

Subject: Docket No. FWS-HQ-OC-2026-1519; FXGO166009OC000-267-FF09X00000/ SUPPORT

28 April 2026

Douglas Hobbs

via email doug_hobbs@fws.gov

Mr. Hobbs,

I am writing to you today as a citizen advocate with over thirty-three years of experience in the policy arena leading organizations and grass roots movements related to access and conservation management. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notice titled **Re-Establishment of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council** for which I urge your swift commencement.

Alaska has suffered for too long under a continued loss of access to hunting, fishing, trapping, and the means to preserve our outdoor heritage which we were promised at Statehood. Previous administrations have bandied the phrases "[no net loss](#)" and "no more net loss," yet have either allowed, or worse, facilitated the continued assault on access. This administration has put action into addressing Alaska's unique and ongoing hurdles under the current regime of [dual-management](#) of our fish and wildlife, which have disproportionately disadvantaged the people of Alaska and those Americans wishing to access our public lands in Alaska.

Re-establishment of this advisory council is important to support the ongoing efforts of this administration to make meaningful change by the end of 2028. The current [Federal Subsistence Board Review](#), recent proposed [repeal of unworkable NPS regulations under 36 CFR Part 13](#); and, additional reforms by this administration to achieve a workable system in Alaska will benefit from the re-establishment of this council and the advice it will provide; provided proper appointments are made to ensure conservation of our resources and access for future generations.

Please note that the current situation in Alaska warrants adequate representation on this council to address meaningful reform. Specifically, it must include multiple appointees with Alaska-based expertise, regardless of their current geographic residence. Alaska is a national treasure which remains a [battle-state](#) covering approximately 17% to 20% of the total land area of the United States. With a land area of roughly 663,000 to 665,384 square miles, it is the largest U.S. state, accounting for about one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states. The addition of Alaska to the United States increased the total size of the our nation by nearly 20%. We are conversely at the forefront [assaults against our access](#) with continued unwarranted and disproportionate assaults on our public hunting and shooting opportunities. Please weigh Alaska based experience and expertise as an additional asset when considering national level and other regional representation in potential appointees for this council.

As hunters and recreational shooters, we are the primary funders of wildlife conservation in the U.S., contributing over \$1.6 billion annually through the "user pays, public benefits" model established in 1937. Without access for hunting, shooting, and trapping, we lose the ability to recruit the next generation of conservationists and with that our heritage. These conservationists

are exponentially committed to protecting habitats and ecosystems to ensure the continuance of populations, repatriation of extirpated species, and scientifically based management practices.

Thank you for the leadership of the administration in re-establishing this council.

With great expectations,

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Additional references:

- <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/FOSSupportingDocuments.html>
- <https://share.google/t98mZnXBi0DidZcMb>
- <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/documents/FOSDocuments/BorellD2Part2.pdf>
- <https://www.energy.senate.gov/2015/12/federal-government-has-failed-to-keep-promises-made-in-anilca>

Source: <https://kevinjmccabe.substack.com/p/the-country-alaskans-can-still-hunt>

