



NOV 9 2007

W46 (2465)

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 2007, requesting revision to the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) to adopt state law concealed weapons statute in National Wildlife Refuges and National Park Service (NPS) areas. The Department apologizes for our delay in responding. However, we wanted to ensure that the issue received the appropriate consideration.

The Fish and Wildlife Service authorizes persons to carry, use, and possess firearms on National Wildlife Refuge system under certain conditions as described in section 27.42 of Title 50 CFR. While visitors with State concealed weapon permits are not expressly permitted to carry their firearms, 27.42 (d) outlines the conditions by which authorization may be obtained. This section states, "... by special regulation or permits for the protection of property, for field trials, and other special purposes." Individuals wishing to carry concealed weapons must meet these requirements and may apply for a special use permit from the applicable Refuge Manager.

The current NPS regulations, found in section 2.4 of Title 36 CFR, state that individuals may legally transport firearms through NPS areas as long as the firearms are not readily accessible and functional. After careful review of our records and actions, we believe that the existing regulations provide necessary and consistent enforcement parameters throughout the National Park System. We will continue to monitor this issue closely as part of our examination of policies and regulations to ensure that the interests of the American public and the mission of the NPS and FWS are being fulfilled as effectively as possible.

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Don Young, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary A. Bomar".

Mary A. Bomar
Director, National Park Service

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Dale Hall".

H. Dale Hall
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service