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27 April 2026

Douglas Hobbs
via email doug_hobbs@fws.gov.

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

Mr. Hobbs,

On behalf of the members and the Board of Directors of the SCI – Northern Alaska Chapter, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notice titled **Re-Establishment of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council**, which we commend the introduction of and strongly encourage you to adopt.

For too long, Alaska has suffered the continuous loss of access to hunting, fishing, trapping, and the means to preserve our outdoor heritage while we were repeatedly promised “[no net loss](#)” and “no more net loss” of this access. Those promises have been repeatedly broken. As this administration has recognized, Alaska’s unique and ongoing hurdles to access under the current regime of dual-management of our fish and wildlife have disproportionately disadvantaged the people of Alaska. Re-establishment of this advisory council is of the utmost importance to achieve necessary and long-awaited progress toward reforming the current unworkable management overlay. Additionally, the scope of work assigned to the council will serve to support ongoing efforts under the current [Federal Subsistence Board Review](#), recent proposed [repeal of unworkable NPS regulations under 36 CFR Part 13](#); and, with high expectations, additional reforms by this administration to achieve a workable system in Alaska that ensures conservation of our resources and access for future generations.

We have read the criteria for appointees, concur with the descriptions listed in the announcement, and note that the current situation in Alaska warrants that adequate representation on this council to address the pressing issues affecting us include multiple appointees with Alaska-based expertise. Alaska remains a [battle-state](#) fighting for the rights we were guaranteed at statehood, and to access our living resources. Alaska covers 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. When Alaska became a state, it increased the total size of the United States by nearly 20%. Conversely, we are at the forefront [assaults against our access](#) with the greatest land mass public lands to identify any areas currently unreachable or unavailable for public hunting opportunities. This inaccessibility is unfairly disproportionate. Please consider the multiple facets of necessary expertise related to Alaska’s unique predicaments to achieve meaningful reform as you make these appointments. We intend to follow up with specific recommendations for appointees in subsequent correspondence.

Further, hunters and recreational shooters are the primary funders of wildlife conservation in the U.S. We contribute over \$1.6 billion annually through the "user pays, public benefits" model established in 1937. We look forward to providing additional advice to the council to recommending solutions and options to the Council related to the scope of work announced.

Thank you for the leadership of the administration re-establish this council. I of course remain directly available for any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Tony Hollis
 Chapter President
 Northern Alaska Chapter SCI

Additional references:

- <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/FOSSupportingDocuments.html>
- <https://share.google/t98mZnXBi0DidZcMb>
- <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/documents/FOSSDocuments/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>

