by a finding of inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Memorandum of Mutual Support becomes effective when signed by both signatory parties and remains in effect until modified or terminated.

XIII. SIGNATURES



Kathy Abusow
President and CEO
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.

Sept 10, 2015
Date



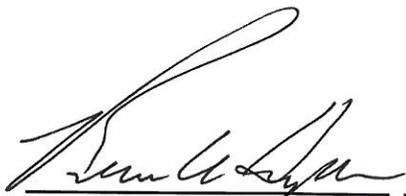
George C. Thornton
CEO
National Wild Turkey Federation

9.10.15
Date



Craig Blair
Chairman of the Board
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.

Date



Rebecca A. Humphries
Chief Conservation Officer
National Wild Turkey Federation

9/10/15
Date