



BARACK OBAMA: SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS AND TRADITIONS OF SPORTSMEN

Tens of millions of Americans hunt and fish. Millions more participate in a variety of shooting sports such as sporting clays, skeet, and target and trap shooting that may not necessarily involve hunting. Barack Obama deeply respects America's hunters and sportsmen, and he is committed to protecting their rights.

RESPECT FOR RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP

Respect the Second Amendment: As a former constitutional law professor, Obama understands and believes in the constitutional right of Americans to bear arms. While he believes that guns must be kept from criminals, the mentally incompetent, and others who may pose a threat, he also believes that the rights of legitimate hunters and other law-abiding Americans should be protected, including the right to purchase, own, transport, and use guns for the purposes of hunting and target shooting. Accordingly, he supports enactment of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Improvement Act, which has the strong backing of the National Rifle Association.

Promote Common Sense Gun Control: Obama supports common-sense measures to limit the occurrence of gun violence that has taken the lives of too many Americans, particularly young people. He supports closing the gun-show loophole and requiring mandatory background checks on purchasers at gun shows. That loophole has been exploited by everyone from foreign terrorists to the Columbine High School shooters. Obama would also improve the background check system across the country to make sure it catches everyone who should not own guns, including the mentally ill. Fixing these problems would not impair the rights of hunters and other lawful gun owners. Obama also believes that we have to make guns in this country child proof, so that kids cannot handle them when an adult isn't present. This is, again, a common-sense solution.

As a long-time resident and elected official of Chicago, Barack Obama has seen the impact of fully automatic weapons in the hands of criminals. Thus, Senator Obama supports making permanent the expired federal Assault Weapon Ban. These weapons, such as AK-47s, belong on foreign battlefields and not on our streets. These are also not weapons that are used by hunters and sportsmen.

Obama does not believe that these common sense measures would roll back the Second Amendment. He believes that we can protect the rights of hunters and other lawful gun owners, while working to reduce gun violence and making sure that guns do not fall into the hands of criminals or the mentally ill.

CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS AND WETLANDS

Preserve Wetlands, Grasslands, Rivers, and Forests: Barack Obama is fully committed to protecting the fish and wildlife our sportsmen enjoy. He is an advocate for preserving our wetlands and supports a broad range of traditional conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetland Reserve Program in the Farm Bill. Obama voted for an amendment offered by Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) to cap farm payments for wealthy farms in order to restore \$2 billion in cuts to conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve and Wetland Reserve Programs. Obama also supports the inclusion of a Sodsaver Provision in the Farm Bill, which would preserve native grasslands and prairies by remedying the unintended consequences of some of our current farm policies.

Barack Obama is a proud supporter of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which keeps over 58 million acres of national forests pristine. As president, he will repair the damage done to our national parks by inadequate funding and emphasize the protection and restoration of our National Forests.

Obama's record on conservation dates back to his days as a state senator. In 2004, he was a cosponsor of the Wetlands Protection Act, which provides for the conservation of wetlands in Illinois. As a state senator, he supported the creation of the Illinois Open Land Trust, which allows the state to buy property from willing sellers for conservation and recreation purposes and make grants and loans to local governments for acquiring land for open spaces.

Partner with Landowners to Conserve Private Lands: Because most land is privately-owned, private landowners are the principle stewards of America's land and water. As a U.S. Senator, Barack Obama has supported conservation programs that serve as a resource to landowners and assist them with sustainable environmental planning and best land management practices. As president, Obama will put an unprecedented level of emphasis on the conservation of private lands. He will advance legislation that works with landowners and follows in the tradition of the Wilderness Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act to focus federal attention and increased resources on this key environmental issue. He will also increase funding for the Conservation Security Program and the Conservation Reserve Program and will create additional incentives for private landowners to protect and restore wetlands, grasslands, forests, and other wildlife habitat.

Protect Fish and Wildlife from Climate Change: Barack Obama recognizes that global warming is real, is happening now, and is the result of human activities. He also realizes that climate change poses a real threat to America's fish, wildlife, natural habitats, and the future of outdoor activities. Obama supports the proposal by more than 25 national hunting and fishing organizations, including the Mule Deer Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Trout Unlimited, to devote \$2.4 billion per year in conservation funding to help fish and wildlife survive the impacts of climate change. Obama also has a plan to put America on the path to stop global climate change by reducing carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050; establishing a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard; increasing fuel economy standards; requiring that 25 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2025; and investing in advanced technologies that will spur innovation, create jobs, and help stop climate change.