



North American Grouse Partnership

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Interior Secretary Norton Names NAGP Executive Director to New Sporting Conservation Council

Columbus, Ohio – Secretary of Interior Gale Norton announced the establishment of a Sporting Conservation Council (Council) under provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act today at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference.

The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of Interior about wildlife conservation endeavors that benefit recreational hunting and wildlife resources and that encourage partnerships among the public, the sportsman conservation community and Federal and State government.”

Impetus for creation of the Council can be found in several earlier discussions between the wildlife conservation community and the Secretary and other senior Department of Interior officials. It took substantive form following the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation held in St Louis, Mo. last August. Secretary Norton noted “We wanted to find a way of institutionalizing the role of sportsmen and women in the decision-making process at Interior. Now, for the first time, sportsmen and women will have an officially sanctioned committee to advise Interior on issues important to them and the country.”

“We welcome the opportunity the Council will provide for wildlife conservationists to engage directly with the Secretary, and through that office to the Administration, on issues of great importance to our community.” said Jim Mosher, NAGP Executive Director. “I am clearly honored to be a part of a group of distinguished colleagues selected to serve on the Council.”

Only a few days ago, Secretary Norton announced her resignation to move back to her home base in Colorado and on to other endeavors. As the first woman Secretary of Interior she has served over five years during which time she has faced remarkable challenges for agencies in her charge. She made ‘cooperative conservation’ her theme and the watch word of her tenure. The newly created Council clearly caps that approach to resource management.

Our mission is to promote the conservation of grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction.