

From: Rick \*\*\*\*\*  
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 2:37 PM  
To: guntestseditor@earthlink.net  
Subject: National Park Concealed Carry Reform

Dear Mr. Woodard,

I'm hoping I can interest you in mentioning our effort to reform handgun concealed carry regulations in National Parks. Currently, according to Federal regulation 36CFR 2.4, persons may possess a handgun in a National Park or on National Park properties only if the firearm is unloaded, disassembled and locked inaccessible in a vehicle. There are many cases where these Park properties are unmarked and the potential for someone to violate the regulation is great.

My organization, the Johnstown [PA] Rifle and Pistol Club has joined with the Virginia Citizens Defense League (<http://www.vcdl.org>) and 24 other groups nationwide in an effort to force the National Park Service to assimilate state laws regarding lawful concealed carry. These laws already apply to National Forests. The VCDL, and counsel from NRA ILA, have met with officials of the Interior Department and have presented the Petition for Rule Making that outlines our request and includes the proposed regulatory amendment. This document is available at the VCDL web page.

My wife and I travel to Skyline Drive in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park every year. Several years ago two hikers were raped and murdered on what I later determined in a Lexis-Nexis search was the exact same trail we both hike on and my wife jogs on. I had contacted my congressman, John Murtha (D, PA) in December and he replied that he firmly believes the regulation must be amended. He contacted the Director of the National Park Service urging her to give our request serious consideration. We have since attempted to determine the status of the Petition but have gotten nowhere. Bureaucrats have directed me from one office to the next and each claims they either know nothing about the petition or would not be in a position to. The one person who is aware of the Petition is Dep. Asst Sec'y for Fish, Wildlife & Parks Paul Hoffman. He is the official to whom the Petition was presented.

After my significant phone chases to determine the Petition's status I was ultimately re-directed back to Mr. Hoffman's office. His secretary has told me that Mr. Hoffman will call me next week regarding the status of the Petition. Officials from VCDL, meanwhile, have been told, essentially, the Petition will go nowhere. This is significant since the Petition was to have been reviewed, cataloged and become available for comment in the Federal Register.

What we are hoping you could help this nationwide effort, supported by 1.5 million co-petitioners (including GOA), by encouraging gun owners to contact their representatives and ask them to urge the National Park Service to implement the VCDL's proposed amendment to 36CFR 2.4.

I would be happy to provide you with copies of any or all documents and correspondence I have in your consideration of my request for help..

Thank you for your time and help with this important matter. And, yes, I am a subscriber and loyal reader of your magazine!

Rick \*\*\*\*\*

Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club