



POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING USE OF NATURAL DOWN INSULATION

At Mountain Hardwear, we value ethical, sustainable manufacturing practices and are committed to assuring that the partners with whom we do business share and practice these values.

We are strongly opposed to inhumane down sourcing practices, specifically any use of live-plucking techniques and/or force-feeding methods used to produce foie gras.

Until recently, the complexity of the shared global supply chain for natural down made it a challenge to ensure that such practices were not being used in production of the natural down we use in our products.

Fortunately, that has now changed.



Several participants in the global down supply chain have combined their resources to develop the [Responsible Down Standard \(RDS\)](#) which, for the first time, overlays a system of chain-of-custody traceability across the natural down supply chain.

As a result of this improved traceability and the increasing supply of RDS-certified down, **Mountain Hardwear has committed to using only RDS-certified down in all apparel beginning with its Fall 2016 product line, and in the full product line by Spring 2017.**

We intend to continue working closely with our vendors and independent manufacturers to promote adherence to current industry protocols and ethical standards. We are an active member of the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) and Textile Exchange Down Task Force, part of the OIA's Materials Traceability Working Group, through which we are collaborating with other brands and retailers to continually improve traceability standards and methodologies.