THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3356

Subject: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories

Sec. 1 **Purpose**. This Order continues the Department's efforts to enhance conservation stewardship; increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and improve the management of game species and their habitats for this generation and beyond. It directs several components of the Department to assess past and ongoing implementation of the recommendations set forth in Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation," to inform how best to enhance and expand public access to lands and waters administered by the Department—lands and waters owned by all Americans—for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation. In addition, this Order gives greater priority to recruiting and retaining sportsmen and women conservationists, with an emphasis on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and underserved communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities. Finally, this Order directs greater collaboration with state, tribes, and territorial partners.

Sec. 2 **Authorities**. This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation"; and the Department's land and resource management authorities, including the following:

a. Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 742a, *et seq;*

b. National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq*;

c. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq*; and

d. National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 100101, *et seq*.

Sec. 3 **Background**. As President Theodore Roosevelt recognized, "in a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen." For generations, countless Americans have hunted and fished across the Nation's natural landscapes and waters, enjoying opportunities steeped in traditions, rich in history, and integral to meeting many subsistence and sustenance needs, while also providing an effective means of managing various populations of wildlife species.

Robust and sustainable wildlife populations contribute greatly to our Nation's well-being. In addition, through the sale of licenses and sporting equipment, and associated excise taxes, sportsmen and women have helped generate billions of dollars in conservation funding each year. Expanding hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities will provide additional revenue for fish and wildlife conservation, and for many small rural communities across America. In addition, the goal of attaining and sustaining healthy wildlife populations can also be achieved in concert with the varied nature of differing land uses and missions.

The Department has broad responsibilities to manage Federal lands, waters, and resources for the public's benefit, including managing habitat to support fish, wildlife, and other resources, and providing recreational opportunities on Federal lands and waters. On March 2, 2017, Secretary Zinke issued Secretary's Order 3347, "Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation." Secretary's Order 3347 does the following:

a. directs the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks and the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management to 1) report to the Secretary within 30 days all actions taken to implement Executive Order 13443 and all actions described in Executive Order 13443 that have not occurred and 2) provide specific recommendations to improve the implementation of Executive Order 13443, particularly regarding efforts to enhance and expand recreational fishing access;

b. mandates the Department to submit reports, upon the Secretary's approval, to the *Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council* and the *Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council* for their respective responses and recommendations; and

c. instructs the Department to identify within 30 days, specific actions concerning recreational hunting and fishing on public lands and waters, habitat improvement, predator management, and access to public lands and waters.

The 30-day due date identified in Secretary's Order 3347 has now elapsed. Following in the footsteps of President Roosevelt's commitment to conservation stewardship, this Order is being issued to enhance and expand upon Secretary's Order 3347 and further implement the recommendations provided to the Secretary.

Sec. 4 **Directive**. The following actions are to be taken consistent with governing laws, regulations, and principles of responsible public stewardship:

a. With respect to Secretary's Order 3347, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS) shall:

(1) implement the specific recommendations provided to the Secretary pursuant to Secretary's Order 3347 to enhance recreational fishing–specifically, those recommendations regarding efforts to enhance and expand recreational fishing access, where practicable; and

(2) within 120 days of the issuance of this Order, provide a detailed implementation plan for BLM, FWS, and NPS to implement the other recommendations provided to the Secretary pursuant to Secretary's Order 3347.

b. With respect to Department lands and waters, the responsible bureaus and offices within the Department shall:

(1) amend National Monument Management Plans to include or expand hunting, recreational shooting, and fishing opportunities to the extent practicable under the law;

(2) in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands, identify lands and waters where access to Department lands and waters, particularly access for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation, is currently limited (including areas of Department land and waters that may be impractical or impossible to access via public roads or trails under current conditions, but where there may be an opportunity to gain access through a voluntary easement, right-of-way, or voluntary acquisition), and within 60 days, provide to the Deputy Secretary a report detailing such lands and waters;

(3) within 365 days, cooperate, coordinate, create, make available, and continuously update online a single "one stop" Department site database of available opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Department lands and waters;

(4) consistent with relevant state laws, identify whether hunting, fishing, and/or recreational shooting opportunities on Department lands could be expanded and, within 60 days, provide recommendations to the Deputy Secretary on where such expansions may occur;

(5) within 30 days, examine and provide recommendations to the Deputy Secretary on how to streamline and improve the permitting process for guides and outfitters on Department lands and waters, including recommendations for the development of a distinct permitting process for non-profit organizations (such as those working with youth, veterans, or underserved communities); and

(6) incorporate analysis of the impacts of Federal land and water management actions on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting access in planning and decisionmaking.

c. With respect to participation in hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, bureaus and offices shall:

(1) identify opportunities to help provide voluntary public access to private lands and waters for hunting and fishing;

(2) within 60 days and in consultation with the relevant states, identify grant and/or cooperative agreement opportunities that may be made available for community programs

for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting participation, such as recruitment/retention/reactivation; and

(3) work with veterans and youth programs to provide hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting mentor training programs.

d. With respect to working harmoniously with our state, tribal, territorial, and local partners, bureaus and offices shall:

(1) identify full-time employees who are responsible for access to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities on Department lands and waters and work in close collaboration with state and local partners on these efforts;

(2) coordinate with state, tribal, and territorial wildlife management agencies to identify opportunities for increased access to Department lands and waters, including identifying opportunities for access through adjacent private lands;

(3) collaborate with state, tribal, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies to attain or sustain wildlife population goals during Department land-management planning and implementation, including prioritizing active habitat-management projects and funding that contribute to achieving wildlife population objectives, particularly for wildlife that is hunted or fished, and identifying additional ways to include or delegate to states habitat management work on Federal lands;

(4) work cooperatively with state, tribal, and territorial wildlife agencies to enhance their access to Department lands for wildlife management actions;

(5) within 180 days, develop a proposed categorical exclusion for proposed projects that utilize common practices solely intended to enhance or restore habitat for species such as sage-grouse and/or mule deer;

(6) significantly increase migratory waterfowl populations and hunting opportunities throughout large portions of the country by:

(a) enhancing and improving the use of voluntary perpetual grassland and wetland conservation easements;

(b) expanding habitat and water conservation/protection efforts on wintering habitats;

(c) assessing and utilizing sound science to direct the development of proposed project and/or policy proposals to enhance waterfowl production;

(d) identifying partnerships and resource opportunities; and

(e) utilizing sound scientific evidence in conjunction with landowner/stakeholder input.

(7) work cooperatively with state, tribal, and territorial wildlife agencies to ensure that hunting and fishing regulations for Department lands and waters complement the regulations on the surrounding lands and waters to the extent legally practicable; and

(8) within 180 days, in close coordination and cooperation with the appropriate state, tribal, or territorial wildlife agency, begin the necessary process to modify regulations in order to advance shared wildlife conservation goals/objectives that align predator-management programs, seasons, and methods of take permitted on all Department-managed lands and waters with corresponding programs, seasons, and methods established by state, tribal, and territorial wildlife management agencies to the extent legally practicable.

e. Within 180 days, bureaus and offices shall:

(1) create an implementation plan to update all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, instructions, manuals, directives, notices, implementing actions, new employee training orders, and any other similar actions to be consistent with this Order; and

(2) review and use the best available science to inform the development of specific guidelines for Department lands and water related to planning and developing energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects to avoid or minimize potential negative impacts on wildlife.

f. Heads of bureaus will ensure that appropriate Senior Executive Service employees under his or her purview include a performance standard in their respective current or future performance plan that specifically implements the applicable actions identified in this Order.

Sec. 5 **Implementation**. The Deputy Secretary is responsible for taking all reasonably necessary steps to implement this Order.

Sec. 6 **Effect of Order**. This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting reports or recommendations are not intended to, and do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 7 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are implemented and completed, or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked.

Secretary of the Interior

Date: SEP 15 2017