

March 1, 2005

Mr. Jerry Case
NPS Regulations Program Manager
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Case,

I have been referred to you by Karen Taylor-Goodrich regarding my request for assistance from Rep. John Murtha that the National Park Service modify 36CFR 2.4 to assimilate state regulations regarding concealed carry of firearms.

In her response to me she states the department's concern to protect wildlife and minimizing opportunities for the unauthorized use of guns. There are many laws in effect but criminals, by definition, ignore them. As you are well aware, poaching that occurs within park boundaries is not committed with handguns by concealed carry permit holders. This group of people simply do not pose a problem. They have undergone stringent background checks and are overwhelmingly law-abiding. State laws already address how and when a concealed handgun may be used for defensive purposes and regulate other aspects of firearm use including shooting wildlife.

Ms. Taylor-Goodrich also claims the NPS provides "reasonable regulatory relief for persons living within, traveling through or conducting activities on lands *ADJACENT* to park areas." Park Service regulations actually provide *NO* relief since people in these categories engaged in the activities she lists must still stop their vehicle to disassemble and store their firearms prior to entering park properties (per 36CFR 2.4). After they've traveled the required distance to traverse park property to get to a prohibition-free zone, they must then stop their vehicle and reassemble and reload their firearm to continue to lawfully exercise their Constitutional rights.

The regulations basically provide no more relief than does Federal law which permits citizens to travel with their firearms through gun "unfriendly" states to destinations in which they may lawfully possess their firearms.

This "regulatory relief" is meaningless and absolutely unacceptable and does nothing except unnecessarily inconvenience individuals and force them to handle their firearms in public. I am relieved the Department is reviewing these issues but I hope the very simple assimilation of state laws regarding concealed carry of firearms is the solution ultimately implemented.

Sincerely,

Rick *****
Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club
cc: Rep. John Murtha