

## PUBLIC LANDS

### White House sought to silence NPS concern over bill — memo

*Published: Wednesday, August 23, 2017*

The Trump administration sought to prevent the National Park Service from expressing concern over hunting and fishing legislation, according to a memo obtained by McClatchy.

Michael Reynolds, acting director of NPS, wrote a June memo to the Interior Department outlining his objections to the draft legislation, called the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act."

In its response to the memo, the department crossed out sections of Reynolds's concerns.

NPS officials were also instructed not to repeat their concerns to Congress, said Jeff Ruch, executive director of **Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility**, who provided the memo to McClatchy.

Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift disputed that characterization. "At no point did the Department tell the NPS not to communicate with Congress," she said in an email. "In fact, the document in question is not even addressed to Congress. The document was an early internal draft meant to express the Department's position on a legislative proposal."

Under the bill, NPS would be barred from regulating the hunting of bears and wolves in Alaska wildlife preserves.

In addition, NPS would not be allowed to regulate commercial and recreational fishing within park borders or to comment on development projects outside park borders that could affect the parks.

The bill has received support from the National Rifle Association and hunting and fishing groups, which have lobbied Congress for years to pass a version of the measure (Stuart Leavenworth, [McClatchy](#), Aug. 23). — MJ

***Want to read more stories like this?***

[Click here](#) to start a free trial to E&E -- the best way to track policy and markets.

## ABOUT GREENWIRE – THE LEADER IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

---

Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.



E&E News  
122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-628-6500 Fax: 202-737-5299  
[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net)

All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced or retransmitted without the express consent of Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC. [Click here](#) to view our privacy policy.