

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council

Re-establishment Charter

1. **Advisory Committee's Official Designation.** Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is re-established to further the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (16 U.S.C. 8401 et seq.), other Acts applicable to specific bureaus, and Executive Order 13443 (August 17, 2007), "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is operated pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10) and the Federal Advisory Committee Management regulations (FACA Final Rule) found at 41 C.F.R. Part 102-3.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Duties.** The Council provides recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries), regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that:
 - (a) benefit wildlife resources;
 - (b) encourage partnership among the public; sporting conservation organizations; Federal, State, Tribal, and Territorial governments;
 - (c) benefit hunting and the shooting sports; and
 - (d) increase public access to hunting and the shooting sports.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council's duties are strictly advisory and consist of, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Assessing the implementation of current and future Executive Orders, Secretary's Orders, Secretarial memos, and Director's Orders that pertain to the objective of the Council, and providing recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation;
 - (b) Conducting a review of public lands to identify any areas currently unreachable or unavailable for public hunting opportunities and recommending solutions or options to increase access;
 - (c) Making recommendations regarding policies and programs that:

1. conserve and restore wetlands, grasslands, forests, and other important wildlife habitats, and improve management and restoration of rangelands and agricultural lands to benefit wildlife and enhance hunting and wildlife-associated recreation;
2. promote opportunities for hunting and/or expand access to hunting, shooting sports and wildlife-associated recreation on public lands;
3. improve and enhance agency infrastructure that benefit wildlife and their habitats, that enhance public access to hunting and shooting sports opportunities on public lands and other related and lawful uses in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814) and the Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 115-162);
4. encourage hunting and shooting sports safety, including through development of ranges on public lands;
5. recruit and retain new hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts whose participation helps support wildlife conservation and increased access and opportunities through the North American Model of Conservation;
6. increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and the shooting sports; and
7. encourage coordination among the public; the hunting and shooting sports communities; wildlife conservation groups; and Federal, State, Tribal and Territorial governments to better utilize natural resources while providing for their continued conservation.

(d) When requested by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) in consultation with the Council Chairperson, performing a variety of assessments or reviews of policies, programs, and efforts through the Council's designated subcommittees or workgroups for consideration and approval of full Council.

5. **Agency or Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Council's Advice/ Recommendations.** The Council provides advice to the Secretaries through the DFO.
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the Department of the Interior (DOI) through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$80,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.5 Federal staff years. Estimated payments to Federal Members: \$2,000; Federal Staff: \$60,000; travel reimbursement for non-Federal members: \$17,000; publication of Federal Register notices: \$750; and meeting supplies: \$250.

- 8. Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time FWS Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO must:
- (a) Ensure the Council activities comply with the FACA, FACA Final Rule, Agency administrative procedures, and any other applicable laws and regulations;
 - (b) Approve or call all meetings of the Council or subcommittee;
 - (c) Approve the agenda;
 - (d) Attend all Council and subcommittee meetings for their duration;
 - (e) Fulfill the requirements under section 1009 of the FACA, Advisory Commission Procedures;
 - (f) Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines it to be in the public interest;
 - (g) Chair any meeting when so directed by the Secretary of the Interior;
 - (h) Maintain information on Council activities and provide such information to the public, as applicable; and
 - (i) Ensure Council members and subcommittee members, as applicable, receive the appropriate training (e.g., FACA overview, ethics training) for efficient operation and compliance with the FACA and FACA Final Rule.

In addition, the DFO should ensure a public facing website is created and maintained for the Council.

- 9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
- 10. Duration.** The duration of the Council is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.
- 11. Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 1013 of FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
- 12. Membership and Designation.** The Council will consist of no more than 18 representative and 4 ex officio members.
- (a) Ex officio members will include:
 - (1) Department of the Interior representatives;

- (2) Department of Agriculture representative; and
 - (3) Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- (b) The remaining representative members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the entities 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 management agencies;
 - (2) Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
 - (3) Shooting sports interests;
 - (4) Gamebird hunting organizations;
 - (5) Waterfowl hunting organizations;
 - (6) Big game hunting organizations;
 - (7) U.S hunters actively engaged in domestic and/or international hunting conservation;
 - (8) The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry;
 - (9) Archery interests;
 - (10) Wildlife-associated recreation interests;
 - (11) Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide businesses related to hunting and/or wildlife conservation;
 - (12) Tribal resource management organizations;
 - (13) Agriculture interests;
 - (14) Ranching interest; and
 - (15) Veterans service organizations.
- (c) Members will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to serve up to a 3-year term. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed.
- (d) Alternate members may be appointed to the Council. Alternate members must be approved and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior before

attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member. Alternate members may deliberate and vote on Council matters only in the absence of the primary member.

- (e) Council members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings. Council membership may be forfeited if an appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.
- (f) The Council will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson by affirmative vote of a majority of its members. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve a term of 1 year, renewable for additional years by affirmative vote of a majority of the Council's members. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may be replaced before his/her term ends by affirmative vote of a majority of the Council's members.
- (g) Non-Federal members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members and subcommittee members engaged in Council or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.**

- (a) **Federal Members.** Members who are appointed to the Council in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.
- (b) **Non-Federal Members.** Non-Federal members of the Council and subcommittees are appointed as representatives and therefore are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, non-Federal Council and subcommittee members may not participate in any Council and subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally established subcommittees. All records must be made available to the public subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.

16. **Filing Date.** April 29, 2026


Secretary of the Interior

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Date Signed