

CONRAD BURNS
MONTANA
DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603
(202) 224-2844
May 11, 2005

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Gale Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Interior Building
1849 C Street, NW; Room 6156
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton,

Title 36 Section 2.4 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the National Park Service, Department of the Interior currently prohibits citizens from possessing a firearm in any national park, monument, memorial, or historic site administered by the National Park Service.

Title 50 Section 27.42 of the CFR for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently prohibits citizens with concealed weapons permits from carrying their firearms on national wildlife refuges.

I understand these prohibitions are in place for public safety and to prevent wildlife poaching. However, it does infringe on the rights of law abiding concealed weapons permit holders. Since these permit holders are required to meet state criminal background checks, I support an exception to 36 CFR 2.4 and 50 CFR 27.42 to allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry their firearms legally in National Park Service administered sites and in national wildlife refuges.

The revisions to the CFR could adopt the state law concealed weapons statute where the National Park Service's administrative sites and the national wildlife refuges are located. This would provide a consistent application of state concealed weapons laws across all land ownership boundaries.

This change in the regulation would eliminate the permit application requirements for these law abiding citizens.

I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Conrad Burns
United States Senator

Charles H. Taylor
Representative

Richard W. Pombo
Representative

HELENA
(406) 449-5401

MISSOULA
(406) 728-3003

BUTTE
(406) 723-3277

BOZEMAN
(406) 596-4450

GLENDALE
(406) 365-2391

KALISPELL
(406) 257-3380

GREAT FALLS
(406) 452-8885

BILLINGS
(406) 252-0550

TOLL FREE
1-800-344-1913