UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION COUNCIL CHARTER

1. Official Designation: Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council).

2. Authority: The Council is established in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457 and provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a - 742j), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701-1743 *et seq.*), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq*), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

3. Scope and Objective: The Council provides advice about wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that (a) benefit recreational hunting; (b) benefit wildlife resources; and (c) encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation community, the shooting and hunting sports industry, wildlife conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the Federal Government.

4. Duration: Continuing.

5. Official to Whom the Council Reports: The Council reports to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture through the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in consultation with the Director, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Chief, Forest Service (USFS); Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and Administrator, Farm Services Agency (FSA).

6. Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support: The Service will provide administrative and logistical support for the Council.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs: The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be $300,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and one FTE.

8. Description of Duties: At the beginning of each Council term, the Council Chair and Vice Chair will meet with the Ex Officio members or their designated representatives [Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service; Director of the Bureau of Land Management; Chief, U.S. Forest Service; Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Administrator; Farm Services Agency; and the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)], and the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) to determine and set a work plan for the Council that covers mutual concerns and issues of interest. The Council's duties are strictly advisory and consist of, but are not limited to, providing recommendations for:

a. Implementing the *Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan – A Ten-Year Plan for Implementation*;
b. Increasing public awareness of and support for the Sport Wildlife Trust Fund;
c. Fostering wildlife and habitat conservation and ethics in hunting and shooting sports recreation;
d. Stimulating sportsmen and women's participation in conservation and management of wildlife and habitat resources through outreach and education;
e. Fostering communication and coordination among state, tribal, and Federal governments; industry; hunting and shooting sportsmen and women; wildlife and habitat conservation and management organizations; and the public;
f. Providing appropriate access to Federal lands for recreational shooting and hunting;
g. Providing recommendations to improve implementation of Federal conservation programs that benefit wildlife, hunting and outdoor recreation on private lands; and,
h. When requested by the agencies' designated ex officio members or the DFO in consultation with the Council Chairman, performing a variety of assessments or reviews of policies, programs, and efforts through the Council's designated subcommittees or workgroups. If necessary, contracted support for these efforts are coordinated through the DFO and funded from the Council's annual operating budget.

9. Designated Federal Officer: The Service Director will appoint in writing a full-time employee of the Service as the DFO. The DFO will:

a. Approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings;
b. Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
c. Attend all Council and subcommittee meetings;
d. Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment is in the public interest; and
e. Chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretaries or Service Director.

10. Allowances: Members serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members engaged in DFO-approved Council business may be reimbursed for travel and per diem in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5703.

11. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings: The Council will meet approximately twice a year.

12. Termination Date: The Council is subject to the provisions of FACA, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of the Act have been met. The Council is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate two years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of FACA.

13. Council Membership: The Council will consist of no more than 18 discretionary members and 6 ex officio members. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture will appoint members for two-year terms.

a. Ex officio members:

(1) Director, Fish and Wildlife Service or designated representative;
(2) Director, Bureau of Land Management or designated representative;
(3) Chief, U.S. Forest Service or designated representative;
(4) Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service or designated representative;
(5) Administrator, Farm Services Agency or designated representative, and
(6) Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

b. The remaining members will be selected from among national interest groups listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the ability to represent their designated constituency.

(1) State fish and wildlife resource management agencies (representatives to be recommended by the President of the AFWA);
(2) Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
(3) Game bird hunting organizations;
(4) Waterfowl hunting organizations;
(5) Big game hunting organizations;
(6) Sportsmen and women community at large;
(7) Archery, hunting and/or shooting sports industry;
(8) Hunting and shooting sports outreach and education organizations;
(9) Tourism, outfitter and/or guide industries related to hunting and/or shooting sports;
(10) Tribal resource management organizations.

c. Members may recommend alternates to represent them at meetings they are unable to attend. The Secretaries must approve and appoint alternates before they attend meetings as representatives.

d. Individuals currently registered as a Federal lobbyist will not be appointed to serve on the Council.

14. Ethics Responsibilities of Members: No Council or subcommittee member may participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

15. Subcommittees: The Council, with the consent of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture or their designees, may form subcommittees or workgroups from among the Council members for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered Council and must report their recommendations and advice to the Council for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered Council nor can

they report directly to the Service, BLM, USFS, NRCS, FSA or the Departments of Agriculture or the Interior.

16. Recordkeeping. Records of the Council and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council must be maintained in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule.

Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior

JAN 07 2010
Date Signed

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

1/7/2010
Date Signed

FEB 22 2010
Date Filed