

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

2643

4. Is this New Fiscal Year? 5. Current Charter 6. Expected Renewal Date 7. Expected Term Date

No 02/11/2022 02/11/2024

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

To further the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a)

13. Effective Date 14. Committee Type 14c. Presidential?

08/08/1956 Continuing No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 17b. Closed 17c. Partially Closed 17d. Total

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

During this meeting, members held discussion of and offered potential recommendations related to the future use or non-use of lead ammunition on National Wildlife Refuge System lands; heard briefings from Federal agency staff; heard reports by Council subcommittees; and conducted other business.

12/04/2023 - 12/04/2023

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council's purpose is to provide recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, regarding policies and endeavors that (a) benefit wildlife resources; (b) encourage partnership among the public; sporting

conservation organizations; and Federal, State, Tribal, and territorial governments; and (c) benefit fair chase recreational hunting and safe recreational shooting sports. The Council meets to discuss and make these recommendations.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Council representation is balanced in relation to its mission as specified in its charter. The members are senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have extensive knowledge and experience within the hunting and wildlife conservation communities.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Council was designed to meet approximately 2 times per year. At these meetings, members will discuss recommendations to put forward to both the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Because of their professional affiliations and experiences, the members of the Council are uniquely positioned to provide advice to the Departments related to hunting, recreational shooting, and wildlife conservation. Members of the Council have years of experience as managers, advocates, and participants in the wildlife conservation and recreation field. There is no equivalent body of advisers empaneled to assist the Departments.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

There were eight recommendations made by the Council in FY 2023.

Designated Federal Officer

Doug Hobbs DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Beck, Colin	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	Representative Member
Busse, Ryan	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Unaffiliated	Representative Member
Crane, Jeffrey	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	Representative Member
Crowder, Michael	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	National Association of Conservation Districts	Representative Member
Devney, John	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Delta Waterfowl	Representative Member
Dunklin, Jr., George	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Five Oaks Duck Lodge	Representative Member
Erb, Bethany	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever	Representative Member
Forster, Daniel	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Archery Trade Association	Representative Member
Harper, Rob	07/01/2018	02/11/2024	National Director, U.S. Forest Service Office of Water, Air, Wildlife	Ex Officio Member
Mannix, Cole	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Mannix Ranch	Representative Member
Martinez, Lucas	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	League of United Latin American Citizens	Representative Member
Nesvik, Brian	09/11/2023	09/22/2025	Director, Wyoming Game and Fish	Representative Member
O'Mara, Collin	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	National Wildlife Federation	Representative Member

Parker, Lydia	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Hunters of Color	Representative Member
Pederson, Joel	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Mule Deer Foundation	Representative Member
Regan, Ron	05/11/2018	02/11/2024	Executive Director, Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Ex Officio Member
Sauvajot, Ray	02/27/2019	02/11/2024	Associate Director, National Park Service	Ex Officio Member
Tawney, Land	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Representative Member
Tidball, Keith	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Cornell University	Representative Member
Ward, Lauren	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Conservation Without Conflict	Representative Member
Webster, Joel	09/22/2022	09/22/2025	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Representative Member
Williams, Martha	01/20/2021	02/11/2024	Director, Fish and Wildlife Service	Ex Officio Member
Falk, Kathleen [Conservation Funding Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO staff	Representative Member
Hatfield, Mark [Conservation Funding Subcommittee]	05/08/2023	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Hubbard, Wayne [Conservation Funding Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	Media production	Representative Member
Jones, Ben [Conservation Funding Subcommittee]	05/08/2023	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Schmidt, Andrew [Conservation Funding Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Hennelly, Mark [Hunting & Recreational Shooting Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	Advocacy	Representative Member
Roosevelt, Simon [Hunting & Recreational Shooting Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO executive	Representative Member
Schmitz, Taylor [Hunting & Recreational Shooting Subcommittee]	02/23/2023	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Johnson, Marshall [Private Lands Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO executive	Representative Member
Sedgwick, Tod [Private Lands Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO board member	Representative Member
Salazar-Henry, Roberta [Public Engagement/R3 Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	Wildlife commission staff	Representative Member

Brooks, Brad [Public Lands Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Henning, Blake [Public Lands Subcommittee]	09/22/2022	09/21/2025	NGO executive	Representative Member
Peebles, Julia [Public Lands Subcommittee]	06/09/2023	09/21/2025	NGO employee	Representative Member
Parish, Chris [Wildlife Health Subcommittee]	06/01/2023	09/21/2025	NGO executive	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 37

Narrative Description

The Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council helps support the Department's mission by providing advice and recommendations for implementing Executive Orders 13443 and 14008 and Secretarial Order 3362. These Orders prioritize work by Department of the Interior bureaus in creating, expanding, and maintaining hunting opportunities on Federal lands and waters, as well as conservation benefits derived from these activities. The Council is charged with making recommendations related to hunting and shooting sports that will expand opportunities, conservation efforts, and the economic benefits to the national and local economies. Increasing the opportunities for recreational hunting and shooting sports and wildlife conservation are all priorities within the Department of the Interior.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council's recommendations will likely lead to an outcome of expanded hunting/shooting sports opportunities on public lands, improved conservation efforts, and economic benefits to the national and local economies.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

65

Number of Recommendations Comments

There were eight recommendations made in FY 2023. 1) HWCC recommends and encourages you to consider prioritizing early BIL/IRA funding towards forest health project. 2) The Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities List be expanded to include critical conservation practices in addition to those that directly reduce and mitigate greenhouse emissions. 3) Encourages USDA to broaden flexibility and availability of waivers for Adjusted Gross Income and other payment limitations, where authorized, to capitalize on the best and most efficient conservation opportunities. 4) Encourages the USDA to work with this Council and other agricultural and conservation stakeholders to identify and implement practices that complement the current activities list, support co-benefits to agricultural producers and the environment, and support a conservation system-based approach to program administration. 5) Recommends adopting the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations definition on climate-smart agriculture. 6) Recommends improving wetland determinations as identified

in the Government Accountability Office report to the Senate Agriculture Committee in April 2021 and recommend full implementation of the GAO's six recommendations. 7) Urge DOI and USDA to cooperate with the same partners who helped secure this funding to identify and prioritize project opportunities on both the National Wildlife Refuge System and state-owned Wildlife Management Areas to have the greatest impact on improving quality habitat while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the American people. 8) Urge DOI and USDA to utilize every authority you have to deploy as many resources to the administration of these funds as soon as possible.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

26%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

21%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Agencies provided feedback to the Council on its recommendations via response letters and through comments and presentations at Council meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other ☐

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO ☒

Online Agency Web Site ☐

Online Committee Web Site ☒

Online GSA FACA Web Site ☒

Publications ☐

Other ☐

Access Comments

Not Applicable