

Chapter IX

IX. OUTDOOR ETHICS AND RECREATION

The Izaak Walton League inspires all types of outdoor enthusiasts to take personal responsibility for protecting the outdoors. League chapters promote outdoor ethics and provide various outdoor recreational opportunities. Chapters offer programs focused on educating and supporting ethical behavior among all outdoor users, particularly gun owners and hunters, to ensure the safety of others, protect the environment, and conserve fish and wildlife for future generations.

The League is recognized for its leadership in developing a national outdoor recreation policy that addresses personal behavior and the public's ability to enjoy the lands, waters, and other natural resources that belong to all Americans. Spurred by escalating pressures on America's outdoor resources after World War II, the League actively led national efforts to comprehensively assess the future of outdoor recreation. This national perspective spurred expansion of the National Park System and wilderness areas and laid the foundation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Through the LWCF, a portion of the revenue from federal oil and gas leases on public lands is invested in conserving additional public lands and wildlife habitat and supporting recreation at the state and local levels.

D) Firearms Rights

- 1) The League supports the constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms.
- 2) The League opposes legislation or other action that would require the general registration of firearms.
- 3) The League objects to gun control proposals that do not address the problems of violent crime or safety; rather we support vigorous enforcement of existing firearms-related laws.
- 4) The League supports efforts to prevent firearms sales to or possession by felons, people found by a court of law to be mentally incompetent or insane, and people under the age of 18.

5) The League supports laws establishing severe and mandatory penalties for the use of firearms in the commission of any crime and severe penalties for flagrant misuse of firearms in any way. We oppose attempts to classify criminal activities as health care issues.

6) The League opposes federal controls on commerce in firearms and related equipment that restrict the lawful activities of private gun collectors, parttime dealers, gunsmiths, hobbyists, or black-powder users. The League opposes taxing firearms to pay for any problems other than sound conservation programs and related research.

7) Although millions of semiautomatic firearms are used legally and routinely for recreation, some legislative proposals fail to distinguish “assault weapons” from other semiautomatic firearms and would ban or restrict the legitimate use of semiautomatic sporting arms. The League calls on Congress and other legislatures to reject such proposals restricting the possession and use of semiautomatic firearms.

8) The League supports state “shall issue” concealed carry handgun laws, requiring that carry permits be issued to applicants who meet uniform standards established by the state legislature.