

**REPORT TO
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

DATE: 4/3/2017

FROM: Jim Kurth, Director (acting), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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SUBJECT: Response to Secretary's Order 3347

Statement of purpose: This report to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS) response to Section 4.a. of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.

BACKGROUND

Secretary's Order 3347

On March 2, 2017, Secretary Zinke signed Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation (S.O.). Section 4.a. directs the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management to report to the Secretary within 30 days to provide reports on two areas. The first area (described in Section 4.a.(1)) includes the following components: all actions taken to implement Executive Order 13443 (E.O.) and achieve its goals; all actions described by the E.O. that have not occurred; explanation of regulatory, legislative, policy, or other barriers preventing or slowing implementation of the E.O.; and recommendations to improve implementation of the E.O. The second area as described in Section 4.a.(2) requests recommendations to enhance and expand recreational fishing access. Section 4.a.(1) is linked to a separate and distinct E.O., a description of which follows.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the National Park Service (NPS) coordinated during the development of this report. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management requested the Bureau of Land Management submit its response to the S.O.

Executive Order 13443

Executive Order 13443 "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation" - signed by President George W. Bush on August 16, 2007 - directed 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."

Section 2. of the E.O. included seven activities to achieve this purpose:

“(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.”

The E.O. directed that a “Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan” be prepared by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and include specific actions and a 10 year agenda to pursue the E.O.’s activities and fulfill its overall purpose. This implementation plan was completed on December 14, 2008, and included 58 “major” actions and 173 sub-actions. In 2013, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council) - a federal advisory group created by Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in part to provide guidance on implementing the plan - completed its initial assessment of the plan (<http://whhcc.djcase.com/overview>). This assessment determined that of the 58 major actions, 21% were completed, 48% were partially completed, and 31% were incomplete. In addition to being charged by the Secretaries to help implement the plan, the Council was also charged with developing and submitting its own recommendations to fulfill the purpose of the E.O.

RESPONSE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s core mission is to *“Work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”* The FWS manages for habitats and wildlife populations capable of delivering the highest quality hunting and fishing opportunities to the public. The FWS expands hunting and angling opportunities by making new hunting and fishing programs available on our National Wildlife Refuges. The FWS works closely with our federal, state, and private landowner partners to deliver conservation and quality wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation experiences on other lands. Migratory Birds Program staff are the acknowledged experts in game

and nongame migratory bird research and management, and have long served as essential collaborators with state agencies to ensure healthy waterfowl and other migratory bird populations. The grant administration expertise of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program keeps the states' most important source of conservation funding flowing. The Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation program oversees the National Fish Hatchery System that works with tribal, local, and state governments, other federal agencies, and foreign nations to conserve imperiled species and common game fishes alike.

The Interior and Agriculture Secretaries acknowledged the strong and unique connection of FWS to hunting and angling issues and the hunting and angling community by charging it with coordination and oversight of two federal advisory groups: the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (serving the Interior Secretary), and the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (serving the Interior and Agriculture Secretaries). These two groups include senior leadership from the recreational fishing and hunting communities and provide the Secretaries guidance on priority topics.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Hunting is managed at the local unit level in coordination with states, and, in most of the NPS units that authorize hunting, state regulations and rules are used to govern the overall management of hunting. In addition, the NPS works with state wildlife agencies on large scale compliance projects such as mountain goat reduction in Olympic National Park, hunting plans at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and elk reduction programs that have successfully used trained volunteers at Wind Cave, Rocky Mountain and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks.

The NPS works to preserve habitat and the integrity of whole ecosystems, which enhances multiple species and biodiversity through conservation and restoration. These efforts benefit species in units where hunting is authorized and those where it is not. This is in line with NPS Management Policies (2006), which states that "habitat manipulation for harvested species may include restoration of a disturbed area to its natural condition, but this will not include artificial manipulation of habitat to increase numbers of a harvested species above its natural range in population levels."

There are numerous examples of the NPS engaging in habitat restoration actions that benefit native hunted species populations within and outside of park unit boundaries. For example, a number of NPS units in the Midwest, Southeast and Eastern states are cooperating with states and private entities to restore grassland habitat that benefits bobwhite quail as part of the National Bobwhite Quail Initiative. This is consistent with NPS goals for cultural landscapes on battlefield sites, increases habitat for pollinators and various grassland migratory birds and, as a result, increases bobwhite quail populations. Increases to bobwhite quail populations positively impact hunting opportunities adjacent to NPS units. The NPS also maintains localized habitats that have regional and national impacts on hunted species. For example, a series of small

freshwater ponds on Padre Island National Seashore is maintained by the NPS and used by multiple species, including a large segment of the continental wintering population of redhead ducks and other migratory waterfowl. These ponds are critical for conservation and are an example of NPS habitat work that has large-scale impacts on hunted species.

The NPS also engages in surveys and research projects on species that are considered harvest species in cooperation with state and other federal wildlife agencies. Examples include caribou surveys and research in Alaska, elk research and surveys in the greater Yellowstone and Grand Teton ecosystems, desert bighorn sheep surveys and research in California, and white-tailed deer surveys in Florida. All of these projects and dozens more aid the NPS and state partners in helping to set license numbers and offer increased hunting opportunities, and increase our collective knowledge about wildlife populations and threats.

In summary, the FWS and NPS missions align with the overarching goal of Secretary's Order 3347. Every day, the two bureaus work to ensure healthy habitat, healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the high-quality hunting and angling opportunities dependent on those resources.

The response to each of the requests found in the S.O. follows.

Hunting Access and Opportunity - Response to Sec. 4.a.(1)

Secretary's Order 3347, Section 4.a.(1) requests that the ASFWP:

"Report to the Secretary within 30 calendar days on:

- a. All actions taken to implement Executive Order 13443 and achieve its goals.*
- b. All actions described in Executive Order 13443 that have not occurred, along with an explanation of any regulatory, legislative, policy or other barriers that have prevented or slowed successful implementation of Executive Order 13443.*
- c. Specific recommendations to improve implementation of Executive Order 13443."*

The response to S.O. Section 4.a. (1) is derived from three sources: (1) the seven activities described within the E.O. itself, (2) actions described in the "Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan", and (3) actions recommended by the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. The S.O. and E.O. include broad wildlife and habitat management components, but emphasize hunting access and opportunity. Therefore, the response emphasizes these areas.

1. Executive Order 13443 Activities

The FWS and NPS developed a spreadsheet (attached) addressing the seven activities listed in the E.O. and the three questions posed in the S.O.: (1) actions already taken to implement the E.O., (2) barriers in further implementing the E.O., and (3) recommendations to help implement the E.O. We identified more than 65 completed actions, four major barriers to further implementation, and provided 40 recommendations. The actions, barriers, and

recommendations are wide ranging, reflecting the breadth of our conservation programs and depth of our involvement with habitat and wildlife management, and hunting and angling access and opportunities.

2. Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan

The WHHCC 2013 status review of the E.O.'s "Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan - A 10 Year Plan for Implementation" yielded a number of recommendations relevant to activities on hunting access and opportunities. The following content is taken directly from the status review report:

- Plan Recommendations Implemented (in part or in whole)
 - *"Recommend and implement a training curriculum for federal employees on the history, ecology, and management of hunting on public land - The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), in conjunction with Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) and the Conservation Leadership Institute, provides federal employees with a training curricula on the history, ecology and management of hunting on public land."*
 - *"Recommend improvements for controlling species that have detrimental impacts on hunting and fishing opportunities and targeted species - Efforts ongoing. Wildlife sickened by disease and habitats invaded by exotic plants and animals have become significant problems on public lands. Throughout the United States, invasive exotics are destroying or displacing native plants and diminishing habitat quality on approximately 150 million acres. Disease is killing – or necessitating the slaughter of – thousands of deer and elk."*
 - *"Establish a one-stop-shop website of information on hunting on federal land - While no unified website exists for all federal lands, the National Wildlife Refuge System has hosted and maintained a website allowing visitors to identify refuges with hunting programs by zip-code and species of interest."*
 - *"Recommend improved and enhanced access to public lands where hunting is allowed - Recent improvements and enhancements to access to public lands for hunting have been site-specific. Examples exist within DOI to improve access for hunting—including for hunters with disabilities. Further progress is likely to occur if and when legislation on "Making Public Lands Public" is enacted."*
 - *"Teach best practices for hunting programs in formal training for federal land Managers – DOI bureaus are taking steps in training and in ungulate management addressing the role of hunting in resource management. Therefore, the action is in progress and partially complete."*
 - *"Publish guidance to ensure federal agencies consider effects of climate change on wildlife, habitat and wildlife-dependent recreation - The National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy integrated stakeholders throughout national, state and tribal governments to create a strategy for adaptation to climate change for many ecosystems. Additionally, DOI bureaus have developed strategic plans to adapt to the effects of climate change. While these efforts are ongoing, they do not necessarily "ensure" federal agencies consider the effects of climate change on wildlife."*

- *“Create a grasslands conservation initiative - Grasslands conservation initiatives have started to take root. A few examples include the Dakota Grasslands Initiative, the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, the Grasslands Reserve Program and the Everglades Restoration. The value of landscape-scale grasslands conservation is highlighted in the report, Conservation in North America: An Analysis of Land-Based Conservation in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. by NAWPA Agencies (The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Area Conservation, 2016). With the potential for decreased funding via the Land and Water Conservation Fund, questions do remain as to how to continue to fund these initiatives.”*
- Plan Recommendations Not Implemented
 - *“Require all federal land management supervisory personnel to complete a state-sanctioned hunter education course, or an equivalent program - Training opportunities exist via the National Conservation Training Center and Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, but are not mandatory.”*

3. Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Recommendations

Of the roughly 80 guidance letters the Council has developed over seven years, 26 letters were on recreational access issues related to FWS and NPS programs. These letters were roughly split between funding (primarily legislative) topics related to expanding public lands, and policy/regulatory topics to enhance access to existing lands. Many of the policy/regulatory recommendations related to the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) Vision document, for which the Council acknowledged Service responsiveness in a thank you letter to the Service. Of particular note are two Council recommendation letters highlighting the critical role of federal lands to the nation’s hunting traditions and strongly opposing divestiture of federal lands.

- Council Recommendations Implemented
 - *Incorporate hunting content into NWRS Vision Document and Implementation Plan Chapter 18*
 - *Improve reporting on new and expanded hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges*
- Council Recommendations Not Implemented
 - *Opposition to Federal Land Divestiture - recommends the Department strongly express and defend federal lands as a foundational element of hunting access.*
 - *Support for Land and Water Conservation Fund - recommends the Department strongly advocate for LWCF and the wildlife and access-related improvements to the program suggested by the Council.*
 - *Defend the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and Boating Safety Trust Fund - recommends the Department work with OMB to secure an exemption for the Fund in advance of any Federal budget sequestration.*

Fishing Access and Opportunity - Response to Sec. 4.a.(2)

Secretary's Order 3347, Section 4.a.(2) requests that the ASFWP:

"Report to the Secretary within 30 days with specific recommendations to enhance recreational fishing, specifically regarding efforts to enhance and expand recreational fishing access."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

It is clear that fishing is one of America's most enduring pastimes, something in which people of all ages can participate and an activity millions enjoy each year as a way to have fun and experience the outdoors. The 2016 Special Report on Fishing conducted by the Outdoor Foundation and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) concludes that fishing remains among the most popular outdoor activities for adults.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes that a healthy fisheries population is not only important to the culture and environment of our country but to the economy as well. Fishing is more than a pastime; it is the foundation of an industry that supports more than 800,000 jobs involved in the manufacture, sale, or provision of angling products and services. The money spent by companies and employees supporting anglers created an economic multiplier effect with a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy in 2011.

The Service's work has historically and continues to prioritize the mission of working collaboratively with tribes, states, landowners, partners and stakeholders across the country to achieve healthy, self-sustaining populations of fish. This work is done to ensure the health of our nation's aquatic ecosystems along with the associated recreational, economic, and ecological benefits to the American people that these resources provide.

The Service has established strong relationships with a broad range of stakeholders and partners uniquely situated to support enhancement and expansion of recreational fishing. Though fishing participation in the United States was up 11% in the most recent USFWS study, historical trends indicate that there have been declines in participation in fishing from its peak in the 1980s, partly due to a broad demographic change in the United States and a settlement trend toward increased urbanization. It is clear that engagement of a more diverse population and creating opportunities in urban areas to engage a more diverse America in fishing is important to the future of the sport and related conservation of healthy fisheries.

Though data on fishing in the past few years shows an upswing, there still remain many challenges and opportunities to enhance recreational fishing access. Studies indicate that new anglers who go fishing at least 3 times a year are more likely to pick up the sport as a regular pastime. In the future we will strive to get beyond engaging our diverse communities in onetime fishing experiences to multiple experiences, with a goal of increasing the number of dedicated anglers enjoying this national pastime.

Below are a few examples of the work that the FWS has engaged in since Executive Order 13443 was issued to maintain and restore healthy fisheries, promote recreational fishing, and improve public access:

- Stocked more than 330 million Chinook/king salmon, 270 million walleye, and 30

million rainbow trout.

- Removed over 1600 fish passage barriers and reopened 25,000 waterway miles to fish passage with over 700 partners to support healthy fisheries populations for conservation and recreation.
- Worked with the U.S. Air Force to manage and diverse fish and wildlife habitats on DOD lands, through the development and implementation of integrated resource management plans.
- Implemented targeted programs such as “Sea Lamprey Control” that allowed reestablishment of sport fisheries estimated at an annual value of over \$200 million in the Lake Champlain area.
- Opened five additional National Wildlife Refuges for fishing access, bringing the system total to 276 refuges open to the public for fishing.
- Conducted almost 28,000 fishing and aquatic education events at our National Fish Hatcheries.
- Provided \$3.6 billion in funding from the Sport Fish Restoration program to state fish agencies for a broad range of activities that support fisheries conservation and recreation.
- Expanded outreach through education and recreational opportunities such as fishing clinics to underserved groups through our partners, including the Steve Harvey Foundation, Urban American Outdoors and RBFF’s Vamos a Pescar program.
- Through the National Communications and Outreach Grant invested \$12 million annually in the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to enhance marketing efforts to increase the number of anglers and boaters in the United States.

Below are a few recommendations to maintain and restore healthy fisheries, promote recreational fishing, and improve public access for fishing in the future:

- Modernization of National Fish Hatchery facilities to enhance fish rearing capacity.
- Maintain healthy fisheries by limiting the introduction, establishment and spread of harmful invasive species.
- Enhance fish habitat by removing fish passage barriers through the National Fish Passage Program.
- Support and enhance the Urban Refuge Initiative that will provide opportunities for urban youth and their families to experience fishing for the first time.
- Continue support for providing additional fishing access on National Wildlife Refuge System properties.
- Participate in the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation’s “60 in 60” initiative to achieve 60 million U.S. anglers in the next 60 months (by 2021), which could contribute to a more than \$500 million increase in fishing license revenue over the next five years, a \$35 billion annual increase in economic contributions from anglers and a \$10 billion annual increase in economic contributions from boaters.
- Participate in RBFF’s pilot “first catch center” program to establish learning centers across the country that combine hands on activities with traditional lessons in fishing and boating skills and conservation.
- Expand outreach and communication initiatives that incorporate high quality messaging to increase fishing participation.

National Park Service

Of the 346 NPS units with surface water and 246 units with fish, there are 213 NPS units (see attached list) which have waters open to fishing. Fishing is allowed in waters managed by the NPS, except where specifically prohibited by statute or regulation. In units with some waters closed to fishing, the reasons for closures are variable and include language in enabling legislation or other statutes, public safety, conservation, compliance with local, state or other federal regulations, or a determination that fishing is inappropriate for the designated purposes of a specific water or area.

In managing fish and fishing, NPS units commonly rely on partnerships with states, other federal agencies, academic institutions and local and national conservation organizations. Parks are required to develop cooperative fisheries management plans with states where appropriate and are encouraged to enter into memoranda of understanding to better define roles and responsibilities and more efficiently meet joint recreational angling and conservation goals. The NPS will review and consider the following actions that may have the potential to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and, in some cases, may improve angler access.

Opportunities:

- **Restoration:** Identify, prioritize and implement aquatic habitat restoration to improve fish populations and recreational fishing. The National Fish Habitat Partnership recognizes the significant impacts of aquatic habitat loss and degradation on fish populations nationwide. Although many NPS units include examples of healthy aquatic habitats, there are other NPS units where fish populations are suppressed and recreational fishing is impacted by one or multiple habitat quality problems. Some of these problems are legacies of past management; others are a result of ongoing activities occurring inside or outside NPS boundaries.
- **Fish / Fishery Management Planning:** Expand engagement with state and federal partners in the development of fish and fishing plans that establish shared goals and identify actions to conserve native fish, improve fishing opportunities and increase access. The NPS is currently engaged in pilot fish management strategies at several parks that could be models for future efforts.
- **Memoranda of Understanding:** Increase the use of memoranda of understanding with state partners, adjacent land managers and others for the purposes of identifying issues and areas of shared interest, improving working relationships, and leveraging resources to conserve fish populations and enhance fishing opportunity and fishing access.
- **Land Acquisition or Easements:** Identify opportunities for strategic acquisition of property or easements from willing landowners with the potential to improve access to NPS waters for recreational anglers. Some NPS units include private inholdings that may impede public access to NPS waters. Continue to work with partners to review Land and Water Conservation Fund opportunities to promote fishing access.
- **Boat Ramps, Piers, Docks, Vehicle Pullouts, and Other Facilities:** Identify areas where the condition of boat ramps, docks, or other NPS maintained facilities may limit angler access and develop projects to address these issues. NPS units include numerous improved and unimproved boat ramps, docks, piers and other facilities that are important to angler access. The NPS continues to identify conditions of these facilities to prioritize

them for maintenance and development. These efforts contribute to maintaining or improving angler access, including the development of pullouts for safe access to fishing opportunities.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control (AIS):** Work with states, other federal agencies to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS and, where feasible, to control AIS that have already become established. AIS are among the greatest threats to the integrity of aquatic ecosystems and to fish species valued by recreational anglers. Management and control of AIS have the potential to increase angling opportunity by expanding or improving habitat for sportfish. Effective prevention, including education and outreach and clearly understood regulations, is important to avoid impacts to existing fishing opportunity
- **Fish Habitat Structures:** Identify NPS waters where it may be appropriate to deploy structures to enhance recreational fishing. These would typically include reservoirs or other human-constructed water bodies.
- **ADA Fishing Access:** Identify opportunities for to develop accessible fishing piers to provide additional fishing opportunities for disabled visitors.
- **Education and Outreach:** Expand opportunities for education and outreach on fishing in parks including fish conservation and areas to fish. Such opportunities may include interpretive programs, brochures, kiosks and visitor centers, and NPS websites.
- **Collaboration with State Fisheries Agencies:** Collaborate with state agencies to conserve aquatic biological diversity, and provide opportunities for park visitors including recreational anglers. Examples that have proven to be successful in increasing diverse and sustainable native fish populations and sources include the establishment of the marine protected areas at Dry Tortugas National Park (FL), stocking of high-elevation lakes at North Cascades National Park (WA), and addressing the threat of non-native green sunfish in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (AZ).

ATTACHMENTS

- S.O. 3347 - E.O. 13443 Activities response spreadsheet
- National Park Service Units with Hunting Activities
- National Park Service Units with Recreational, Subsistence, Commercial & Treaty Fishing

NPS Units with Recreational, Subsistence, Commercial and Treaty Fishing

NPS Unit	Recreational	Subsistence	Commercial	Treaty	All Waters Open	
					Yes	No
Acadia National Park	X		X		X	
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument	X				X	
Alagnak Wild River	X	X			X	
Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site	X				X	
Amistad National Recreation Area	X					X
American Memorial Park	X	X			X	
Aniakchak National Monument	X	X			X	
Aniakchak National Preserve	X	X			X	
Antietam National Battlefield	X					X
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore	X		X	X	X	
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	X					X
Arches National Park	X				X	
Arkansas Post National Memorial	X				X	
Assateague Island National Seashore	X				X	
Badlands National Park	X			X	X	
Bandelier National Monument	X					X
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve	X	X			X	
Big Bend National Park	X					X
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	X			X		X
Big Cypress National Preserve	X	X		X	X	
Big Hole National Battlefield	X				X	
Biscayne National Park	X	X	X		X	
Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area	X				X	
Big Thicket National Preserve	X				X	
Black Canyon of The Gunnison National Park	X				X	
Blue Ridge Parkway	X					X
Bluestone National Scenic River	X				X	
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area	X		X			X
Boston National Historical Park	X					X
Booker T Washington National Monument	X				X	
Buffalo National River	X				X	
Cape Cod National Seashore	X		X		X	
Cape Hatteras National Seashore	X	X	X		X	
Cape Krusenstern National Monument	X	X	X		X	
Cape Lookout National Seashore	X		X		X	
Canaveral National Seashore	X		X		X	

Canyonlands National Park	X				X	
Capitol Reef National Park	X				X	
Catoctin Mountain Park	X				X	
Cedar Breaks National Monument	X				X	
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area	X	X			X	
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park	X					X
Chickasaw National Recreation Area	X					X
Channel Islands National Park	X		X			X
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park	X	X			X	
Colonial National Historical Park	X				X	
Congaree National Park	X				X	
Crater Lake National Park	X					X
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park	X					X
Cumberland Island National Seashore	X	X	X		X	
Curecanti National Recreation Area	X				X	
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	X				X	
Denali National Park	X				X	
Denali National Preserve	X	X			X	
Devils Postpile National Monument	X				X	
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area	X				X	
Dinosaur National Monument	X				X	
Dry Tortugas National Park	X					X
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve	X	X	X	X		X
Effigy Mounds National Monument	X				X	
Eisenhower National Historic Site	X				X	
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site	X				X	
Everglades National Park	X	X				X
Fire Island National Seashore	X		X		X	
Fort Frederica National Monument	X					X
Fort Laramie National Historic Site	X					X
Fort Matanzas National Monument	X		X			X
Fort Monroe National Monument	X	X				X
Fort Point National Historic Site	X					X
Fort Pulaski National Monument	X				X	
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	X				X	
Fort Smith National Historic Site	X				X	
Fort Sumter National Monument	X					X
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	X				X	
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park	X				X	
Gates of The Arctic National Park	X	X			X	
Gates of The Arctic National Preserve	X	X			X	
Gauley River National Recreation Area	X				X	
Gateway National Recreation Area	X	X				X

Gettysburg National Military Park	X				X	
George Washington Birthplace National Monument	X					X
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	X				X	
Glacier National Park	X					X
Glacier Bay National Park	X		X		X	
Glacier Bay National Preserve	X	X	X		X	
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	X	X				X
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	X					X
Governors Island National Monument	X				X	
Great Basin National Park	X				X	
Grand Canyon National Park	X					X
Great Egg Harbor River	X	X	X			X
Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site	X				X	
Grand Portage National Monument	X	X		X	X	
Great Sand Dunes National Park	X				X	
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve	X				X	
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	X				X	
Grand Teton National Park	X					X
Gulf Islands National Seashore	X				X	
George Washington Memorial Parkway	X				X	
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	X				X	
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument	X				X	
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park	X					X
Hopewell Culture National Historical Park	X				X	
Home of Franklin D Roosevelt National Historic Site	X				X	
Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site	X				X	
Homestead National Monument of America	X				X	
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore	X				X	
Isle Royale National Park	X				X	
Jamestown National Historic Site	X					X
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve	X		X		X	
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument	X				X	
John D Rockefeller Jr Memorial Parkway	X				X	
Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park	X	X	X			X
Kalaupapa National Historical Park	X	X	X		X	
Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument	X					
Katmai National Park	X			X	X	
Katmai National Preserve	X	X			X	
Kenai Fjords National Park	X				X	
Keweenaw National Historical Park	X				X	
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park	X				X	
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site	X				X	
Kobuk Valley National Park	X	X			X	

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area	X				X	
Lake Clark National Park	X	X			X	
Lake Clark National Preserve	X	X			X	
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	X				X	
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area	X					X
Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area	X				X	
Lassen Volcanic National Park	X					X
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park	X				X	
Little River Canyon National Preserve	X				X	
Lowell National Historical Park	X					X
Mammoth Cave National Park	X				X	
Manassas National Battlefield Park	X				X	
Minute Man National Historical Park	X				X	
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area	X				X	
Missouri National Recreational River	X		X		X	
Moore's Creek National Battlefield	X					X
Monocacy National Battlefield	X					X
Mount Rainier National Park	X					X
Morristown National Historical Park	X				X	
National Mall & Memorial Parks	X	X			X	
National Capital Parks-East	X	X				X
Natchez National Historical Park	X				X	
Natchez Trace Parkway	X				X	
Nez Perce National Historical Park	X				X	
New River Gorge National River	X	X			X	
Niobrara National Scenic River	X				X	
Ninety Six National Historic Site	X				X	
Noatak National Preserve	X	X			X	
North Cascades National Park	X				X	
National Park of American Samoa	X	X		X		X
Obed Wild & Scenic River	X				X	
Ocmulgee National Monument	X				X	
Olympic National Park	X			X		X
Ozark National Scenic Riverways	X	X			X	
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park	X				X	
Padre Island National Seashore	X				X	
Pecos National Historical Park	X				X	
Petersburg National Battlefield	X				X	
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	X		X	X	X	
Point Reyes National Seashore	X					X
Prince William Forest Park	X				X	
Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site	X	X			X	
Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park	X	X			X	

Redwood National and State Parks	X		X		X	
Richmond National Battlefield Park	X				X	
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River	X				X	
Rock Creek Park	X					X
Ross Lake National Recreation Area	X					X
Rocky Mountain National Park	X					X
Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park	X					X
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park	X				X	
Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway	X	X		X	X	
Saint Croix Island International Historic Site	X					X
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	X	X			X	
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site	X				X	
San Juan Island National Historical Park	X				X	
Salem Maritime National Historic Site	X				X	
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	X				X	
Saratoga National Historical Park	X				X	
Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve	X		X	X	X	
Scotts Bluff National Monument	X				X	
Kings Canyon National Park	X	X			X	
Sequoia National Park	X	X				X
Shenandoah National Park	X				X	
Shiloh National Military Park	X	X				X
Sitka National Historical Park	X				X	
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	X		X	X	X	
Stones River National Battlefield	X					X
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve	X					X
Theodore Roosevelt National Park	X				X	
Thomas Stone National Historic Site	X				X	
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	X				X	
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve	X	X	X		X	
Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River	X		X		X	
Valles Caldera National Preserve	X					
Valley Forge National Historical Park	X				X	
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site	X				X	
Virgin Islands National Park	X	X			X	
Voyageurs National Park	X		X		X	
War In The Pacific National Historical Park	X	X				X
Weir Farm National Historic Site	X				X	
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	X				X	
Whitman Mission National Historic Site	X				X	
Wind Cave National Park	X				X	

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts	X					X
Wrangell - St Elias National Park	X	X	X		X	
Wrangell - St Elias National Preserve	X	X	X		X	
Yellowstone National Park	X					X
Yosemite National Park	X					X
Yukon - Charley Rivers National Preserve	X	X			X	
Zion National Park	X					X
	21					
TOTALS	3	48	30	13	153	58

Attachment: Hunting Activities in Units of the National Park Service (NPS)

Summary information:

- Approximately 51,000,000 acres are open to hunting in NPS units (parks, preserves, seashores, lakeshores, etc.)
- Approximately 43,000,000 acres are open to hunting in parks units in Alaska
- Approximately 8,000,000 are open to hunting in park units in the lower 48 states.
- The total acres open to hunting represent approximately 60% of the total acres of all NPS lands and waters.
- There are **76** NPS units that are authorized for some form of recreational public hunting or subsistence or tribal hunting.
- This includes:
 - There are **64** “*shall hunt*” units open to recreational hunting, where hunting is mandated in the park’s enabling legislation; this includes Valles Caldera National Preserve and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, two recently added units to the NPS.
 - There are **4** “*may hunt*” units where hunting is authorized, but is not mandated in the park’s enabling legislation. Of these, 2 are currently open to hunting and 2 are not currently open to hunting.
 - There are **7** units in Alaska that are authorized only for subsistence hunting via the Alaska Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
 - There is **1** NPS unit, Badlands National Park, which allows hunting only by the Oglala Sioux Tribe on some Tribal/Park lands.
- Longstanding NPS regulations (36 CFR 2.2(b)) and policy prohibit hunting except in specific units where it is expressly authorized by Federal statute. Courts have noted that this prohibition is most consistent with the NPS Organic Act and its mandate to conserve wildlife, and with NPS's understanding of that mandate in administering national park units since its founding. The prohibition is also most consistent with Congressional practice and intent, since Congress has expressly provided for hunting in the enabling acts of units where it is to be allowed.

Park Unit	Recreational	Subsistence	Tribal/Treaty
1. Alagnak Wild River	X	X	
2. Amistad National Recreation Area	X		
3. Aniakchak National Monument	X	X	
4. Aniakchak National Preserve		X	
5. Apostle Islands National Seashore	X		X
6. Assateague Island National Lakeshore	X		
7. Badlands National Park (Tribal portion)			X
8. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve	X	X	

9. Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	X		X
10. Big Cypress National Preserve	X		X
11. Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area	X		
12. Big Thicket National Preserve	X		
13. Bluestone National Scenic River	X		
14. Buffalo National River	X		
15. Cape Hatteras National Seashore	X		
16. Cape Lookout National Seashore	X		
17. Cape Krusenstern National Monument		X	
18. Canaveral National Seashore	X		
19. Chickasaw National Recreation Area	X		
20. City of Rocks National Reserve	X		
21. Craters of The Moon National Preserve	X		
22. Cumberland Island National Seashore	X		
23. Curecanti National Recreation Area	X		
24. Denali National Park (Park Expansion - ANILCA)		X	
25. Denali National Preserve	X	X	
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area	X		
27. Fire Island National Seashore	X		
28. Gates of The Arctic National Park (ANILCA)	X	X	
29. Gates of the Arctic National Preserve		X	
30. Gauley River National Recreation Area	X		
31. Gateway National Recreation Area	X		
32. Glacier Bay National Preserve	X	X	
33. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	X		
34. Great Egg Harbor River	X		
35. Great Sand Dunes National Preserve	X		
36. Gulf Islands National Seashore	X		
37. Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument	X		
38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park &	X		

Preserve			
39. John D Rockefeller Jr Memorial Parkway	X		
40. Kalaupapa National Historical Park ^a	X		
41. Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument	X		
42. Katmai National Preserve	X	X	
43. Kobuk Valley National Park (ANILCA)		X	
44. Lake Chelan National Recreation Area	X		
45. Lake Clark National Park (ANILCA)	X	X	
46. Lake Clark National Preserve		X	
47. Lake Mead National Recreation Area	X		
48. Lake Meredith National Recreation Area	X		
49. Little River Canyon National Preserve	X		
50. Mississippi National River & Recreation Area	X		
51. Missouri National Recreational River	X		
52. Mojave National Preserve	X		
53. New River Gorge National River	X		
54. Niobrara National Scenic River	X		
55. Noatak National Preserve	X	X	
56. Obed Wild & Scenic River	X		
57. Oregon Caves National Preserve	X		
58. Ozark National Scenic Riverway	X		
59. Padre Island National Seashore	X		
60. Parashant National Monument	X		
61. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	X		X
62. Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River	X		
63. Ross Lake National Recreation Area	X		
64. Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway	X		X
65. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	X		X
66. Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve	X		
67. Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River	X		
68. Valles Caldera National Preserve	X		

69. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	X		
70. Wrangell - St Elias National Park (ANILCA)	X	X	
71. Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve		X	
72. Yukon - Charley Rivers National Preserve	X	X	

List of 4 “may hunt” park units and the type of hunting allowed at each

Park Unit	Hunt	Not Occurring	Recreational	Subsistence	Tribal/Treaty
1. Cape Cod National Seashore	X		X		
2. Lake Roosevelt National Recreational Area*	X		X		
3. Tallgrass Prairie National Reserve		X			
4. Point Reyes National Seashore		X			

**Hunting is authorized and allowed only for residents in this unit.*

**Lake Roosevelt does not have enabling legislation, it became part of the NPS system by other means, a Tri-party agreement; however, it was determined that hunting could occur and has since NPS has managed the area.*

Unique Circumstances

- Grand Teton National Park allows controlled reduction of elk by licensed hunters to achieve elk population goals as per Federal statute (16 U.S.C. 673c.).
- The Marine Mammal Protection Act allows any Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo who lives on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean or the Arctic Ocean to take marine mammals for subsistence purposes or for creating and selling authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing (16 U.S.C. 1371 Sec. 101(b)).

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

E.O. Sec. 2(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;

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Hunting is a priority public use on national wildlife refuges, which means the Service prioritizes hunting opportunities in refuge planning and management. Over time, this focus has resulted in steady rates of participation in hunting and fishing on refuges despite declines in participation nationally. Agency actions to improve access and quality have included opening new areas to hunting, participating in efforts to recruit new users, and improving recreation infrastructure.
- Since 2006, the number of total hunting visits increased by 6%, with waterfowl hunts increasing 13% and other migratory bird hunts increasing 38%. Since 2005, there has been a 21% increase in reports of good quality hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges.
- This steady growth has been during a time of decreased hunting and fishing participation more broadly (proportionally to the population); however, overall hunting visits have decreased by 3% in the past five years.
- Waterfowl hunt visits (+7%) and other migratory bird hunt visits (+12%) did increase in that same period of time.
- Working with the Flyway Councils on the revision of Adaptive Harvest Management protocols, examining harvest management objectives and regulatory packages (season length, bag limits) with respect to Flyway and hunter desires.
- In 2012 Revised the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) to include objective of improving numbers of hunters and other bird conservationists
- 2014 - 2017: Working with Human Dimensions and Recruitment/Retention/Reactivation (R3) groups to better understand motivations and desires of hunters to increase their satisfaction and attempt to recruit new hunters
- Developed new dove harvest strategy that expanded hunting opportunities
- In Alaska the Service participates in the biannual meetings of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council reporting on the status of migratory birds used by subsistence hunters in Alaska. The Service addresses concerns, issues, questions brought forward to ensure hunting opportunities for Alaska migratory bird subsistence hunters may continue.
- The Service is engaged with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. We are working cooperatively to identify Wildlife Restoration Act eligible hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation activities.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- The NPS does not currently collect data system-wide consistently on the number of hunters, hunter trends, or information on hunter satisfaction. This information is generally available via state wildlife agencies for the general areas where NPS hunting occurs. A small number of units (<5) do collect some information on the number hunting permits they issue, species hunted, and other information however this information is generally only for specific unit use and not extrapolated to inform larger trends. One example of where NPS has enhanced public opportunities is in northern Alaska where NPS units, in cooperation with the Alaska Fish and Game Department, provide a significant proportion of the musk ox hunting opportunities in the state.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Fewer staff and curtailed hours at many refuges may be contributing to more recent declines in the number of hunting and fishing visits.
- Declines in the maintenance infrastructure funding also impacts our ability to maintain quality road and boating access.
- There are also technology barriers and data management challenges to support broader application and maintenance of digital media to engaging hunters and anglers.
- Insufficient staff resources to complete Adaptive Harvest Management Protocols as quickly as State partners would like.
- Insufficient resources to survey hunters to fully integrate human dimensions into the regulatory process

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Continue implementation of the Service's "Strategy to Increase Quality Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges" that evaluates trends and outlines a number of actions that address ways to increase quality hunting and fishing opportunities on national wildlife refuges including welcoming signage program, and outdoor skills and mentoring programs and activities.
- Work through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to develop and deliver training courses for managing high quality hunting and fishing programs.
- Continue to introduce new users near high population areas to hunting through introductory events and programs.
- Continue to work on the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) protocols with available staff and work with the Flyway Councils on emerging harvest management issues and complete the AHM revision process.
- Continue to work with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Human Dimensions working group to advance the goals of the 2012 revision of NAWMP.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Collaborate with state wildlife agencies to determine if their hunter surveys for participation and harvest could incorporate information specific to NPS units.
- Enhance NPS communication about hunting opportunities in national parks and the role hunting has and will continue to have in parks. For example, the NPS produced a site bulletin, booklet, and an interactive website (<https://www.nps.gov/gis/storymaps/mapseries/v1/?appid=fd4d3f010ef14b1aa708e25f9598181c>) that provide detailed information regarding hunting in Alaska National Preserves. These products could be used as a model for other units or regions.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

E.O. Sec. 2(b) - Consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- The Service regularly incorporates outdoor recreation interests and values through refuge conservation planning efforts, delivery of visitor services, and partnerships as well as considers the social and economic impacts of management actions in refuges.
- The Service also aims to periodically measure this return on investment. The agency's report, "Banking on Nature" showed that refuges in 2013 pumped \$2.4 billion into the economy and supported more than 35,000 jobs.
- More than 47 million people visit refuges every year with approximately 9.3 million of those being to hunt or fish.
- Additionally in 2015, the Service began using the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT) to inform land acquisition budget decisions, which incorporates waterfowl hunter harvest data to identify areas of demand for public waterfowl hunting.
- Duck harvest management objectives are set to maximize harvest (opportunity) while ensuring the long term sustainability of duck populations. Current mid-continent mallard strategy is combination of 4 objectives: 1) maximize harvest, 2) keep mallards around indefinitely, 3) achieve the North American Waterfowl Management Plan population goal of 8.8 million mallards, and 4) provide the opportunity to hunt any time the mallards population size is greater than 5.5 million (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2016a).
- 2015 - 2017 Developed a Rule on Alaska handicrafts allowing the sale of the non-edible parts for migratory game birds used in handicrafts by Alaska natives.
- Annually the Service provides funding to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to conduct migratory bird subsistence harvest surveys to determine the economic, cultural and traditional importance of hunting migratory birds in Alaska during spring and summer.
- Implemented the International Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Strategy with Canada (2013). The goals of this strategy are to maintain the black duck population indefinitely, provide consumptive use, and maintain the societal values associated with the hunting tradition (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2016b). Implementation of the harvest strategy resulted in the first liberalization of U.S. black duck hunting regulations since 1983.
- The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is a partnership effort with the States and national conservation organizations. The Survey is conducted every 5 years. The Service coordinates the Survey, and the U.S. Census Bureau collects the data by computer-assisted interviews. It is a useful tool that quantifies the economic impact of wildlife-based recreation. Federal, State, and private organizations use this detailed information to manage wildlife, market products, and look for trends. Funding for the survey comes from by grants from the Multistate Conservation Grant Program and State Wildlife Grant Program administrative funds.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- NPS does not consistently collect hunter participation data and does not have information on the economic or recreational values of hunting System-wide or on many units. However, in certain locations, NPS lands and waters provide a significant source of recreational hunting and subsistence hunting opportunities.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Implement new policy on the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) Procedures (341 FW 4) will require Service managers to consider a potential land acquisition's contribution to North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals before requesting MBCF funding for the acquisition.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Engage in large-scale visitor-use surveys of parks to better understand local, regional and national trends. The NPS could develop hunter-use surveys for parks open to hunting activities or conduct a Socio-Economic Monitoring survey of the 76 parks. The resulting data on recreational values of hunters and the economic impacts of hunting to the local community could be shared within DOI and with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

E.O. Sec. 2(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;

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Since 2005, 21 more units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are open to hunting for a total of 373 units and 86.4 million acres.
- Since 2012 (data was not collected prior) 41 more units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are open to fishing for a total of 276 units.
- Since 2005, the Service has increased the number of refuges offering a good quality hunting experiences by 21% and good quality fishing experience by 25%.
- Hunting continues to be an integral management tool to remove feral, invasive, and harmful wildlife species, as well as maintain healthy sustainable native wildlife populations. For example, in 2013 bow hunters harvested 26 feral hogs and 129 deer in three days of hunting at Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia.
- As a result of the Service's vision for the refuge system, in March 2014, the Service published a "Strategy to Increase Quality Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges." The strategy outlines thirteen action items from training to increased coordination with states to welcoming and orienting new and existing users.
- Duck harvest management objectives set to maximize harvest (opportunity) while ensuring the long term sustainability of duck populations.
- 2011 - 2016: Authorized states to have an additional split or zone in their duck seasons which allows greater flexibility time the seasons when ducks are present. This action allows for greater opportunity to harvest ducks and increases hunter satisfaction.
- 2013 - 2016: Expanded early teal hunting opportunities by offering additional states September teal seasons, increasing the daily bag from 4 to 6 during the September teal seasons, or allowing 2 additional teal in the bag during part of the regular duck season.
- 2013 - 2016: Increased migratory game bird field possession limits from 2 to 3 times the daily bag limit.
- 2011 - 2016: Provided new hunting opportunities on sandhill cranes where it didn't exist previously (Eastern Population)
- 2017: Completed a proposed rule to allow hunting of Emperor geese
- Greatly expanded hunting opportunities for Canada and light geese
- 2017: Proposed increase in the number of permits to take tundra swans
- Developed new mourning dove harvest strategy that expanded hunting opportunities (increase in season length and bag limits)
- Approved new non-toxic shot types for the hunting of waterfowl
- Provided \$5.2 billion in funding to state fish and wildlife agencies from the Wildlife Restoration Act since FY08. State fish and wildlife agencies annually manage on average 26 million acres of state wildlife management areas and acquire on average 2 million acres per year. In addition, the funds are used by states for wildlife research and educational programs that support hunting safety and skills development.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- There are several reasons why all or part of a refuge may not be open to public hunting or fishing, including geography (e.g., Pacific Island refuges), public safety concerns (e.g., proximity to development), limited conservation easement rights on the land, or conflicts with refuge purposes (e.g., disturbance of threatened or endangered species).
- Modernization of information collection systems and procedures is necessary in order for the Service to receive accurate and timely Hunter information from State agencies. Incorporating modern technology into collection procedures is critical to efficiently assess number of hunters, level of effort, degree of success, and species harvested. This information is used in calculating overall harvest, survival, and waterfowl population numbers and informs harvest management decisions.
- The Wildlife Restoration Act apportionments have increased 151% since FY08. This has placed a strain on the state fish and wildlife agencies to provide the 25% cost share required by the Wildlife Restoration Act.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Continue implementation of the "Strategy to Increase Quality Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges" including implementation of sign standards and sign management plan as well as an update to policy guidance on appropriate use and compatibility on national wildlife refuges.
 - Modernize digital platforms to better deliver relevant recreation data to hunters, provide user-friendly applications, and maps specific to hunting.
 - es.
 - A state led Harvest Information subcommittee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is exploring how this information can be collected in a consistent and efficient manner across all 49 states, and transferred to the Service Migratory Bird Program for use in informing harvest management decisions.
- #### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- Enhance partnerships with local, state, regional, and other federal agencies and conservation groups on wildlife habitat enhancement programs, which provide benefits for multiple species.
 - Proactively communicate with stakeholders to identify concerns and offer useful information that facilitates access and reduces confusion regarding recreational hunting on NPS lands.
 - Increase engagement in cooperative invasive species management with states and other federal partners.
 - Identify and implement habitat restoration projects, for example native plant restoration, removal of exotic species, etc., that demonstrate benefit for multiple species across shared large landscapes.
 - Review and, where appropriate, expand the use of skilled volunteers for wildlife population management in parks. This will occur in conjunction with efforts to reduce overabundant ungulates, and the prevention, containment, and eradication of exotic invasive species such as feral swine, constrictors, non-native goats and other species that compromise ecosystem and biodiversity integrity. These collaborative efforts will include the states in the planning and implementation phases as appropriate.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

- CONT. - E.O. Sec. 2(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;

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Most NPS habitat work is directed at the ecosystem level, which enhances multiple species and biodiversity through conservation and restoration and is not directed specifically at species in those units where hunting is authorized. This is in line with NPS Management Policies (2006), which states that "habitat manipulation for harvested species may include restoration of a disturbed area to its natural condition, but this will not include artificial manipulation of habitat to increase numbers of a harvested species above its natural range in population levels."
- There are numerous examples of NPS engaging in habitat actions that benefit native hunted species populations within and outside of park unit boundaries. For example, a number of NPS units in the Midwest, Southeast and Eastern states are cooperating with states and private entities to restore grassland habitat that benefits bobwhite quail as part of the National Bobwhite Quail initiative. This is consistent with NPS goals for cultural landscapes on battlefield sites, increases habitat for pollinators and various grassland migratory birds and, as a result, increases bobwhite quail populations. Increases to bobwhite quail populations positively impact hunting opportunities adjacent to NPS units.
- NPS maintains localized habitats that have regional and national impacts on hunted species. For example, a series of small freshwater ponds on Padre Island National Seashore is maintained by the NPS and used by multiple species, including a large segment of the continental wintering population of redhead ducks and other migratory waterfowl. These ponds are critical for conservation and are an example of NPS habitat work that has large-scale impacts on hunted species.
- NPS engages in numerous surveys and research projects on species that are considered harvest species in cooperation with state and other federal wildlife agencies. Examples include caribou surveys and research in Alaska, elk research and surveys in the greater Yellowstone and Grand Teton ecosystems, desert bighorn sheep surveys and research in California, and white-tailed deer surveys in Florida. All of these projects and dozens more aid NPS and state partners in helping to set license numbers and offer increased hunting opportunities, and increase our collective knowledge about wildlife populations and threats.
- NPS is engaged nationally in bison conservation and stewardship, and provides wild bison for various entities, including state wildlife agencies that increase opportunities for both bison conservation and hunting recreation. For example, NPS is actively partnering with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to place bison from Wind Cave National Park on the Raymond Wildlife Management Area to improve the genetics of that huntable bison population in Arizona.
- The NPS works closely with partners at Colorado State University, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, USGS, and USFWS on developing novel diagnostics, as well as investigating the effects of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) on a landscape scale. Between 2011 and 2016, the NPS conducted collaborative research investigating the effects of genetics, habitat use, and age on CWD to benefit both federal and state partners. Outcomes of this work include informing partners and applying lessons learned to management decisions made on the landscape.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Enhance partnerships with local, state, regional, and other federal agencies and conservation groups on wildlife habitat enhancement programs, which provide benefits for multiple species.
- Proactively communicate with stakeholders to identify concerns and offer useful information that facilitates access and reduces confusion regarding recreational hunting on NPS lands.
- Increase engagement in cooperative invasive species management with states and other federal partners.
- Identify and implement habitat restoration projects, for example native plant restoration, removal of exotic species, etc., that demonstrate benefit for multiple species across shared large landscapes.
- Review and, where appropriate, expand the use of skilled volunteers for wildlife population management in parks. This will occur in conjunction with efforts to reduce overabundant ungulates, and the prevention, containment, and eradication of exotic invasive species such as feral swine, constrictors, non-native goats and other species that compromise ecosystem and biodiversity integrity. These collaborative efforts will include the states in the planning and implementation phases as appropriate.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

E.O. Sec. 2(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;

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- In 2008, the Service enacted policy directing hunting and fishing programs on refuges to be managed in coordination and cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies (601 FW7 – Coordination and Cooperative Work with State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and 43 CFR-24 State/Federal Relationships).
- Across Service, managers work closely and regularly with their state counterparts at all levels from planning to seasonal law enforcement efforts.
- In 2011, the Service released a 10-year vision for the National Wildlife Refuge System, entitled "Conserving the Future." With Recommendation #17 that prioritized working closely with state fish and wildlife agencies to conduct a review of its current hunting and fishing opportunities."
- The Service Alaska Region together with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and representatives from 10 Alaska Native representatives meet twice a year to evaluate migratory bird subsistence proposals, compare information on distribution, status and trends of waterfowl, and evaluate harvest and populations of birds.
- The Service provides \$230,000 in annual funding to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to implement an annual migratory bird subsistence harvest survey as required by the amendment of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- The Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) work side by side to develop appropriate management plans for waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. In 2016, the Service and ADFG cooperated and collaborated to write the 2016 Pacific Flyway Council Management Plan for Emperor Geese

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS works with state wildlife agencies on a range of hunting situations in most of the parks where hunting occurs. In most of the NPS units that authorize hunting, state regulations and rules are used to govern the overall management of hunting. NPS is also very involved with state wildlife agencies at the national level via Cooperative Agreements with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), regional associations like Western Association (WAFWA), the Wildlife Management Institute, etc. that offer support and ensure collaboration. In addition, the NPS actively participates with the Wildlife Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (WHHCC).

NPS has worked with state wildlife agencies on large scale compliance projects such as mountain goat reduction in Olympic National Park, hunting plans at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and elk reduction programs that have successful used trained volunteers at Wind Cave, Rocky Mountain and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Good working relationships with state partners requires an investment of time and energy. This can be challenging given diminishing capacity.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Continue implementation of the Service's strategic vision for the National Wildlife Refuge System, entitled "Conserving the Future." Specifically, Recommendation #17 entitled "The Service will work closely with state fish and wildlife agencies to conduct a review of its current hunting and fishing opportunities."
- Incorporate state coordination requirements into Service training related to hunting.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Enhance understanding of park managers and ensure they have the proper tools related to wildlife law, policy and biology, and jurisdictional authorities.
- Build greater understanding within state wildlife agencies related to NPS mission, law, policy, and jurisdictional authorities.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

E.O. Sec. 2(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;

E.O. Sec. 2(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;

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Short term goals are established through Refuge System Annual Hunt Fish Rule development. Long term goals are established during planning efforts such as Refuge System Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Service wide geographic collaborative networks which engage with states, tribes and other stakeholders, including industry.
- Established migratory game bird population objectives in our Adaptive Harvest Management protocols and other harvest strategies to help provide maximum opportunity while ensuring the long-term sustainability of migratory game bird populations.
- The Service annually works through the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (collaborative, regional partnerships of government agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations, tribes, and individuals) to conserve habitat for the benefit of priority bird species, other wildlife, and people.
- Publication of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in 2013 regarding the issuance of annual regulations permitting the hunting of migratory birds
- With funding from the Service's State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program, state-Federal partners in the Northeast have successfully averted Federal listing of the New England Cottontail Rabbit, a Candidate for ESA listing since 2006. In 2015, due to this state-Federal collaboration, the species was removed from Candidate status. Through "proactive" conservation, a new listing was avoided and associated costs to private landowners and others averted.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- The Service's Strategic Growth Policy for the National Wildlife Refuge System (602 FW 5) identifies achieving North American Waterfowl Management Plan population objectives as one of three Service's priorities for the growth of the Refuge System.
- Working with the Flyway Councils on the revision of Adaptive Harvest Management protocols, examining harvest management objectives and regulatory packages (season length, bag limits) with respect to Flyway and hunter desires.
- Migratory Bird Program has consulted and provided data on waterfowl populations to assess National Wildlife Refuge System acquisitions to benefit priority waterfowl species defined in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These species are assigned priority based on their importance in the North American waterfowl harvest and their population trend.
- The 21 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs) incorporate the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and State Wildlife Action Plans. The Service Migratory Bird Program provides leadership and support to conduct activities in support of these bird conservation goals and for priority landscapes.
- Through funding provided by the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program the Service provides the framework and capacity for state fish and wildlife agency to develop, plan and execute State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs).

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- [NOTE - see E.O. Sec. 2(e) above]

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- The Refuge System will continue to coordinate with the states to align and simplify refuge hunting and fishing regulations, where compatible with state seasons.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Improve coordination on wildlife issues and concerns between park units, regions and the Washington office, which will result in improved communication with state partners and more consistent collaborations and messaging.
- Addressing visitor safety relevant to harvesting activities within authorized units.
- Providing informational brochures and maps that clearly illustrate designated hunting areas.

SO 3347-EO 13443 Activities Response for FWS & NPS

Actions taken - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)a.

E.O. Sec. 2(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.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- The Service continues its commitment to working with the States to implement hunting and fishing programs as well as to work cooperatively with Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council.
- The Service promulgates the the annual Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations in consultation/partnership with the states through their involvement in the four Flyway Councils. For over 70 years, the Service has worked collaboratively with the Flyway Councils to evaluate proposals regarding available species, season lengths, bag limits, and other factors related to sport hunting of migratory birds.
- The Service promulgates the annual AK Subsistence Harvest Regulations in consultation with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC) which consists of the Service, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and representatives of Alaska's native population. The primary purpose of the AMBCC is to conserve migratory birds through development of regulations for the subsistence bird harvest in Alaska.
- Establishment of a sport and subsistence harvest season on Emperor Geese in Alaska in consultation with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.
- Annually consult with approximately 30 Tribes to establish special tribal hunting regulations for migratory game birds (includes species open to hunting, season length, bag limits, hunting methods and areas open to hunting).
- We regularly work with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Management Institute and others on migratory bird hunting issues.
- The Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (WSFR) regularly coordinates with the Service's liaison to the Hunting Heritage Council to offer information for Council meetings. WSFR works closely with State fish and wildlife agencies in discussing and recommending policy changes for the WSFR program through the State-Federal Joint Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy which meets at least twice annually.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- In most of these plans, state wildlife agencies are asked to participate as either formal cooperators or as interested parties. NPS does consult with states via AFWA at the national level and individual park units are engaged with states and tribes on a variety of wildlife-related actions.

Barriers to implement - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)b.

Recommendations - S.O. Sec. 4.a.(1)c.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- The Refuge System supports the Service's liaison to the Wildlife Hunting and Heritage Conservation Council (WHHCC) and will continue to use that forum as one of many ways to seek advice on future Federal activities.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Enhance state and federal collaboration through:

- Consulting and cooperating, as appropriate, with individual states or tribes.
- Reviewing management programs to restore and maintain habitats that support harvested animal populations.
- Sharing wildlife information and data between wildlife agencies.
- Working with states to determine harvest of what, when, where, how or areas where restrictions may be needed to protect park resources and for safety purposes.
- Working together with neighboring federal and state neighbors to implement restoration activities at a landscape level when possible.
- Collaborating with state partners in the event a closure of an area for hunting or trapping activities is needed.
- Enhancing on-going collaboration between state and NPS law enforcement personnel regarding harvesting activities. Current activities include area signing, enforcement and assistance patrols, and registration systems.
- Coordinating with states on identification and availability of access routes.
- Collaborating with states on disease surveillance and management to maintain healthy populations.