

*Wildlife and Hunting Heritage
Conservation Council*

December 21, 2011

Mr. Daniel Ashe, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

At a recent Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council) meeting, the Council expressed its desire to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in implementing recommendations contained in the *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation* vision document. In Chapter 2: A Connected Conservation Constituency, the vision document stated the Service's desire to engage both the Council and the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council to provide guidance on National Wildlife Refuge System policies and programs.

The Council appreciated the opportunity to review drafts of the vision document and to provide specific input into the document's development. The Council sent a letter to Secretary Salazar (cc to you and Rowan Gould) dated April 18, 2011 which provided specific recommendations for your consideration when finalizing the vision document. In the September 12, 2011 letter, sent to you, the Council voiced support for the modifications to the document proposed in the September 7, 2011 letter by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the accepted recommendations and others as you develop plans to implement portions of the document over the coming months and years.

To that end and at the suggestion of Deputy Director Siekaniec, the Council would like to formally engage with selected Service Implementation Teams which address issues with a direct nexus to the Council's responsibilities. The Council will establish committees for each of four Implementation Teams' topics, namely: 1) Strategic Growth, 2) Communications, 3) Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation, and 4) Interpretation and Education. In addition, the Council will task its Interpretation and Education committee to provide advice and input to the Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative and the Leadership Development Council teams regarding the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the American System of Conservation Funding. The Council has tentatively identified members who will be responsible for developing and providing Council input to the aforementioned Teams. Council members are being selected based on their knowledge and experience in each of the Teams' topic areas.

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We look forward to the implementation team process and stand ready to assist you and your staff in your deliberations. Please let the Council know how we may best assist the Service in the process and please provide contact information for Service staff members who will be leading the Implementation Teams identified above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Tomke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Tomke, Chair
Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Cc:
Gregory Siekaniec, Deputy Director
Jim Kurth, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System