

Archery Trade Association · Arizona Wildlife Federation · Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Association of Northwest Steelheaders · Backcountry Hunters and Anglers · Bear Trust
International · Campfire Club of America · Colorado Wildlife Federation · Conservation
Federation of Missouri · Conservation Force · Conservation Northwest · Dallas Safari Club
Houston Safari Club · Idaho Wildlife Federation · Iowa Wildlife Federation · Kansas Wildlife
Federation · Louisiana Wildlife Federation · Masters of Foxhounds Association · Mississippi
Wildlife Federation · Montana Wildlife Federation · National Trappers Association · National
Wild Turkey Federation · National Wildlife Federation · Nevada Wildlife Federation · New
Mexico Wildlife Federation · North American Grouse Partnership · North Carolina Wildlife
Federation · North Dakota Wildlife Federation · Orion the Hunter's Institute · Public Lands
Foundation · Quality Deer Management Association · Shikar Safari Club International
Sportsmen's Alliance · South Dakota Wildlife Federation · Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership · Tread Lightly! · Trout Unlimited
Whitetails Unlimited · Wildlife Management Institute
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation · Wyoming Wildlife Federation

August 30, 2016

Hillary for America
Post Office Box 5256
New York, NY 10185-5256

Dear Secretary Clinton,

Thank you for your past support of America's public lands. On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, shooters, and outdoors men and women that our organizations represent, we appreciate that you have raised this issue of great importance to American sportsmen and sportswomen on the national stage and done so in an informed and respectful way. In light of ongoing campaigns to wrest public lands from ownership and access by all Americans, we write to ask you to confirm your support for keeping national lands in national hands to the outdoors men and women of America by endorsing the below Statement of Principles in Support of Public Lands, or by making another public declaration of your support for public ownership of public lands.

Our organizations collectively represent millions of hunters, anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts. Our members, and tens of millions of other Americans, depend on our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands to provide fish and wildlife habitat and access to places to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. The iconic landscapes of America's public lands also sustain our economy by supporting an outdoor recreation industry that generates \$646 billion in economic benefit annually and supports 6.1 million jobs—and attracting tourists from around the nation and the world.

Our national tapestry of public lands is the product of more than a century of leadership by both Republicans and Democrats. Several of the world's first national forests, monuments and wildlife refuges were set aside by Republican President Theodore Roosevelt. Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt expanded our National Wildlife Refuge System and National Park System and put millions of Americans to work during the Great Depression restoring and

maintaining public lands. Over the years, presidents of both parties worked with bipartisan leaders in Congress to craft the laws that govern the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wilderness Preservation System, and the Bureau of Land Management.

America's public lands provide important value for all Americans, whether they live in rural or urban areas. These benefits include improving air and water quality, sustaining local water supplies, producing timber, providing grass for grazing, bolstering local tourism economies, enhancing agricultural production through pollination, and supporting a wide range of fish and wildlife and biodiversity.

America's hunters and anglers have a special interest in our public lands. Some of our most treasured big game animals depend on the secure habitat and migration corridors that are provided by public land. Many sportfish species depend on cool, clean waters that originate on public lands. National public lands also provide free access for tens of millions of Americans to hunt and fish every year. These lands sustain our hunting and fishing heritage and fill our freezers. While all of America owns these lands, their wise stewardship is of particularly vital concern to us.

Managing hundreds of millions of acres of national land for the benefit of all Americans requires a careful balancing of many different uses. It is also essential to ensure that current activities do not impair the ability of future generations to benefit from our public lands. There are no easy answers, but the value of public lands to the American people makes finding common-sense solutions worth the effort.

Your 2016 Presidential campaign presents an opportunity to explain to the American people how you will maintain our public lands for future generations. We hope that you will confirm your support for America's public lands by endorsing the following principles and communicating that endorsement to the public.

Statement of Principles Supporting Public Lands:

I support keeping public lands in public hands, and therefore will oppose large scale efforts to sell or transfer ownership or management of lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Bureau of Land Management to state or local governments or private interests, with the exception of individual parcels identified through appropriate public processes.

I agree that wholesale transfer or sale of national public lands to state and private interests will deprive current and future generations of Americans of lands and resources that we enjoy today and rob us forever of a defining feature of our shared national identity.

Thank you for considering this request. You can reach us through Collin O'Mara with the National Wildlife Federation at 703-438-6046 or Collin@nwf.org.

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