

May 1, 2009

Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Conservation organizations commend you and the officials of the National Park Service (NPS) for the recently announced “Get the Lead Out!” effort to eliminate the use of lead-based ammunition and fishing devices within the national park system. We are especially encouraged that your Department and the NPS intend to immediately reduce the use of lead in its own culling operations.

We applaud the leadership demonstrated by this effort. More importantly, it exhibits a commitment to the overarching mandate imposed upon you by the Organic Act of 1916 to conserve parks unimpaired, so that they are enjoyed by present and future generations. The NPS is obligated to manage every lawful activity within our nation's parks in such a way as to serve that fundamental purpose.

We strongly support this effort to achieve a lead-free national park system by the end of 2010. We offer our assistance as your Department moves forward with its program to foster hunting and fishing that is both enjoyable to hunters and anglers, and affords the highest level of conservation for all park resources.

Cordially,

Jeff Ruch, Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO
The Humane Society of the United States

Bill Wade, Chair of the Executive Council
Coalition of National Park Service Retirees

Nicholas DiPasquale, Conservation Chair
Delaware Audubon

Stephen Capra, Executive Director
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Eileen McLaughlin
Wildlife Stewards

Terry Weiner, Conservation Coordinator
Desert Protective Council

Kim Crumbo, Director of Conservation
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Jeff Williamson, President
Arizona Zoological Society

Josh Pollock, Conservation Director
Center for Native Ecosystems

George Nickas, Executive Director
Wilderness Watch

cc: Deputy Secretary for Fish Wildlife & Parks Tom Strickland
Acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk