



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

NOV 23 2011

**Memorandum**

**To:** Director, Bureau of Land Management

**From:** Secretary *Ken Salazar*

**Subject:** Protecting Recreational Shooting Opportunities on Public Lands

It is a priority of the Department of the Interior to support opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on America's public lands. By facilitating access, multiple use, and safe activities on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management helps ensure that the vast majority of the 245 million acres it oversees are open and remain open to recreational shooting.

In 2007, President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, which directed the Department "to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat." In 2008, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture adopted a comprehensive 10-year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan, which recommended that BLM and the Forest Service "incorporate hunting and recreational shooting into Federal agency's planning processes" and revise their land management plans "to designate shooting areas." To implement this recommendation, the BLM began drafting policy guidance to help field managers provide target shooting opportunities while ensuring resource conservation and public safety.

In June 2011, BLM requested input from the Wildlife and Hunting and Heritage Conservation Council (WHHCC) on the draft policy guidance. The WHHCC is an official advisory group that the Secretary of Agriculture and I established in 2010 to provide 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.

Based on feedback that members of the WHHCC have provided the BLM on the draft policy guidance, I am directing that the BLM take no further action to develop or implement the policy. The BLM shall continue to manage recreational shooting on public lands under the status quo in accordance with resource management and public safety considerations under existing authorities, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, BLM implementing regulations, and Executive Order 13443.