

August 13, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Dear Mr. President:

The following undersigned groups are member organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP). Collectively we represent millions of our nation's sportsmen and sportswomen and we write to you today recognizing your strong leadership through Executive Order 13443 providing the foundation for the upcoming White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy. We are gathered today in Duluth, MN at our annual meeting, along with senior staff from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, working on the draft Conference Action Plan that will serve as a blueprint document guiding the future of wildlife conservation and our hunting heritage. One year ago, we were gathered at a similar meeting in Kingsville, TX where Executive Order 13442 was announced.

The upcoming Conference represents the culmination of an intense year-long effort by a bipartisan coalition - members of the Sporting Conservation Council (SCC), AWCP organizations and others - to fulfill the direction in the Executive Order. Our collective vision is that the Conference outcomes will serve as guiding principles for current and future generations of sportsmen and sportswomen. This past year, "white papers" were developed that detail the predominant challenges for wildlife in the next century. Technical and policy sessions with resource professionals nationwide have been completed. We are pleased to report that the upcoming Conference Action Plan was created in a strong bi-partisan manner with a diverse coalition from the conservation and sporting community, ensuring a jointly owned product that will provide strategic policy guidance for future Administrations.

Mr. President, there is a great deal of excitement within our community about the upcoming Conference. We are confident that this Conference and resulting Action Plan will shape the future of wildlife conservation and this nation's hunting heritage for the next century, just as the 1908 Governors Conference led by President Theodore Roosevelt has shaped conservation policy for the last century. We look forward to sharing our work with you in Reno, NV to help secure the future of wildlife conservation and our hunting heritage.

Respectfully yours,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Boone and Crockett Club
Campfire Club of America
Catch a Dream
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force
Dallas Safari Club
Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
National Rifle Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Grouse Partnership
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Shikar Safari Club International
Texas Wildlife Association
The Wildlife Society
U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute