



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**NORTH AMERICAN FALCONERS ASSOCIATION**

AND

**NORTH AMERICAN GROUSE PARTNERSHIP**

This memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) is made and entered into by and between North American Grouse Partnership (“NAGP”) and the North American Falconers Association (“NAFA”).

### **I. BACKGROUND**

Due to the nature of the respective organizations, NAGP and NAFA both possess resources designed to benefit hunting and wildlife conservation. Despite these common objectives, the organizational structure and activities of each are distinct, and in some cases, differ significantly. Defining and establishing a recognized partnership between NAGP and NAFA will allow each party to benefit by providing increased access to the unique resources of the other through collaboration.

**NAFA:** North American Falconers Association was founded in 1961 to encourage high standards of falconry practice, and to promote the wise use and conservation of birds of prey. Conservation of prey species has become an increasingly important function of NAFA in the last few decades. From a handful of members in its early years, NAFA has grown to a membership today sometimes exceeding 3000 and is today the largest membership falconry organization in the world. We work closely with governmental and conservation partners at all levels to promote these objectives and secure a legal and biological environment that allows the cultural heritage of falconry to continue to flourish in North America.

**NAGP:** The North American Grouse Partnership is a 501-C-(3) organization founded by falconers in August of 1999. The need for the organization was identified through deliberations of the NAFA Sage Grouse Committee, chaired by Tom Cade and Kent Christopher. NAGP acts as international advocates for conservation of grouse, their habitats, and confederate species. We lead a group called the “Prairie Grouse Partners” composed of additional national organizations working to conserve similar habitats. We are the only conservation organization that advocates for all 12 North American grouse species and their

habitats. Our strength is found in three key areas - Science, Policy, and Management. Our current area of focus includes prairie grouse.

## **II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to advance the shared goals of NAGP and NAFA through collaboration, communication, and interaction between NAGP staff and NAFA staff. The establishment of this MOU gives both organizations an opportunity to provide coordinated responses utilizing each organization's staff and grass-roots network. Ultimately, we hope to guide policy in a way that encourages science-based decision-making.

## **III. MOVING FORWARD**

The goals, proposed strategies, and responsibilities of each organization outlined below are designed to advance the shared goals of NAGP and NAFA. To this end, NAGP and NAFA will remain in reliable and expedient contact with each other as relevant conservation issues arise. Similarly, both organizations will strategize ways in which to protect and advance conservation policies at the state and federal level.

## **IV. GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

***Increase NAGP and NAFA engagement on specific legislation, policy, and conservation issues or projects.***

- a. NAGP will develop a list of priority issues that are of concern and provide NAFA with that list.
- b. NAGP tracks legislation and policy related to international and US hunting matters, many of which would be of interest to NAFA members.
- c. NAFA will develop a list of priority issues that are of concern and provide NAGP with that list.
- d. NAFA tracks legislation and policy related to international and US hunting matters, many of which would be of interest to NAGP members.
- e. The two organizations will work collaboratively, to the degree legally and ethically possible, and provide notice when an issue arises that is of concern to the other organization. The organizations will work to provide recommendations and action items to address the issue.
- f. It will then be the responsibility of the respective organization to coordinate any policy engagement with its members.

***Improve knowledge of legislation and policy affecting NAGP and NAFA members***

- a. NAFA and NAGP both produce email blasts, press releases, and other work products. Both organizations will encourage members to sign up for any such notifications and, at their discretion, send such information to their memberships.
- b. Relevant staff from NAGP and NAFA will be encouraged to sign up for each other's newsletters and publication alerts.
- c. NAGP and NAFA will exchange staff lists and contact information. Staff will be encouraged to contact each other prior to the emergence of relevant policy issues to build a solid working relationship.

***Increase inter-organizational collaboration***

- a. NAGP and NAFA will meet a minimum of one time per year, in person or by conference call, to review the parties' advancement of the purposes and objectives of this MOU, and to discuss specific policy priorities and strategies for success.
- b. Appropriate staff from NAGP may attend NAFA's annual field meet as available and appropriate, to support NAFA and increase awareness of NAGP its mission, and its policy work and interests. NAFA may attend field activities of NAGP for similar purposes.
- c. As appropriate, legal, and ethical, NAGP and NAFA will collaborate on various communications deliverables to further advance shared priorities and each respective organization's mission and message including, but not limited to preparing and distributing joint press releases.

**V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURES**

This MOU will be in effect upon the signature of the North American Grouse Partnership and the North American Falconers Association's authorized officials. It will continue in perpetuity from the date of signing. It may be modified or amended upon written agreement of the parties and may be terminated upon written notice by either party.

This MOU in no way restricts either of the parties from participating in similar activities with other organizations, individuals, or public agencies. The parties to this MOU may seek additional opportunities to collaborate in ways that are beneficial and within the scope of the activities and mission of each organization. Any funding that may be required for specific collaborative projects developed under this MOU is not included in the scope of this document and will be leveraged through separate agreements.

North American Grouse Partnership and the North American Falconers Association indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures:

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Sheldon Nicolle

Title: President, North American Falconers Association

Date: 7/11/2021

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Ted Koch

Title: Executive Director, North American Grouse Partnership

Date: 7/11/2021