

*Wildlife and Hunting Heritage
Conservation Council*

April 27, 2012

Mr. Robert Abbey, Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Managing Recreational Shooting on BLM Lands

Director Abbey:

Thank you for meeting with me and members of the Council's Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee on February 10th to discuss recreational shooting on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties. The Council has established an ad hoc group of its members – Jeff Crane, Robert Model, and Steve Sanetti – to work with BLM staff and others to develop recommendations for full Council consideration that encourage both recreational shooting access and responsible behavior. The efforts of this ad hoc group will include specific recommendations to:

- Help develop processes that expedite land conveyances from BLM to states, counties, cities and NGO's that wish to develop shooting ranges (i.e. develop expediting processing related to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act).
- Encourage more responsible behaviors by recreational shooters. The group will examine efforts with NGOs and groups focused on developing and implementing responsible behavior by outdoor recreationists (i.e. Tread Lightly and the Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing and Shooting Sports Roundtable).
- Help develop best management practices for staff in managing safe recreational shooting areas on BLM lands.
- Help develop policies and processes that protect the widest range of recreational access, including recreational shooting, on BLM lands.

As many of America's metropolitan-area populations expand, pressure increases on remaining open areas that support dispersed recreational shooting and other outdoor recreation. The Council and its ad hoc group looks forward to working with BLM to develop tools and policies that will help ensure BLM lands offer ongoing, accessible, high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities for a growing nation.

Sincerely,



John Tomke, Chair
Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Cc: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior

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