



A Closer Look at

Executive Order 14429

Background

On September 17, 2026, President Trump signed Reinvigorating America's Hunting Heritage. The executive order directs federal agencies to pursue changes to hunting access, hunter participation and wildlife management. It sets deadlines for some agency actions, but many of its practical effects will depend on proposals, funding and decisions made in the months ahead.

The order follows two earlier directives. Executive Order 13443, issued in 2007, directed federal agencies to facilitate hunting and wildlife conservation and expand hunting opportunities on federal lands where appropriate. Executive Order 14313, issued in 2025, established the Make America Beautiful Again Commission and directed agencies to expand recreational access while supporting conservation and wildlife recovery.

The new order gives agencies more specific assignments and deadlines. This explainer describes what it directs them to do, what remains undecided and what BHA will consider as agencies put it into practice.

What the Order Directs

- **Within 60 days (November 16, 2026)**
 - Agriculture must review high-demand U.S. Forest Service river-access lotteries and begin reforms that prioritize U.S. citizens and previously unsuccessful applicants and prohibit automated computer entries.
- **Within 90 days (December 16, 2026)**
 - The Department of the Interior must allow hunting of species not listed under the Endangered Species Act in Castle Mountains National Monument and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.
 - DOI must propose improvements to the annual process for authorizing migratory game-bird seasons, while continuing to involve the Flyway Councils and consider survey data, guidance, and history.
 - The Departments of Labor and Education must clarify whether federal education funding may support school archery and hunter-education programs.
- **Within 180 days (March 16, 2027)**
 - The Departments of War, Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce must propose policy or regulatory changes affecting lands under their jurisdiction. The changes are to generally allow hunting unless local resource conditions justify a closure; support access infrastructure, easements, exchanges, and cooperative agreements; encourage qualified volunteers in wildlife and invasive-species management; authorize assistive technology; and permit traditional lead ammunition and tackle. National parks and most national monuments are excluded.
 - DOI must identify additional opportunities and incentives, using existing funding and authority, to help states recruit and retain youth and veteran hunters.

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- **Within 365 days (September 17, 2027)**
 - DOI must encourage state fish and wildlife agencies to promote and expand Sunday hunting on state and federal lands.
- **No Stated Deadlines**
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs is to prioritize, as permitted by law, Adaptive Sports grants that support hunting and fishing.
 - The Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and War are to coordinate with states on game-population management through habitat connectivity, invasive-species and disease control, predator and competitor management, prescribed fire, vegetation and water management, grazing, agricultural practices, and voluntary landowner agreements.
 - The Department of Agriculture must issue guidance supporting state venison-donation programs, including through the Emergency Food Assistance Program. And, DOI is to encourage states to use Pittman-Robertson funds to manage overabundant wildlife, especially white-tailed deer, and support processing and donation of wild game to schools and food banks.

Key Points/Considerations for the BHA Community

Federal Land Access – The order establishes an access-oriented policy and could shift future agency decisions toward keeping land open unless managers document a location-specific reason for closure. The practical effect will depend on the regulations and policies agencies propose and on site-specific resource conditions.

Hunting and Conservation Policy – The order links expanded access with habitat work and active game management. Those actions could benefit game populations and migration corridors, but implementation will determine how agencies balance hunting opportunity with wildlife habitat, migration, water quality, and other public-land uses.

Recruitment and Participation – School programs, youth and veteran initiatives, adaptive-sports grants, assistive technology, and Sunday hunting could reduce barriers to participation, but several provisions rely on later guidance, available funding, or voluntary state action. Implementation is not immediate. And, the order directs agencies to act but does not create an enforceable private right. Agency proposals may require rulemaking, environmental review, public input, appropriations, and coordination with states before on-the-ground rules change.

Lead Ammunition and Tackle – The directive could reverse or limit federal restrictions on traditional lead products. Agencies must still act consistently with governing statutes and any site-specific legal requirements.

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