

**American Fisheries Society • American Sportfishing Association • Archery Trade Association • Bass Pro Shops • Berkley Conservation Institute • Boone and Crockett Club • Bowhunting Preservation Alliance • Campfire Club of America • Catch – A – Dream Foundation • Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation • Conservation Force • Dallas Safari Club • Mule Deer Foundation • National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses • National Rifle Association • National Shooting Sports Foundation • National Wild Turkey Federation • North American Bear Foundation • North American Grouse Partnership • Pheasants Forever • Pure Fishing • Quality Deer Management Association • Quail Forever • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Ruffed Grouse Society • Safari Club International • Shimano American Corp. • Texas Wildlife Association • Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership • U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance • Whitetails Unlimited • Wild Sheep Foundation • Wildlife Forever**

April 26, 2010

United States Senate  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests  
Hon. Ron Wyden, Chairman  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

United States Senate  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests  
Hon. John Barrasso, Ranking Member  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Barrasso and Subcommittee Members:

On behalf of the millions of hunters and anglers, fish and wildlife professionals, and fish and wildlife businesses, we want to thank you for having a hearing on S. 1241. The undersigned groups express our support for this legislation that will direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal lands and waterways for film crews of 5 persons or fewer.

The need for this legislation arose from concerns about the recently proposed rules for filming and photographing on federal lands and waterways. While we certainly understand the need to implement controls to limit the potential damage that can be caused by large film crews, the majority of filming and still photography that takes place on federal lands and waterways has no deleterious impacts on the landscape, the people who visit them, or the fish and wildlife that reside on them. In fact, many of our most

treasured public lands, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, would never have been set aside for the enjoyment of millions of citizens had their unique resources not been photographed and disseminated to the American public.

Several of the undersigned organizations sponsor or are major contributors to televised hunting and fishing programs that air on a variety of popular and widely disseminated networks. These programs, which would be seriously affected by the newly proposed rules, reach millions of American people each week with messages that celebrate America's outdoor heritage, its public lands, and our shared fish and wildlife resources.

These programs are tailored to an audience who actively use public lands and waterways for pursuits like hunting and fishing that are of supreme importance to the future conservation of these lands. Our viewers fuel state fish and wildlife budgets through license sales and they boost the local economies that depend on seasonal influxes of hunters and anglers. Bearing in mind that the leading reason that active sportsmen become former sportsmen is that they can no longer find places to hunt and fish, television has become an important, even primary, means for educating them about the remaining opportunities to access hunting and fishing spots.

Production schedules and budgets for producing these programs are both characteristically tight. Even under the current rules, a substantial amount of time and money is spent procuring necessary permits and permissions. We fear that these newly proposed standards will cause significant increases in both time and money to bring these programs to air. In some cases, these increases may cause producers to focus less time and attention on public lands. In others, the newly proposed standards may cause producers to avoid public lands entirely.

We thank you for taking the time to hold a hearing on this legislation and understand our concerns. We invite you to contact us for any additional information or assistance in moving this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

**American Fisheries Society**  
**American Sportfishing Association**  
**Archery Trade Association**  
**Bass Pro Shops**  
**Berkley Conservation Institute**  
**Boone and Crockett Club**  
**Bowhunting Preservation Alliance**  
**Campfire Club of America**  
**Catch – A – Dream Foundation**  
**Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**  
**Conservation Force**  
**Dallas Safari Club**  
**Mule Deer Foundation**

**National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses**  
**National Rifle Association**  
**National Shooting Sports Foundation**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
**North American Bear Foundation**  
**North American Grouse Partnership**  
**Pheasants Forever**  
**Pure Fishing**  
**Quality Deer Management Association**  
**Quail Forever**  
**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**  
**Ruffed Grouse Society**  
**Safari Club International**  
**Shimano American Corp.**  
**Texas Wildlife Association**  
**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**  
**U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance**  
**Whitetails Unlimited**  
**Wild Sheep Foundation**  
**Wildlife Forever**