

White House News

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

Sec. 2. Federal Activities. Federal agencies shall, consistent with agency missions:

(a) Evaluate the effect of agency actions on trends in hunting participation and, where appropriate to address declining trends, implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public;

(b) Consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;

(c) Manage wildlife and wildlife habitats on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances hunting opportunities, including through the use of hunting in wildlife management planning;

(d) Work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species and their habitats in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources;

(e) Establish short and long term goals, in cooperation with State and tribal governments, and consistent with agency missions, to foster healthy and productive populations of game species and appropriate opportunities for the public to hunt those species;

(f) Ensure that agency plans and actions consider programs and recommendations of comprehensive planning efforts such as State Wildlife Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other range-wide management plans for big game and upland game birds;

(g) Seek the advice of State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council and other organizations, with respect to the foregoing Federal activities.

Sec. 3. North American Wildlife Policy Conference. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman) shall, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies and the public, convene not later than 1 year after the date of this order, and periodically thereafter at such times as the Chairman deems appropriate, a White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy (Conference) to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to the means for achieving the goals of this order.

Sec. 4. Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan. The Chairman shall prepare, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council, and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, not later than 1 year following the conclusion of the Conference, a comprehensive Recreational Hunting and Wildlife

Conservation Plan that incorporates existing and ongoing activities and sets forth a 10 year agenda for fulfilling the actions identified in section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust responsibility, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 16, 2007.
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Subject: FYI: Agriculture, Interior Secretaries Initiate President's Enhanced Hunting and Land Conservation Opportunities

Office of the Secretary Contact: Chris Paolino August 17, 2007 (202) 208-6416

AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR SECRETARIES INITIATE PRESIDENT'S ENHANCED HUNTING AND LAND CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON, DC, August 16, 2007 - President Bush's Executive Order today directs coordination among federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, to work directly with the Sporting Conservation Council promoting expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat. The Sporting Conservation Council, a federally chartered advisory committee, advises the departments of Interior and Agriculture on wildlife conservation issues such as hunting access, education, healthy landscapes, and energy development.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne will direct their federal departments to evaluate trends in hunting participation and implement actions that will expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public and establish goals to conserve and manage wildlife habitats for healthy and productive populations of game animals. Together, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior manage nearly 700 million acres of land in the United States.

"The President's direct encouragement of opportunities for conservation and management of land and wildlife recognizes a vital role that perpetuates a natural balance among hunter, habitat and wildlife," said Agriculture Secretary Johanns.

"The Executive Order from the President recognizes that outdoor activities, like hunting, can provide tremendous benefits to both individuals and to wildlife conservation. Hunters connect with the environment and become stronger stewards in their efforts to conserve that environment," said Interior Secretary Kempthorne.

"The Sporting Conservation Council appreciates the President's recognition of the importance of hunters and hunting in preserving America's wildlife. The conference will go a long way in enhancing that legacy," said Council chairman Robert Model.

The President's Executive Order convenes within one year a White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy that will meet periodically to develop a comprehensive ten year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan follow-through on the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and management of game species and their habitats.

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Executive Order: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation