

# Discussion Question 4

*What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?*

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## Discussion Question 4

*What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?*

### **Albuquerque, NM**

Likes to do outreach in Otero Mesa. He is trying to get people to Otero Mesa. BLM is coming out with an RMP. Local based environmental group. Need more youth and more organizations to become involved and work with what is in the backyard. So much misinformation out there and it cannot be what is being taught to the kids. Everyone can work together to come up with a plan. Teach adults and kids agricultural lessons. Environmental issues need to be taught in schools. It starts with the older generation that the earth matters.

Start with a clearly defined vision that goes out over 5 years to serve as motivation to see the big picture.

Open senior centers for gardens so that they can have organic foods to eat. It might become intergenerational where some of the grandchildren could help and it would start teaching them young.

Recommendation would be to set up a city townhall and get the community involved to plant trees. Another recommendation is to have a march for conservation.

Possibility to do an outreach to parents. If you start kids out young it becomes part of their culture. He would suggest side activities that you can do that would not take money and have community conversations.

Access to recycling bins is another big issue because a lot of people would like to recycle but don't know how to take it

He is currently working in the Carson National Forest building a fire break between the Pueblo and the forest to help reduce the spread of a fire. They are also building trails in public lands. When people see them out on the trails they know that they are taking care of the land and they have a greater appreciation for the land. They are trying to make it more accessible for the public. They have two different crews of about 20 doing forestry work. They also have two more crews working with the youth in the community trying to get the youth to do things outside. Over the course of the year they have over 100 people working for the Youth Corp

Support the outdoor environment and support farmers and ranchers who also support the environment. It preserves the open space. Support and maintain the multiple use of land

South valley has no access to outdoors because of the litter and gangs. She is involved in sports and some of the sports groups have started to clean up to make it a better community. More community centers are needed, the youth want to be out but have no place to go play. No sidewalks. School is helping out by making a green house on campus and a compost pile to make a garden in school

## Discussion Question 4

### *Albuquerque, NM*

*(cont.)*

He also works with the youth and right now they are working at Santa Fe High building an outside classroom. Kids need hands-on-experience and ask how they can get involved. It is not only an outdoor classroom. It contains a perma-culture garden and solar panels. They will be monitoring the solar panels throughout the school year. He feels that more monies for outdoor education programs in public schools are needed so the students connect with the land instead of a textbook. It would be nice if the National Parks should have outdoor classrooms so that when the students do visit the Parks serve as an example

He would like to see all federal buildings at zero carbon. Set the example in the National Parks so youth could see solar panels, green buildings etc. Anotehr recommendation would be to have a Green Conservation Corp so that the youth could have hands on experience constructing green buildings and at the same time get paid for it.

She feels what we are dealing with in the big picture is a lack of perceived value of being outside. It is no longer considered a priority to get kids outside. Media can help curb that and we need role models. Perceived risk is huge problem. Making outdoors safe for everyone is really important

One of the biggest issues in the Gila Wilderness where he works is the fact that the trails, the corridor and the access to trails is deplorable. The budget for fires is huge and trail budgets are small. The signage on trails does not exist. He spends countless hours flagging out trails to find some sign of a trail. He sometimes literally searches on the ground looking for any sign of tread.

Access speaking from the urban setting like the Alb. metro area, urban youth have challenges and barriers even getting into nature. He thinks more organizations can be supported. He thinks connecting it with education through curriculum is important. Supporting conservation efforts through student employment. Working on Organic Community gardens. Catchment and conservation. Getting youth to tend a garden is good. Pollution is huge and that can be combined with education too and how can you protect the land for future generations

She thinks youth scholarships in the conseration and outdoor environment would encourage more students.

Bills/laws are tools. Federal government needs to pass omnibus wilderness bill to protect wilderness. Encourage president to make Otero Mesa a ntnl monument.

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### ***Albuquerque, NM***

***(cont.)***

Effective responsible leadership at federal level would be a good tool. Need to properly fund conservation efforts. Need to overcome fragmentation of agencies, need to share data, geospatial info. Need to coordinate at a federal level between agencies. FWS, BLM, BOR all tell different things. Need interagency coordination on policies/regulations. Need to aggressively do outdoor, environmental education efforts. Need more events like Ntnl Get Outdoors Day, need to tie in local, private organizations. Federal state local agencies should promote private conservation through joint funding and tax incentives. Extend tax benefits, change required grant matches to make programs more effective. Need to elevate priority of regional and large-scale landscape restoration initiatives. Need to involve all agencies, interest groups and private communities.

Ms. Burke teaches students with disabilities and they have difficulty getting information at public/government facilities. Captioning should be provided on videos in visitor centers etc.

Organic agriculture. Federal government should support more organic food production practices instead of petroleum based agriculture process. We are saying we protect the land but support unsustainable and harmful agriculture practices. Subsidize organic farmers.

Start requiring all facilities the federal government uses (hotels etc.) to provide recycling bins.

Veterans are a great source and nature is healing for them. Veterans are good at shooting and can dart wild horses from helicopters. This would be cheaper than round ups.

Volunteering is a tool. Go out and serve the outdoors in a way that suits your interests. Volunteerism allows you to get connected with lands and it doesn't cost a lot.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Annapolis, MD*

National Wildlife Refuges in the city.

Education: conservation preservation.

Federal teeth are lacking to guide county actions. Supports Senator Cardin legislation to give EPA more authority to enforce Clean Water Act. Need to have DOI help develop ecosystem services markets to develop parameters and to engage people.

Climate adaptation planning, such as done at MD state level, needs to trickle down to local level. Work being done needs to be shared up and down among levels of gov't.

need funding for wildlife mgmt and conservation to insure that future generations have access to National Wildlife Refuges, which is severely underfunded. Need funding for State wildlife grants pgm and Teaming with wildlife pgm. Clean Water Act needs to be expanded to cover isolated wetlands and intermittent streams. Need national invasive species mgmt pgm (a lot more needs to be done on invasive species – good efforts underway in Florida).

We need to have the Administration do something huge – “put every kid in a park.” Ken Salazar said many good things today; at one point he said “I want a meeting between me, Bill Saxton and Lisa Jackson and Education.” One thing we can do is get rid of the Standards of Learning. The Obama Administration should champion a re-alignment around education and the outdoors - it is unacceptable to perpetuate this broken system. Such a re-alignment would support Michelle Obama’s “Kids Outdoors Program.”

Themes : access, appreciate what say, need to figure out how we provide that access...schools, fed gov, work together. We hear you.

Would also like to see Historic Preservation Fund fully funded. Provides funding to State Historic Preservation Offices. Would like to see more funding made available to develop local ordinances (ie Anne Arundel County has county ordinances requiring that cultural resources be considered when development is proposed).

Visiting National Parks has been one of most inspiring impacts on my life. Feels that a new National Park in the Chesapeake Bay would be critical to increasing understanding value of the bay, and helping residents to appreciate nature.

Supports full funding for LWCF. Likes Go Colorado program as a model. Need to bring private capital to initiative. Need to activate Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative federal leadership committee.

a series of listening sessions with young folks. Talk to them directly. Gear does cost money – offering the equipment for free is an important concept.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Annapolis, MD*

*(cont.)*

“Pennsylvania Wilds” is a successful landscape initiative involving state, local and non-government entities—it is an ecotourism initiative. We get a lot done. “Treasured Landscapes” is a great idea—get different agencies to look at the Lower Susquehanna and the upper Chesapeake Bay. LLC – USFWS – a “landscape cooperative” gets a lot more done.

LWCF should go together with Historic Preservation Fund on projects.

C&O Canal National Historic Department. NPS has an order for partnerships (DO-21) that is so burdensome to the partners that it imperils the idea of partnerships. It is difficult for federal land managers to work with. Unfortunately there was previously no organizational guidance on partnerships; now we have burdensome guidance instead.

citizen conservation. He provides pro bono legal help to protect National Parks. He has found that the best strategy is to tap into the love that the American people have for National Parks. He has worked on protecting Valley Forge NP, is now working on trying to protect Wilderness Battlefield in VA. He sees that historic parks also provide recreation for local residents. He feels that we should use National Parks as a core for landscape preservation. Economics are offsetting factor. He sees that communities don't understand economic value of having parks. County granting authorities take short term view on supporting land uses that offer jobs. NPS could do better job on selling itself to local communities on the economic value they bring to local communities. NPS could be more assertive in protecting its lands. During the Bush Admin, the “cooperative conservation” initiative was taken by NPS to “roll-over” and had an adverse effect. Need to provide guidance to National Parks on how to be more assertive without being combative.

DOI jobs in agencies all over the country in parks, refuges, lots of lands. Encourage to talk about job opportunities

Great to be here. Impressed with consistent themes. Been in DC 3 ½ years. Promote partnerships...biggest partnership with next generation. Introduced the “No Child Left Inside (NCLI)” initiative. Studies show youth spend about 7 ½ hrs day on electronics and only 4 minutes on outdoor recreation. There is a need to be tech savvy but something is out whack with those numbers. Support real resources to get youth outdoors. Primarily into school. Incorporate outdoor education. 1700 orgs across country pushing to get NCLI legislation passed. Hope to get included in education authorization. Gov has to perceive when people are pushing for new framework...new energy framework. Build new framework, the next generation, most aware of the environment, take over this issue, make it your issue, using social media you can become the leading edge in Environmental Awareness in this country. Most exciting thing in decades. Every high school should have an Environmental Club. Own it! Exciting prospect what you can do with this issue on the environment. Pledge to be a partner.

Voluntary private landowner program – have capacity to deliver those programs. How do we get new landowners? Need flexibility to work with new. Doesn't matter who owns land but just want protection.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Annapolis, MD*

*(cont.)*

Excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment - make a similar tax for other equipment that would be given to conservation organizations and trusts

– we have set aside many places for the public – in the 1970s in a recreation in urban areas initiative we created these areas but there is no access for an urban population – exception is Golden Gate where the Muni bus came out to the beach every Sunday – paid for by the city as a deal for making it a park – we don't have a lot of access via buses, public transport and school groups don't always have buses to get places – a dedicated item in the transportation budget to get people to parks and schools could compete for that –

Budget crisis biggest roadblock to the outdoor experience. Two park staff laid off (parks and rec). Annapolis has 200 acres of parkland. They have to rely on volunteers such as girl scouts. They use "Volunteer Voice", a weekly announcement on the local AM (WNAV) radio station. Weekly interview where need for volunteers is aired. This way really connects to the public. Also use Volunteer website: <http://www.volunteerannearundel.org/>

Concerned about access.. the government has set apart many places for people to go. There are many public lands. Typical urban population doesn't know these lands are available. Bus from SFO goes every Sunday to beach and every Sunday the beach gets more visitors as a result from a population that doesn't regularly visit beach. NPS doesn't have access to dept of transportation to plan with them. School groups don't have access, NPS can't send buses out, dept of transportation could.

County gov't has a saying: be careful of accepting state and federal money ("look out for chains and anchors"). Love to have the money, but feds want to tell you how to use it. State of MD keeps it simple. This is more efficient at the end of the day.

For those with funding issues, connect with your schools and universities. Ask for help with a neighborhood design center – find a landscape architect who is starting out, partner with university to help out with local parks and trails. Good source of free design skills.

full funding of HPF to be partners – be more aware of ties of cultural with natural resources – community resource initiative with DOT was like in cultural resource identification associated with quality of life – job skills by looking at trades such as international masonry institute to restore historic structures – community gardens obstacle is school facilities folks and having bricks and mortar folks on board in addition to curricula. Listening to people is huge to make them feel they are being heard and they are involved – IdeaJam and Facebook page tell people how their dollars are being used and this is all about the people and for the people—this makes our government stronger and brings people outdoors

## Discussion Question 4

### *Annapolis, MD*

*(cont.)*

His organization raises matching funds to match federal and state funding to acquire battlefield lands. Was created 20 years ago by Congress. Key tools are American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), Farm and Ranch Land Program, and Transportation grants, which provide funding for conservation easements to help preserve lands and keep as working lands. Want to maintain viewsheds in productive agricultural lands, don't want to pay for maintenance. What works – having matching grants in order to ensure local folks have a stake in projects and are engaged in public private efforts. Recomm: keep funding for ABPP; make permanent conservation easement tax credits. Ensure that LWCF funds can be used to acquire inholdings (the issue is the lack of funding, not policy towards acquisition of inholdings). If NPS had funding to buy out partners (like CWPT) would allow partners to reinvest their funds in other projects. Ask for a mileage buffer around battlefield parks.

land conservation – where has federal government made a big difference? From federal government need scale and plan component, really took state wildlife agencies forward. That was a federal requirement. States took money and invested in plan know that there will be little money to focus on their mission. Stateside land water conservation fund, has been consistent for states to do outdoor plan and that got states in open space planning business. How about we take that to local government level? How do we get local communities to do local open space planning?

Listening sessions are important. Here are examples that are “scale-able.” Kids won't go where they don't feel they're wanted. In Los Angeles, there's a park sign that has ten different “no” postings. We have to invite the kids - truly welcome them – otherwise they'll go to the mall. We do need to overcome the incredible dearth of awareness about where open areas are! (Lack of public transportation is an issue. Also, people don't want to travel outside their “ethnic boundaries.” On the metro and on buses, we need to advertize how to visit Rock Creek, etc. That is not happening now.

Marketing is the key; take the parks to the people. At a number of water parks, we bring the naturalists to the staging areas in water parks so they can reach the people (kids). Then the people (kids) start coming to the nature centers and education centers – they never would have found the centers without this contact. A larger idea: create trails that pay for themselves and make money on top of that (through easements and fees) – we have a model of that. Bring in the Secretary of Transportation and look at our utility lines across the country – see if there's some way to use them for non-motorized trails; create a national program.

Mattawoman Creek and bass fishery threatened by local government effort but is one of the most pristine watersheds in the state – the federal government should use the bully pulpit

National Audubon Society and Audubon Society of VA have a program called Audubon at home which sends ambassadors to people's homes to convert their yards into more natural landscaping and habitat for wildlife. They also do that with schools and local governments. There isn't that much land left to acquire they feel that it is better to work with private landowners. These kind of program help children because they bring the experiences close to home.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Annapolis, MD*

*(cont.)*

Need more staff at refuges to be environmental educators rather than relying so much on volunteers—many of whom are elderly and it's difficult for them to get out. Disability focus—accessibility for children & adults and the less-able.

Need to work on National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), codified in 2009. What's worked: gateway communities; work a lot with youth. Obst. No one has heard of NLCS. Best tool: need a Secretarial order to mandate conservation prescription for these lands, would help with management. Better partner: would like to see conservation as a priority. Would like to see NLCS raised as a priority within BLM.

New website, Service.gov, Volunteer.gov, a great way to connect with kids, teens. Need to develop an I-phone app where people can enter "Here are my coordinates, show me what to do in this park." (Already developed) comment.

One of biggest problems on the Appalachian Trail is the threats to the trail from energy project – have proposals for three major transmission lines, gas lines and ten wind generation projects. Need a national GIS system which identifies important resources married with a look at federal incentives that are fueling projects that would compromise these values.

Pass the No Child Left Inside Act.

Thank you to those who run RTCA and Trust Funds. There is not a magic universal wrench that works for everything. We need specialized tools. \$8 million per year is provided for services via boat registration fees. RTP is a smaller program – there are opportunities for growth – the focus is on non-highway recreational activities, including snowmobiling, etc. Trail maintenance is the key to success. Funding ongoing maintenance is terribly important. I'd like to raise an opportunity. Currently in our country we spend \$8,000 on health care per person per year. This is a lifestyle-induced situation. People eat poorly, smoke, use alcohol and drugs, etc. If you took 70% of the population times \$8,000 – we could use that funding to curtail our health expenses if we alter lifestyles. The medical community is catching on to this...a physician now may prescribe 10,000 steps per day (on trails) to a patient. The physicians could offer parking passes for their patients to park and walk! It is a tremendous opportunity. A special Town Hall on health and the great outdoors is in the planning stages; national groups are asking for this Town Hall to occur.

Without Montgomery purchasing TDRs nothing would have happened. The federal government should help groups to stay, tie to polices and historic preservation, more leadership that are tied to environmental policies that have environmental and health benefits.

The media are highlighting dangers of being outside. The federal government could try to present positive side of being outside.

The President and FLOTUS should provide leadership on being outside.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Annapolis, MD***

***(cont.)***

There is inconsistent messaging across the public landscape; a mosaic of messages. The user doesn't differentiate between federal, state and local agencies and organizations. We need to create consistent messages regarding public use. We need to derail the negative messaging. Our messages cannot be conveyed only in English – we need bilingual signage. Spanish is the dominant language. We need to commit to bilingual signage.

USDA particularly, may find funding to solve the land tenure problem. Beginning farmers can't afford farms, yet have the most innovative ideas about farming.

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### *Asheville, NC*

Implement a special resources study in GA

Rewriting what is available into language that is readable. Make it make sense.

I don't need more tools- we need to learn to use the ones we have-media is one of the most important- make it a daily thing- use the media in positive messages too

Public Service Announcements are very important

Fund no child left inside act

Tax incentives, Executive orders, Virtual science museum, technology as a tool, Scouting as a tool, Information as a tool. Science Centers as a tool.

Use USGS more to provide more information- integrate with states and pvt groups who collect information- NOAA is absorbing some but doing it badly- USGS should be the clearing house

Need more education- a key motivator is parents- educate parents in the positive effects that being outdoors has on the kids- need to see more of it- parents need to model it- talk more about how it makes people better later in life

A strong conservation education program in every federal agencies.

Reasonable salaries for such employees/staff people

Encourage passive recreation in parks.-also for consideration: equestrian recreation and more specific trailheads made to suit their needs

If people came together, they could have an impact. Money is an issue, however time, labor and dedication to change, can and will make a huge impact.

Feds need to be able to take corporate funding to support local efforts- losing millions of \$\$ by not being able to accept these funds

Build it and the will come- am an old guy in a young sport- have had to learn to bring resources TO people- use current technology- email is out of date-communication to the youth has to change- facebook, text, twitter- true of communities and pvt sector as well

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

People need to feel safe outdoors. We need to focus on ways to educate on the outdoors and create safety awareness among individuals. Interfacing with the outdoors could create safety and prevent these issues on getting outdoors.

have better access to information and make it more readily available

Need resources that help marketing of outdoor recreation- community development grants- make them more accessible and easier to find

Need more modern technology- need PSA's for outdoor recreation- Smokey Bear needs to twitter

Role of gov't is to educate and empower people to do the right thing. Local gov'ts getting to determine where funding goes.

Give people the opportunity to improve their local communities. Investment of federal dollars in local communities. Stateside LWCF

Need a national strategy of passive energy generation- need more discussion on pay-as-you go recreation- not supported by all

Standardized public announcements to address values of open space. Get information out. GAO Video was a great tool. Make more of this available to the public. Need educational tools.

Online resources for groups to interact, i.e. Wiki.

Educate general public to the connection between their actions and impacts to the environment- what they pour down the sink matters

Healthy effort in developing greenways in the state; 1987 highlight at one of the last conservation initiatives didn't yield much follow-through; these are needed in urban areas to produce functioning ecological mosaic

It is very important to teach outdoor survival skills to kids and young adults. DHS, FEMA – education, conservation, preservation is all the same. Resilience. Every Child Outdoor (ECO) Center. Sustaining health of children, sustaining the health of nature – need to tie these things together.

more funding to local units to support NGO's who work on federal land; make all of the local tools known to everybody (southern research station, coweeta lab)

local and state agencies should be involved in this process – they can help put local property owners in touch with the right people

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

get the cart behind the horse – manage for ecology first, not timber management

Emerging forest management certification programs – need to be audited for truth and accuracy

Rural Development programs would use conservation development principles – opportunity for preservation of open space, etc.

Creating better pathways for young people to get jobs. Also providing opportunities for diverse young people.

NC parks have a program for kids K-5 for kids to come to state parks and learn that the outdoors is a good place to spend time. State should expand the program and the federal government should look at this program.

AmeriCorps is a non-partisan concept of volunteerism; keep changing administrations from rebranding this program

Toolkits including guides, resources, links to networks can be distributed in neighborhoods, communities, schools, etc. to create awareness and provide opportunities.

more patrolmen to reinforce regulations and keep park users in check. (ex: lesson litterers)

More fed encouragement of recreation

Rural areas have to have infrastructure; local Rural Development groups support rural businesses, etc. Could assist with some community niches; could help find partners and help; e.g.: Community Facilities program, low interest loan program; funding for schools; eco-tourism and relating small towns with parks – can help with revitalization (sidewalks, benches); can finance businesses in rural areas; Mountain BizWorks program receives loans at 1% and then provides low interest loans to small businesses

Need to understand and go to where there is greatest need. This is inner cities and isolated rural areas. Currently, many of the programs/organizations working on these issues are concentrated and we're missing areas.

Government should be willing partner on these programs. Need to decrease the amount of red tape involved in partnering with federal agency.

More marketing and information- awareness---need to put it on the stations kids are watching--- fund LWCP and RTP

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

Proper zoning is to help protect the lands and set up parameters for development, etc. Zoning is a tool for protection

Rehabilitation tax credits.

Reorganize the priorities of where our government funds are going.

Open up conversation with agriculture; provide fresh local produce; plant a cherry tree in a park

Partnerships such as SCA should be increased. They work with different agencies and assist in getting the name of the agencies out to the public and also promote federal dollars to local land trusts.

Administration should take advantage of the economic downturn and publicize how inexpensive use of public lands can be. Show that money is not a barrier to camping in or visiting public lands.

education of land owners and users and citizens... educate them about our facilities

Fed Govt needs to recognize that reducing the size of agencies is not fixing the efficiency issues; staff shortages for those that help maintain federal/park land is really affecting visitor experiences; less supervisors is a problem; #2 from rural Jackson Co – eastern border with Blue Ridge Parkway and very close to EBCI and GRSM; those federal agencies have funding problems; but use this challenge to think of creative solutions – see oil drilled in the western US and fees/taxes related to that helping fund public lands?; Current environment is prime for land conservation due to prices, etc.; NC is growing at rapid rate and these lands are threatened – biggest tool to help is the sale of public resources;

Evaluation of recreation resource impacts should be mandated along with evaluation of other resources- needs to be integrated into every agency's mandate

Will never be enough funds-want to see the fed govt develop their tool kit to take on blue/green ways as venture capital, then have an exit strategy to allow others to take over- user fees must become a non-political issue—people in the outdoor community are used to paying their way

Big cost for a lot of nonprofits is litigation and responsibility (insurance). How to reduce this cost.

Educational tours and activities, etc. Advertise for it. Get the locals excited about. Eco tourism!

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

Wants to underscore the connection between resources and dollars. NC state parks had highest year of visitation ever last year. Not all states are that fortunate. Neighboring states have not been so lucky and Fed needs to help

“GOD” – “Greenway-oriented development”

Educational field days-places/stations for schools to go out to and learn from park staff at these stations as well as learn recreational activities and safety.

Need a conservation based accreditation system for development. No national standards for a conservation based development. Which ones are ‘green washed’ and which ones truly have conservation elements?

Encourage federal development and participation in “Historicorps,” emerging CCC, HABS/HAER

take advantage of resources that you have i.e., research stations and local forests; get more comprehensive in approach to land management;

Watauga Parks and Recreation Authority has sponsored a newly formed Tourism Development Authority pushing for more outdoor recreation opportunities; very fortunate to have tourism-based community; state and federal parks cutting staff but more people are coming to local, state and national parks.

This event, this listening session is helpful. To have vision sessions, listening sessions and try to engage diverse audiences.

Use local farms as part of the process. Use federal involvement.

Public education should include a component for outdoor education in the summer. Outdoor activity is critical to being a whole person.

‘Apps’ exist for birdwatching, wildflowers, trails, fishing spots. Need to find ways to connect the apps with young users that will help them connect with the outdoors. Every kid needs to learn how to use GPS unit. Use the NPS brand to increase the number of ‘apps’ to connect kids to the resources.

Develop books for children, books that parents can use to better connect with outdoors, get children outdoors. Federal govt needs to be involved in getting kids outdoors.

Lots of educational opportunities both inside and out for gardens. Need more funding for early childhood learning. Really important to get kids outside in the woods.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

engage celebrity (athletes, actors, actresses, etc) encouragement. Use local celebrities to promote.

Mass transit systems that connect people with national parks, forests and open spaces. Need to put mass transit into the equation for connecting people to the outdoors.

Federal role could be increase in communication. Michele Obama could tie her obesity initiative to getting kids outdoors.

Neagative - Need state legislature for everything - Density agreement for states at the Local level needed.

NPS good at interpretation. FS is good at managing forests. BLM has different focus. Would we be able to reorganize agencies/public centers to have the people who are good at one thing be in charge of that aspect.

Mapping is a valuable tool. Would help if they were easily accessible online. Road and topographic maps are available, but would be helpful if a comprehensive map including both were readily available.

No public transportation to AT from Asheville.

Safe Routes to School is successful legislation. Maybe this could be amended to Safe Routes to Schools and Parks. Access to national parks and local parks, not just schools.

look toward required community service for youths, like the AmeriCorps program

#### Complete Streets Program

All have been energized by Louv's Last Child in the Woods. Can the government help us with collecting data and convince school districts with this data. Inventorying the programs that work.

Money for staffing. Rangers are understaffed and overworked. They are also the ones working and connecting with the youth. Ex: junior ranger programs, campsite talks, they aren't being offered as greatly because they cannot be provided for

Wealth is created by 2 means - Pull it from the ground as minerals or grow it from the ground as agriculture. If we don't keep our land producing, our nation is in trouble.

Has seen the commodity use of federal lands shut down all across the county and recreation taken over. Can recreation provide the same financial wealth as commodity use?

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

The positions that are cut first are the positions that are seen as supplemental....environmental specialists, sustainability specialists. State and federal levels need to tout the programs that are working.

Hollywood can help. Tie in media to real life to educate. Piggyback on such media to relate and connect with communities.-check out [climateproject.org](http://climateproject.org)

things take time. Keep moving ahead with things.

New Unit Designations for the NPS. Process needs reformed. Studies take too long to be effective – takes a decade.

NPS sites do not have adequate funds to maintain the parks. Need to look at taking care of what we have before we move onto other things. Take care of what you have and you won't need as much in the future.

Use technology to get to youth of America. Download trail maps to Ipods.

By investing in green technology, energy resources specifically, a huge difference can be made. Not only in helpful in our surroundings and environment, but with peoples' attitudes. Online technology magazines have proved to be useful.

Re: Youth in the Outdoors; what about the youth desiring to be in proactive positions? Government should push internships and help emerging youth develop their career paths

need to be more responsive to issues

First do no harm i.e. Globe timber sale on the Grandfather RD

bring these kind of groups together on a bigger scale

SCA- Public land Service Corps act and Youth Corp acts – support that legislation/ funding

agricultural lands may be impacting water resources – can make a difference by funding educating farmers on sustainable practices; look and newer problems coming down pike

Lending NPS name to private groups may promote the NPS system. Will increase awareness of tourism opportunities.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

A lot of people don't know the science and history resources available in NP's. We don't do a good job of promoting these resources that are readily available and free.

Support Private sector self-funding by the industry itself rather than Fed handout

need interagency interaction – DOT – be bolder

states with Abandoned mines – lack of Good Samaritan laws to protect the people trying to restore them is Needed.

Transp planning - Road reclamation funding for roads and trails program that reduces sedimentation- Stae and Federal \$ pay more attention to local develop/conserv policy .

If we as private citizens would take the opportunity to take a child to the forest we could do a lot of good, doesn't just have to be the federal governments responsibility.

New CCC and incentives for alternative energy programs; federal loan repayment; NRCS need to lower bar in organics certification program

need to look at true multiple-use of lands, such as recreational uses of national forests

share successful examples from other states

increase enforcement ability to protect water quality; enforce existing environmental laws

Small Business association Tree planting act – Schuler is on committee- planting program for Downtown Revitalization

Research and Data - State Forest Assessment - More emphasis on DataTools and Research ie Urban Canopy

\*\*\*STAFF STAFF STAFF

NPS's Second Century Commission ----implement that vision-promote geocaching to get people outside

adopt second century commission's plan

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

rivers, trails assistance programs work well; use programs that work well as best practices model

need to know who to call – who's responsible for what?

We need a special resource study to classify new national parks in Georgia.

more sessions like this!

federal government should be bolder and push planning on the local level; need to learn the rules of the road like the defense department when getting money from congress; give people a reason to go to parks

Impact of Wind Turbine generators from F&W – waiting.. need more data and recommendations, and get it out there to inform citizens with science.

House bill 1310 and Senate 296 ? Clean water Restoration act and Appalacian Rest act – reverse changes during Bush admin that allow fill

Sustainable use for Revenue streams

federal tax incentive permanent and fund LWCF

In marketing, start with public schools- messages not tailored to kids---communication gap in talking to the next generation- work into the toy business

start using new media tools like facebook and twitter, smoky bear application for the iPhone

need to use GIS more effectively; land use planning needs to be a coordinated effort to map invasive species

Transportation planning so people can easily access open space.

Getting \$\$ to the NGO's and work collaboratively with them- provide tech transfer- use NGO's to get federal information out

## Discussion Question 4

***Asheville, NC***

***(cont.)***

Is there some way we can share resources between regions?

Create a website as a spinoff for social media- one stop shopping for environmental education- capitalize on our existing educational system

USFS contracts out timbering- be sure they supervise these guys- I live near the AT near Mill Ridge-need to move USFS to USDI to prevent timbering

Need a natl office of environmental education- agencies need a cooperative, unified plan

Support fees in certain places, get boots on the ground such as rivers and trails (NPS) to develop more projects- expand the program

Recreation is a necessary component in developing transportation

Recognize good partners- involve the local community....NC has great funding sources—federal \$\$ can leverage alot of other funds

Need funding for the open source community forest program. Open to local governments and local tribes. Need to engage tribal youth, give them the opportunity for forestry careers.

-they are also the personnel who help maintain safety in the recreational areas and parks.

Needs to be a reframing of service on public lands. It needs to seem less like work, chores, or punishment. Education provided to help lesson impressions such as those listed.

Conservation tax credits.

Full LWIC funding.

Collaboration and Cooperation to maintain lands uses as they are meant to be.

have the gov simplify things to the public

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

NEPA is great, but is a hurdle for trail management – moving the trail often improves the land, but too expensive to do the NEPA to clear the projects – allow more CE's for this work – often keeps trails in bad locations – need to reallocate these human resources – look for good examples abroad – Wales is a great example of management integration between parks & forests – 5% of GNP made up of trail use/tourism and infrastructure – need a tool to show green infrastructure and econ development are inter-related – also tie to the “value” of the health benefits generated – also, how to let trails help cut use of fossil fuels/oil dependency – more walkers, bikers in a community – problems managing trails in Wilderness (not enough sawyers to keep open) – need more flexibility

Would like to see volunteer liability coverage extended to cover issues of using youth in trail maintaining

Create consistent standards for Wild & Scenic River designated areas – need a designation of “wilderness lite” to allow for a great breadth of human-powered use (like bikes) -could be a permanent congressional designation

need more early successional habitat – the needed tool – a chainsaw!

NF's can't be all things – one of the few places that can provide old growth – a major resource priority

RiverLink/Southside Community in Asheville – WC Reid – GO Green – comfortable environment – but the building is about to be demolished. This building needs to be saved, used as a place to educate children, and used as a tool for the community (“Urban Renewal” versus keeping historically black neighborhoods intact)

Need to keep communities together

Older African Americans are angry because they've been pushed out of the community of Asheville in the name of “urban renewal”. Create a ‘mixed community’, but there is a lot of anger.

Facebook and other social networking sites. Parks and Forests need to get in the 21st Century – Facebook, Twitter. Social networking. How do we stay connected after this listening session?

Schools are really the key to get kids outdoors. More funding needed for field trips to get kids outdoors.

Federal government senior positions – many are eligible for retirement. Losing institutional knowledge.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Asheville, NC*

*(cont.)*

YMI Cultural Center in Asheville is centrally located, good resources for African American community.

The city is challenged because of funding insufficiencies. Public spaces not getting enough money to maintain and enhance. How do we use private dollars to help with these funding inadequacies.

A physical space/hub that people (private and public) can exchange ideas and funding.

Grant for Community Sustainable Forest (similar to Comm. Sus. Agriculture).

Strongest resource is us – the public, individuals. Keep projects local and manageable but big enough to get gov't recognition for funding.

Repetition of messages over time. Repetition of messages. A concerted effort akin to Smokey Bear that brings a message to the public.

Opportunity with Eastern Band of Cherokee to fund a sustainable forest.

Better labeling on food needs to occur. Need to crack down on big agriculture and focus on small farms. Federal gov't should be a better educator regarding food labels.

Preservation, protection of honeybees.

Executive order 13514 to mandate collaboration among agencies. Often tools and orders are not understood and thus are not used.

Toolbox of resources and ways to follow the executive orders.

Have gardens at schools for kids to learn how to grow things. Let kids plant the seeds.

I was a planner 50 years ago for the USFS in their Outdoor Resource Recreation program. We projected that at the current rate of growth in 1960, it would take all the land USFS owned in NC to provide enough picnic areas and campgrounds needed by the year 2000. The reality is that not one new picnic area or campground has been built in NC since the 1960s. Some have been expanded, but no new ones. We didn't envision all the new forms of outdoor recreations like kayaking and mtn biking.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Asheville, NC***

***(cont.)***

How do we educate adults? Reinforces why it is so important to educate the youth.

make gym class outdoors

shut down nicklodean TV so kids will go outside

do a lot of rock climbing at climbing gym, get gym to go outside and take people climbing

make forests more exciting with laser tag, paintball

more showers, nicer bathrooms in campsites

keep open/.reopen road areas for four-wheeling

not many roads you can bike on without cards

canopy tours

advertise great outdoors as being healthy

get youth prisoners to do outdoor work (trail mainatance, hiking...)

but more land adjacent to the BRP so that housing developments don't get too close

limit wher epeople can build near federal land

opportunities for federal jobs (like veteran points for SCA, YCC) for young people

more visitor centers/education to the public on parks

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Asheville, NC***

***(cont.)***

challenge the American public to go a day "unplugged"

better education in public schools about parks and the outdoors

more outdoor classrooms, trips to parks, zoo's, nature in schools

more celebrity/public figure campaigns to children/youth to get outside

proving information of activities to do in parks based on age and family structure

more junior raga like programs (funding)

continue funding at all levels of local, state and federal levels

1. Create after-school programs and outing clubs that are led by youth

The Asheville area is also home to several initiatives designed to encourage greater appreciation and utilization of our outstanding natural resources. The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, designated by Congress in 2003, is anchored here at the new Blue Ridge Parkway Visitors Center and covers twenty-five counties in Western North Carolina, The "Muddy Sneakers" organization originated in Hendersonville and serves four counties including Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania. and McDowell and is a national model for successful incorporation of the outdoors into the classroom and vice versa Asheville is also home to the American Whitewater Association, an organization that has led the charge for more "human powered outdoor recreation" around the country\_

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Bangor, ME***

A former teacher and school administrator. She is also on the SWCD Board and a forestry. Federal government programs should be given a chance to work by being fully funded and better distributed. Some programs aren't given a chance to work. Why aren't government facilities maintained and utilized to their best instead of moving money to new programs/facilities. Put money toward things that exist. Grants need to be easier to apply for. Streamline the process to make it easier. Environmental education can't always be done through schools. Schools are overburdened already. How can Environmental education be achieved outside the school system?

Appreciation of the scientific importance of the wild lands and wildlife conserved in the parks has been a proud tradition in the national park system. This appreciation was integral to the vision of those who preserved Acadia. Today, this purpose is even more important to the future of our species and those with whom we share Earth. As we confront global climate change, we must understand the capacity of distinct species and entire ecosystems to resist and recover from stress - and how to form wise goals for such resilience based on strong science. Our national parks should be laboratories for research on ecological evolution and wellsprings of science to guide stewardship of biodiversity.

Acadia National Park is well positioned to contribute to this mission. The web of life woven through the woods and waters of Acadia is an extraordinarily diverse floral and faunal endowment at the boundaries of the Northern (Boreal) and Eastern Temperate Forest biomes. The research resources of the scores of world-class universities and colleges of our New England region and the immediate proximity of two distinguished biological research laboratories and the College of the Atlantic are well known. Acadia now offers, in the recently expanded Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), a premier venue to support regional research into climate change and conservation issues and to convey to teachers, students, and park visitors the importance of such ecological study. Investment in science and education conducted through these regional, local and park capabilities will have robust national returns. It is important that we know how our parks may evolve and how we can act as conservationist as they do. But it is essential that we anticipate the conservation, cultural, and economic consequences of biome boundary migration - a dynamic that could effect many millions of human beings and hundreds of billions of dollars of economic activity. Good science in the parks can serve this mission.

The "Learning Results" Standards need to integrate ME natural history in school. After school programs are an opportunity to give experience in conservation studies. Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program is good and should be expanded to get more work done. We have 100+ land trusts that could use YCC for trail maintenance, etc.

U.S. Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space program is good. Land for Maine's Future Board is admirable in that they build in recreation development funds for a new easement owner, so they can go through a streamlined grant process to help put in trails. It is 5% of original grant. Feds should get the same thing.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Bangor, ME***

***(cont.)***

Salmon River restoration program. Folks don't have a sense of what it was like before [the dams]. Need federal funds for broader education and outreach grants, and need people to care about these things. Also need funds to train landowners on habitat connectivity, such as how to install culverts right.

Land and water conservation funding needs to be supported. Public transportation is a BIG need. Public transportation is unavailable outside urban areas. People can't connect if they can't get to the open areas. Bicycle access should also be encouraged as a way to decrease obesity.

Forest Legacy: Maine has a very high percentage of privately owned forestland. Perhaps Maine should get a larger share of this funding to reflect the importance of forestry in Maine.

Public/Private dollars supporting schools to have community gardens at the schools to teach children how to grow food and where food comes from. Had experience with this in Harlem as part of the Green Harlem project and it was very successful.

Council of State Governments should be advised on these comments to leverage information and to help some of these education efforts be more comprehensively delivered. Teachers can't do everything, but could be given more flexibility to incorporate ideas into their curriculum.

I've been participating in the effort that has been working on the 'keeping Maine's Forests' Initiatives. The unique thing about this is that we were asked to come together and talk with each other. Sharing perspectives and goals rather than 'tell' them. Measures of success for this process is: A stable or increasing flow or availability of wood; conserve or enhance key fish and wildlife habitats; sustain local economies...etc. Our suggestion for going forward is to select a number of pilot areas in order to focus on these goals Talking to and with each other makes all the difference. Maine's forests are extensive and unique in the eastern US. Our measures of success for sound management are include a steady or increasing flow of wood, protecting ecosystems, provide economic benefits. We utilize conservation easements, focus areas for key resources.

Tools - Money is necessary to get the kids outdoors, need to be funding what Maine is doing well. Education - Park and Zoning "dirty words" educate the public

We want environmental literacy legislation passed. Teachers need to get children outdoors. We need to be rewarding states who are doing this.

Of the approximately \$55 million overall project cost, approximately \$20 million remains. Key upcoming, remaining needs include funding for: Veazie removal (estimated \$2.5M); and Howland bypass (estimated \$5.5M); replacing a water intake (estimated \$2.5-3M); and other community-related and implementation costs: estimated \$4M. The Penobscot Trust, The Penobscot Nation, and its partner conservation organizations, have initiated a second-phase capital campaign to help raise private funds which, combined with additional public funding, will ensure fisheries restoration through full project implementation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Bozeman, MT***

Take the environmental evidence, map out the corridors and dispersal areas, protect these areas so that the wildlife can move as freely as possible. Limiting our rerouting commercial semi truck traffic in ecologically sensitive areas is critical in this effort. The Western Gainers Resolution must be followed. Use environmental reports to determine corridors and disturbance areas. Educational corridors for schools to teach to the next generation. The government should support our efforts to support wildlife corridors in the entire state of Montana, especially the Madison Valley as well as Idaho and Gallatin Valley, Hwy 191.

Organize communities to develop local strategies to protect waterways. Educate and train children on water clean and free. Employ state and federal guidelines for oversight and regulations.

Maintaining enough continuous wild land to allow ecosystems functions. Conserving soil that will allow sustainable agriculture forest and ecosystem function.

Research is required to better determine what it takes to maintain functioning ecosystems. Assume that larger continuous wild areas will maintain ecosystems functioning and facilitate purchase of lands to make continuous wild lands.

Make our parks and forests a priority in the federal budget. Think long-term when we decide what we want to use our land and resources for.

Reduce traffic speed and eliminate long-haul trucks from the Madison Valley. Implement setbacks on riders and eliminate dumping and pollution. Corridor development and get more land into conservation easements.

Support grassroots efforts with federal and state money. Tough legislation to face individuals and cooperation to take appropriate action.

We are not creating any more lands, but we are supporting more people. We must preserve our diverse and unique public lands and landscapes, watersheds, wildlife, fish and bird habitats for future generations and engage young people in their protection. Uses must be appropriate not destructing public lands belonging to all Americans- whether or not they even visit them- they are out national heritage. Local people must avoid seeing these lands as theirs not ours. Politics, money and climate change.

Engaging all stakeholders in a collaborative approach resulting in solution on issues of public lands for the common good. Uses must be sustainable. Bring people together to solve problems- leave divisive rhetoric behind.

How do share access to wilderness and out doors without people feeling left out- There should be NO snowmobiles in National Parks- but there should be places for them - some with atv's on some trails ect. Balancing is the key!

Reconciling agenda 21 goals and maintaining private property rights. Agenda 21 specifically eliminates private property rights as well as most agricultural freedom. We cannot destroy these freedoms without destroying our way of life.

## Discussion Question 4

***Bozeman, MT***

***(cont.)***

Conservation issues in Montana are most successfully addressed by bottom-up, grass roots efforts that are based on collaboration. These are inclusive of multiple issues (forestry, weeds, wildlife, water) and the local privatization of the issues

Most land managers recognize the impact of invasive but lack of resources and energy commitment. 1. reenergizes NISC give it the same emphasis as the Clinton administration did. 2. include basic funding for invasive in agencies and field units.

education- awareness of how we as human beings are a part of nature rather than separate from it, and why it will enhance our lives.

Enforceable standards to maintain core needs and values. Financial and other assistance for coordination, communication and collaboration. Applied to a comprehensive national strategy to ensure wildlife and ecosystems can adjust to a changing climate and a national network of conservation lands sufficient to ensure all our wildlife and ecosystems will be available in abundance for future generations. Key strategies- maintain core areas such as public lands. Through short, clear, understandable and enforceable standards and through full funding for the land and water conservation fund. -Maintain wildlife and ecological connectivity including across private lands, through: strategies and programs that promote coexistence with wildlife and ecologically improved land management, including more funding for existing programs such as Forest Legacy Program, WDF- Livestock assistance program as applied to wildlife conflicts.

Thank you. I would like to see outdoor boulders- artificial- build across the country. These boulders are low cost, low maintenance and multi-generational. They are an introduction to outdoor recreation. I am willing to help in any manner possible.

The new century needs a new model for conservation. Large scale land acquisition and designation of new monuments, parks, and wilderness is the old model. The future is public/private partnerships driven by local working groups. Hundreds of local working groups are working throughout the west. Funding needs to be available for these groups to accomplish on-the-ground conservation. The future is incentive-based conservation that rewards people for doing the right things and nurturing locally-led, volunteering efforts, versus the old model of top-down regulations.

I'd like to see transitional research and programs that bridge biomedical NIH and form the basis of CDC initiatives including K-12 health science education. For example, research by Dr. John Ratey Spark (book) on the effect of exercise on brain function then boosting academic performance. These could be integrated into subject areas (health, science, math) and also play a role in how daily school schedules are structured. Universities and community-based organizations could be instrumental in helping implement these programs. Channel these to inner city as well as underserved, rural areas. Provide support to school districts so that the burden doesn't fall solely on teachers' shoulders. Involve conservation corps and local health departments.

## Discussion Question 4

***Bozeman, MT***

***(cont.)***

Generally, balance of natural and cultural resources is important. Regarding cultural and historic landscapes. What works: SAT programs. Historic Preservation. The T.B. Syoy Mansion. One of 3 full-block mansions in the state, built in 1910: Future Threatened and a SAT grand (layest ever awarded) limp-stated local preservation efforts-matched by City of Bozeman, prompted the founding of a non-profit to support city ownership. Without the SAT grands, i believe the property would have been ruled to a private owner, subdivided ad it's historic charcter lost, SAT established a value to preservation Historic Preservation stimulate economy promotes histoic education and tourism. Please fund and expand and continue Save America'sTreasure program.

Concerned that Forest Service Region 1 has a policy to treat recommended wilderness as de-facto wilderness, eliminating mountain bikes. Suggest change in forest planning rule and provide guidelines for how mountain bikes are treated and allow them unless there is a compelling reason not to. Need options other than wilderness designation, such as national recreation areas, conservation areas, etc.

Supported by Turner Youth Foundation created mobile greenhouse-teenagers are teaching youth about gardens Empowering young people & give them the authority to teach

Active volunteerism, save the white bark pine, new group, taking pictures of individual trees, Facebook, new media to be used, looking for advice,

1. When roads used by the public are threatened for clusure that provide access to public land or water, the federal or state agency with management responsibilities should claim a PERSCRIPTIVE EASEMENT on those road in the name of the agency and the PUBLIC.

2. When access to public land is blocked by private landowners the agency with blocked land should not permit any commercial outfitting on that land. In addition, existing permits should be terminated. (The present permitting system rewards landowners for blocking access by issuing permits so that they can profit from outfitting on the very public land they have blocked.)

3. Make Pittman Robertson, LWCF or other funds available to allow agencies to construct short segments of road on public land that would bypass private land presently blocking access to important parcels of public land and water.

4. When acquiring access, add to the appraised value of the travel route, an additional monetary factor that represent the value of the access the route will provide.

5. Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Program and Direct Federal Land Management Agencies to aggressively pursue better access to public land and water.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Charleston, SC*

LWCF is one of the best tools but it needs to be secured ; stabilize funding for national parks,, etc so they have the manpower to manage; tax incentives for private landowners and they need to be permanent.

new tools coming on line all the time; tax credit being divided Charleston county – someone goig to urban section, someone going to rural area, someone going to.... ; we have to be created when we use the new tools coming online; the more levataging we can do the the farther the dollars will stretch farther;

education – got to pay peple to be out there educating kids – teach 4, 5, and 6th graders. A cost-share prog thru FWS that match salaries of teachers and staffing the visitors center – at wildlife refuges, etc. education often isn't seen as the integral part of things and is the first thing cut. Also, when creative programs come along, they don't always match what the local prgm says. FS won't allow the land in because it says FS will always have to use the land that way, but the local prgm says because there are local tax dollars in there, they shouldn't -- Charleston County Greenbelt has a program. The piece they need has a clause that says it can revert back to the state/forest. I'm confused. \$26 million to leverage federal dollars. Definitely thinks there should be leveraging. Need to take where lessons have worked.

coordination –there's such a lot of coordination that's needed. Private – public partnerships

A program needs to be established to retain what is in place. Incentive to retain land in long leaf pines after the deceasing of the landowner. Another obstacle – Tiny farms, real small, not well managed nor maintained are operating for one reason only and that is for federal subsidy payments. Or in some cases the only reason they continue to farm is for collecting insurance. Another idea could come with tax incentive for recreational easements which also provides legal protection for private landowners.

School children visit their land and they have placed learning station throughout the property about wildlife indigenus to the area, and an old cabin is also maintained during the tour. Different and diverse agencies come and man the stations providing education to the children as the tour and interact with the environment. The tour is set to follows the 4th grade curriculum. Classes can only take one field trip per year because of funding. We must teach children about the culture, environment, woods and what is safe. This provides a wonderful hands-on day to educate children. It is true that a picture is worth a thousand words and during the day the experiences provide many multi-sensory pictures to educate about habitat and environment. Need coordination of agencies to get the children to these events.

Coordination among agencies and programs. Public/Private communications. Recognition that lot of programs overlapping and coordination of federal/state/local agencies are not recognizing. Everyone should be a team player, not on opposite sides.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Charleston, SC*

*(cont.)*

LWCR is one of the best tools, but need to stabilize the funding. Have the manpower but they need funding for managing the land. Permanent funds are needed, not something that changes each year.

Organizations should work together and specify the same priority areas to enhance longleaf restoration and other outdoor activities

stewardship contracting. Authorization set to expire in 3 years. We want to make sure that tool does not go away.

tax incentives for private land conservation. Chilling effect - enhanced benefits private tax incentives critical. Least expensive tool in the box. Low country open land trust. Leverages other funds. Greenbelt – w/ Chas. \$250/ac

Army Ft. Bragg – partnerships. Military, too. Funding sources. REPI – funds. DOD – WHIP and EQIP \$\$\$ Partnerships best way to get conservation work done. Focus funding where good partnerships working

inclusiveness of everyone, especially those you wouldn't normally think of, especially in urban communities; when you exclude partners, you really undermine your efforts; building relationships is important; some kids in Jacksonville may never have seen the ocean; need for parental encouragement, children's interest, opportunity, available resources, and access to come together and everyone might be more inclined to get involved in the outdoors; we need to provide resources, for example, a free day on the bus/metro system to get people out to the woods or the beach; or find out who in the neighborhood can take others to the outdoors; made reference to restrictions related to land ownership affecting national trail connectivity because of individual parcels of land being owned by different agencies

holding tours of the Joseph Fields Farm, three different school and a senior citizens group has toured so far, somebody has to take on continuing the tradition of farming and educate kids where agricultural products come from, tours are designed to get children involved in farm-related activities, and educate them about importance of farms and agriculture. "A Day on the Farm" is a teaching tool that could be replicated elsewhere

trail events, trail maintenance and construction can be environmental and outdoor education opportunities; kids remember areas where they have worked and return to visit; need to extend beyond individual events to include the community, such as Disney Give a Day get a Day program, a great incentive to encourage connection between participants and land stewardship and conservation

South Carolina very active in partnership efforts (5th in the nation) and aggressively uses tools such as acquisitions, easements and incentives to protect conservation/recreation areas such as the ACE Basin where partnership accomplishments have far exceeded the original vision and over 200,000 acres are being conserved and open to access

## Discussion Question 4

### *Charleston, SC*

*(cont.)*

Florida also has a policy of no net loss of hunting/recreation lands, which enables the State to create increased land-base for recreation and conservation

conservation education materials to reach kids; promoting the kids book "Longleaf"; working with businesses to support employees getting out with family members in the outdoors; working with landowners to manage and restore longleaf pine; longleaf pine systems are a great venue for outdoor education with hundreds of species, some of which are threatened or endangered, found in such systems; and technology transfer activities to increase awareness and knowledge of natural resource managers and practitioners as to the values and benefits of longleaf pine

limited federal involvement but find the right people; get local and national political support; retain flexibility and ability to move quickly on emerging opportunities; needs to figure out better ways to incentivize conservation; facilitate leveraging of federal state and private sector funds; programs and funds are tools to be used to accomplish greater good

need clearing house for information on a number of topics such as an America's Great Outdoors website through which we can keep in contact, or use as reference such as a listing of calendar events or places that are available to host outdoor events, or related tourism activities

website great, opportunity to share all the great things that are going on and could provide links to get people to the right information; private landowners availability to host outdoor events; don't forget the availability of corporate and business partners

website can be used to highlight outdoor things to do; can be used by parents to excite their children; every school should have a garden or on-going natural resources type project

there are sites that can be linked to that describe recreational places and activities, but website could help a young association like hers make additional contacts

we all need to learn how to step out of our comfort zones; if I don't know something, I want access to information or someone who does know the answer, and can share that information

keeps in touch with and communicates to participants and partners through on-line newsletters

availability of retirees to help

everything we do is a teachable moment; the oil spill can provide the opportunity to speak much more broadly about the environment and connections to fishing, shrimping, farming, etc.

change comes from crisis; partnerships; easements; and incentives; plenty of places to go and things to do, especially with kids; abundant educational opportunities such as school gardens to demonstrate where food comes from

## Discussion Question 4

### *Charleston, SC*

*(cont.)*

regional planning efforts such as the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPASS) offers opportunities for interested entities to keep in touch and help cement holistic approaches; some of our activities can be emotional moments that will stay with people for a long time; attendees at this listening session can be advocates for conservation and should go back home and network with colleagues to elevate the ideas discussed here, change the direction of things and reconnect people to the great outdoors

Land has been in his family since the 1860's; still farm it; successful strategy is that it still be profitable; allows for his family to keep it – lease to hunt, timber production, corn, cotton, wheat crops; intensively manage; CRP soil banks, EQUP progr

Non-industrial private landowners—economic incentives for carbon sequestration needed Make money on sequestering carbon in trees 3rd party certification—sustainable forest certification SFI funded

Use county level agents, have them so use them to deliver programs Extension Offices Rural Conservation Districts, local support contact

Planning need, difficult to sell the benefits, what are you doing to protect what you have

Educate about smart growth, glad to see MOU signing, teach people about value of conserving land

Keep or make taxes low on agricultural and forest land—high on changed use pay back taxes on developed land

Conservation easements are helpful. NRCS, Forest Service, etc. are working on development of the first ever conservation easement database. We need support for this tool. Easements are a great tool . The database would be for public use so folks know what outdoors activities are available and where. People need to know. There are too many databases, and we need a central source. We are building one system. It needs permanent support base. Now we have less than \$500,000/year. We don't know where the conservation easements are

Conservation easements-we have thousands of acres in easements through LOLT, and we look at forestry and ag working lands and conservation easements work well b/c the gov't does not have to buy the land b/c it stays in private hands, and over the long term, this cost a small fraction of what it would costs the gov't to maintain it. That didn't have to happen this way (public access or not) and long term, it's the gift that keeps on giving, because all association cost is on the tax books. It's not the gov't's job to do this

## Discussion Question 4

### *Charleston, SC*

*(cont.)*

Conservation Innovation Grants—needed a match. We got one year of that, and were told it was a great program, and then there was no program. We wasted effort on something that didn't exist/wouldn't work. Targeting of money is the problem. We have a great longleaf plan here, but when I talk to folks that deliver the programs, they have different ideas about treating everyone equally. So if we are going to set priority areas, we have to set people and resources in a targeted way too

Markets--landowners don't have them. US Endowment has first ever commodity check off for wood products. Need a coordinated program. It's before usda now for consideration. It's on the books. It's all industry money but will grow the market. The fed's. should adopt program of go first with wood b/c it's a sustainable building material. Build with it. It would push the demand

Engage the public with advertising/PSA's

Need an evaluation system for ecosystem services. This is a catchphrase now a days how do we value them? Ecosystem services..what is the value to that landowner who sets aside streamside buffers? Science goes into that, but also how are we going to value this, and incentivize landowners to do it?? What's in it for them?

Incentivize riverside protection. Outdoor recreation/ protecting rivers--How to mesh regulatory and non regulatory river protection. Through designations by creating national water trail. Rivers have recreational value

Advertising so they can see what we have and how important our natural resources are

Market. Used forest products

Tools that agencies need. Resources available through local organizations, like Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust, studies that are done. Local expertise. They need what we have at the local level. How do we do that? Avenue needs to be open up to get info. to right places. Jurs presented group moderator with two resources. He presented the moderator with a Berkeley County Blueways booklet, which highlights a paddling trail system to id over 175 miles of water course from 23 trails and resulted from a conservation partnership. He also presented the draft concept for the Cooper River West Branch Ecosystem Protection Plan. This is available online at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/pubs/reports.htm#samp\\_docs](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/pubs/reports.htm#samp_docs). It is located on the SCDHEC OCRM web page under Planning/Technical Assistance then SAMPs--Cooper River SAMP.

Renewable energy definition needs to include trees as part of the definition...USFS needs a role in renewable power

Forest owners need to be able to derive economic benefit from sequestering carbon without being forced to lock up his/her forests. Healthy market for trees=healthy forests

## Discussion Question 4

***Charleston, SC***

***(cont.)***

basic funding for education

## Discussion Question 4

### *Chicago, IL*

Create a consortium to connect and unify conservancies in Chicago. This organization could provide gardening tools, educational and scientific equipment, and audiovisual materials for conservancies throughout the city.

Provide grants to expand successful programs for inner-city youths that would include technical support, such as water analysis equipment and instruction in wildlife studies, and would aid production of brochures, trail and information guides in Washington

Provide full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the promised and appropriated level of \$900 million a year. This fund paid for by revenues from offshore oil drilling is used to protect parks, forests, oceans, refuges and local recreation areas. But it has only been fully funded once since it was created 45 years ago.

The Fishin' Buddies! Program serves the urban Chicago area connection children to the outdoors through fishing and conservation programs. Its mission is to instill an immutable concern for the air, land and waters of our planet, and a desire to nurture the soul through communion with the outdoors. Fishin' Buddies! Believes in the emotional and psychological restorative powers of the outdoors and that it is important to expose this philosophy to children who's ideal of the Great Outdoors as being grassless, glass strewn, debris filled, concrete and steel playgrounds of urban America. Fishin' Buddies Youth Conservation Corps partners have included US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago State University, The Field Museum, and the Chicago Park District, and the Forest Preserve of Cook County. The Fishin' Buddies Youth Conservation Corps is funded by a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation as part of the Chicago Wilderness Leave No Child Left Inside.

Encouraging citizen stewardship is very important. Their organization is working well within national trail system.

Baby boomers have an opportunity – retirees have a lot of time and energy to devote to outdoors projects.

Many of the high schools in Wisconsin

Trout Unlimited suggests additional funding for the NOAA CRP to expand its coverage of the regions eligible and to increase the number of projects which remove culverts and small obsolete dams and improve fish passage, in coastal areas around the nation.

Long-term research on urban ecology and impacts on natural resources, preserves, ecosystem functions

Information sharing across agencies

Information sharing for the general public describing the great outdoors of Chicago (parks, beaches, wetlands) in the same vision of the great outdoors of state and federal lands.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Chicago, IL***

***(cont.)***

Maximize on desire for fresh local foods, creation of community gardens in food deserts in urban areas. Coordinated incentives, education and follow through needed.

Support for the development of systems for regional monitoring to inform landscape-scale conservation efforts

Communication and networking tools are needed to facilitate regional scale conservation and to enable replication of the alliance model

Large-scale communication efforts are needed to build public awareness of the need to preserve natural resources, and the benefits of conservation

Expand and make permanent the Federal tax deduction for conservation easements.

Additional education of local decision makers; continued federal/nation-wide emphasis education on importance of green infrastructure planning

Funding/incentives for fee simple/easement purchases for local jurisdictions that do comprehensive green infrastructure planning

Funding/incentives for large-scale (watershed scale) site-based retrofits

State-driven green infrastructure planning, top-down leadership

Incentives to plan regionally

Coordination/cooperation between federal agencies, including DOT, on green infrastructure and best management practices.

Provide models of fee based programs which funnel revenue directly back to parks and resources utilized for those programs

Encourage/require establishment of green infrastructure and smart growth planning at state level

Increase tax benefits for greenway easements

Support nation-wide legislation to protect isolated wetlands

## Discussion Question 4

***Chicago, IL***

***(cont.)***

Sustained support for inter-agency, inter-state, and government-nonprofit partnerships that get children and families outside

Resources for engaging non-traditional audiences, such as faith or arts organizations, in making families comfortable with the outdoors.

Resources for providing a conservation program "ladder" to children in any given community, by connecting existing and proven early childhood programs, school-based programs, and internships or Higher Level Education opportunities in environmental stewardship.

Assistance with conservation education program evaluation, especially resources for long-term assessment of program impact on America's youth.

Curriculum for outdoor programs nationwide. Prohibit frivolous lawsuits that lead to laws of exclusion

Take enforcement fines and apply them to local projects.

Meetings, conferences, web sites

Help us find ways to better publicize our sites and events. Web sites, Facebook Fan Pages, and the like are somewhat helpful but much more is needed to increase visibility of our activities and sites.

We need a system to coordinate place-based education so that schools and families can find opportunities that suit their interests, so that we can offer very local opportunities and evaluate what is working to foster connections, stewardship, and ecosystem improvements. The Alliance for the Great Lakes is beginning planning for a system like this Great Lakes Education Collaborative.

An environmentally responsible fundamentals program for stewardship with tips and techniques for the development of a plan to reduce climate change, to help community and local organizations that value eco-friendly open space.

Buy more land especially core areas and important watersheds. Midewin and HacmaTack are examples.

More collaboration with federal, state, local and private partners. Partnerships are key.

Help us research what we have done and how we are doing

## Discussion Question 4

### *Chicago, IL*

*(cont.)*

Encourage and implement programs that challenge children and inner city residents to be included in nature activities.

Create a resource center for gardening supplies and educational materials for use by individual conservancies.

Create a consortium to connect and unify conservancies in Chicago. This organization could provide gardening tools, educational and scientific equipment, and audio visual materials for conservancies through the city.

Provide grants to expand successful programs for inner-city youths that would include technical support, such as water analysis equipment and instructions in wildlife studies, and would aid production of brochures, trail and information guides in Washington Park and other Chicago parks.

Green infrastructure is very important to provide places for people to enjoy the outdoors. Trails can provide a national infrastructure to link communities and wildlife refuges together and improve human and ecological health as well. People should get outdoors and be active stewards to improve the health and wellness of the Nation and encourage use of National trail systems.

The 100K + schools in the nation is the prime interface between children and the outdoors. The edible schoolyard in Berkely is the kind of activity that introdces children to the living ecosystem.

Federal governmt could be more effective if there were more collaboration between the federal agencies that are not normal allies. For example, you should link education and health and human services and national park services to get kids moving and doing environmental activities. The lets move initiative is a good example of how these things can be carried out.

Creating marketing campaigns around natural services has increased usership. A possible example; Zac Effron just had poison oak because he was camping in a national park. If he did a national piece on how cool it is to camp, or be in wilderness, and you had a number of people around that message to increase the sex appeal of being in the outdoors.

In California, they developed a very powerful search engine to locate open space. Input your address and it will locate local, state and federal parks, and includes transportation information on how to get there. They need help in getting the word out.

Need a clearing house on oportunites, e.g. match available slots for camps w/kids interested from other organization.

In Chicago, Friends of the Parks supports the following specific policies and/or projects:  
Development of new parks in the 55 of 77 community areas that do not meet a basic two-acre park standard.

Renovation of 400 outdated children's playgrounds in Chicago.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Chicago, IL***

***(cont.)***

Completion of the city's lakefront park system. Twenty-six miles of Chicago's 30-mile Lake Michigan shoreline have been developed as public parks. Public parks on two miles on the Chicago's north side and two miles on the city's south side have not been completed. The completion of the Last Four Miles would provide a park greenway system along Lake Michigan to connect with the suburbs to the north and to Indiana to the south.

Development of the ERA Trail, a 2-mile abandoned rail line as a public park in the Englewood community.

Development of the Bloomingdale Trail as a 2-mile public park in the Logan Square community.

Acquisition of 6,000 acres of forest preserves to achieve the statutory land limit.

Federal matching funding to spur land acquisition for parks throughout the city.

Funding for additional quality recreation staff for innovative recreation and fitness programs primarily for Chicago's youth.

Open up unused Illinois International Port District land for public recreation.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Concord, NH*

Sustainable Forest Futures just rec'd a grant for the Forest Service to establish a series of educational workshops for 35 states. This helps demonstrate that there is energy in the private sector to make the changes that can make this work. USDA needs to continue to support efforts that supports innovation in this industry.

The wood products industry has done a poor job of marketing its own message. We need to talk about sequestered carbon or that wood comes from solar energy. We need a massive public education campaign and USDA can partner with trade associations and coordinate the entire federal government's message about forests as green industries.

Regarding energy. NH has a good system of independent power producers. We are aware of the inefficiencies of producing energy from wood chips. We are trying to encourage smaller scale heat only systems. Obstacles are that there are not economic incentives for thermal projects as there are for electrical projects.

NH has a native lumber law. Most local mills are not even aware of this law. Local sawmills may not be aware that they can sell structural lumber directly to the retail market. BUT building codes prevent the use of non-graded lumber. USDA can help by getting building codes to accept non-graded lumber for structural purposes.

Wood product manufacturers will locate in communities that are economically viable. Traditional financing for forestry and agriculture is not currently available. Wood product manufacturing is an "orphan child" for economic development efforts. USDA needs to increase emphasis on Forestry and Agriculture industries to help provide support (financing opportunities) for these businesses to grow.

Where is the organized support for the woods products industry? We need organized support for wood products policy, economic development strategies, etc

Recently received a USFS grant to build on our agriculture "buy local" program. MA is in constant warfare between the wood products industry and the environmental movement. USDA needs to show the environmental movement that cutting a tree is not on par with murdering someone. USDA can help provide information and examples of good forest management.

USDA must advocate for forest landowners. USDA must stand up for landowners by providing information and policy to EPA regarding the carbon benefits of biomass as energy. This reflects what the Sec of Ag has released in his recent press release.

The USFS must change its climate change plan. Advocate for green building NOT advocate for LEED certification. (LEED is a "brand" and the government shouldn't endorse a brand.) USDA should advocate WOOD>

## Discussion Question 4

**Concord, NH**

**(cont.)**

In MA, we are working with temporary conservation easements. The farm and forestry viability program helps landowners write a business plan that includes temporary restrictions on the land (10-20 years) and allows the landowner the assurance that the forest will remain and allows a timber purchaser to know that the land will be available for forest management, yet it does not confer permanent easement rights. The program has been successful in MA.

Although NH is well forested, there are species that are still in peril. There is still great need for forest restoration and that depends on diverse markets that allow a variety of prescriptions

USDA must help citizens make a more clear connection between their lives and lifestyles and forest management. The wood we use comes from trees that we cut!

NRCS established the Technical Service Providers program; many foresters tried to become certified, but it was too arduous. Subsequently, several employees of the Vt Dept of Forest and Parks became Technical Service providers. NRCS should recognize the professionalism of consulting foresters so that they can approve forest management plans without going through the arduous task of becoming Technical Service Providers. (The program is changing to reduce some of the requirements to make it somewhat easier, per Rick Ellsmore)

Important: Parents taking kids to the White Mountains, enjoys taking his kids and wants them to want to go back. Should be no barriers no barriers. AMC has huts so minimum of equipment is needed. Federal program not necessary; anything that would facilitate opportunities for kids.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail and CT River Joint Commission. Headwaters subcommittee. Don't know if others are in existence. VT River conservancy establishing campsites on CT River and provide outdoor rec. Ask govt to look at existing organizations because they are working.

Speaking for private landowners, I've heard overwhelming requests to raise money for education (I support this). Another is to buy developments. Wouldn't it be easier to educate landowners? Tax reduction for allowing recreational use on private land is 20 percent (amounts to about \$35 a year). I can post my land, still get current use, and only have to forfeit \$35. If I enhance rec benefits, pay me for it. Shouldn't be either or situation.

Oldest interstate hiking trail in Northeast, older than AMC. The 21 mile trail crosses 34 privately owned properties. Two problems with our northern trail terminus: land is designated forever wild, so no cutting or improving trails. Also, MOU with USDA prohibits dogs on trail. A private land owner whose property trail crosses trails dogs and was told that's illegal. Another regulation prohibits jogging. For many years a race on the trail has been allowed once per year. But no parking available at northern terminus. Would like a half-acre for parking there. For first time, a landowner refused to let trail cross property. Had to reroute. Later comment: A unique program is Municipal Trails Act: we fund easement for existing trails and turn over to municipality.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Concord, NH*

*(cont.)*

Paid attention to what was attracting people to northern NE. Read that Forestry association had evidence that proximity to trees actually improved health and quality of life. Even being able to see trees from a hospital room is beneficial! From Emerson and Thoreau to our own experience, trees are important. I propose that there's a real power that has the economic capacity to drive people to do something that is healthy to them. But no one is paying attention to that benefit. That underlies all the conversations we've had today. Why they call it a natural attraction. We need to learn more about it.

We depend on private forest in New England. Re Current Use: huge amt of private forest and people aren't aware that this occurs. Need more collaboration. At \$35/year may be more incentive to go another way. I think we could build on relationships. New models south of the border. Make most of fed benefits. Later comment: Two areas govt can connect with: INVEST IN RECREATION. Challenge cost share pgm (50/50) match to local investments in trails. Reduce our reliance on automobiles, find rec close to home. FUNDING! Landowners have liability protection, but still can get sued and have to protect themselves – how to further protect them from this.

If we look at anything as a standalone problem or solution we're going to fail. I would offer that there be a communication strategy that integrates solutions. Growing disconnect with outdoors. VT is integrating schools and environment. We think of the outdoors as an add-on, a separate piece. Integrated solutions or value, impact is lost.

Reconnecting to outdoors. We have wonderful resources in White Mountains, but we do very little to tell people about the cultural resources. We have historic roads, abandoned homesteads. Need signage to tell people what's there. Signage would be inexpensive. If people know would out they would be more likely to support.

What works. We are nature center and shelter in southwest NH, and a land trust. What works well is that we are in a mosaic of protected lands, created largely by conservation easements and land trusts, and what works is the opportunity to lead programmatic trips to protected lands. A great asset to have these places to show off. Every weekend we have hiking trips with 40-50 people going. Without the mosaic of protected land we wouldn't have this. Need to provide more incentive to landowners for conservation easement, funding to make it possible to donate (many are land rich and cash poor). Also think about ways to connect people and children to outdoors by linking to strategies such as sound health, combating obesity, promoting healthy minds. Target is health and getting people outside.

I have 40 acres under conservation easement and am preparing for final 20. Foresters and extension service have been helpful. Keeping connected is to allow people on to see what is going on. But 100 acres abutting has been sub-divided for lots. When I asked for non use of fertilizer, was told OK as long as 50-foot buffer not violated. I'm concerned about what happens to landowner when changes happening around them. Trying to get people to bear the expense is hard. My son doesn't understand the land, wants me to sell to someone who does. Program to match people looking for such an opportunity with people like myself.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Concord, NH***

***(cont.)***

Speaking as parent, has two sons who played team sports, but were not interested in outdoors. One went to a college that had a state-funded outdoor program that got him on backpacking trip. It changed his life, and he majored in environmental science. Maybe federal government could force people to go outside.

NH's inclusive nature makes it special, has promoted more harmonious relationships. Work with private landowners to include motorized recreation, often maintaining roads at own expense in exchange for access. Offer donations to landowners for privilege of using land. Often there are restrictions such as prohibiting summer motorized use. Federal government can help by extending RTP (Recreational Trails Program – dollars from gas tax). The greater the amount of motorized trails, the more money received.

The need for more Money and the ability to consolidate purchases of the many smaller parcels at the local level so small towns with limited resources can compete with larger entities and parcels.

Mud season is longer now and therefore the timber operating season is shorter. They have helped operators convert from old-style harvesting equipment to balloon-tire equipment, which can operate for a longer season and leave less residual stand damage to a forest. There should be incentives for contractors to convert to this type of equipment, which also uses 50% less fuel than old-style equipment.

Critical to get young people into outdoors; he takes his college students out every week into the forest. Discussed in the morning was the concept of getting carbon credit for using sustainable forestry rather than only for leaving forests alone. Can landowners put their land under conservation easement (with no logging permitted) and also be eligible for carbon credits? This would make it more attractive for folks to get conservation easements.

Public utilities are encouraged to have a certain amount of their power generated sustainably--using biomass, for example. A recent study (Manomet) says that biomass is not necessarily sustainable unless there is cogeneration. The government should more carefully evaluate what is "sustainable" when power companies are working toward these incentives/laws, because they may not actually be sustainable. Power companies should not be allowed to do these things if they aren't really sustainable. We don't want to dig ourselves into a bigger hole. People may be trying to "do the right thing" but may not know what that actually is regarding sustainable energy production. As a private citizen, she would like the federal government to step in with scientific knowledge and provide guidance.

Studies in NH show that there are enough NH forests to sustain a certain number of biomass plants, but there is not enough information available to know if this is actually the case. Concern: we are having a difficult time sustaining our state parks. NH is the only state in the country that doesn't provide any general funds for state parks, which are at risk and have millions of \$\$ of infrastructure needs. These parks are a great education tool for climate change and natural resources and they are at great risk. Is there a way in this initiative to help improving state parks.

## Discussion Question 4

**Concord, NH**

**(cont.)**

Most American forests are owned privately. Families need healthy markets to keep healthy forests. They need lots of tools in their toolkits—easements and markets for green building. FSC is not the only certified sustainable market—American Tree Farm system as well, people should not have to go out of state to buy FSC green-certified wood when ATF wood is available. Families need incentive programs to protect their forests and store carbon. At the end of the day, healthy markets equal healthy forests.

Idea: There is a proposal in Congress to allow community municipal bonds for purchase of forests. Sustainable forest management on these lands would pay the debt and there would not be a huge hit to the federal government because the purchase eventually pays for itself.

We have small populations and low unemployment comparatively and so sometimes we don't get as much in way of resources. Often the rural areas don't get what they need and that is really important.

Youth Promise Act—being able to engage kids that are in the juvenile justice system in environmental service projects. We are seeing juveniles charged for minor infractions. There are issues with lack of parenting, etc. In many cases these kids are just bored. They have programs called diversion, and are required to do community service. Perhaps build off the SCA programs and develop some opportunities for these kids to spark their interest and engagement.

Need to make volunteering cool! Volunteers also do that because they are passionate about it. They get paid by the change they make in the world.

Not just about being cool, but also about being practical. It is important to value AmeriCorps, SCA and other programs. They get money for college for this program and that also makes it valuable for them.

Make the SCA and other programs more accessible and do even more recruiting across all communities!

Not necessarily adding more, but giving a boost to what we already have.

We have a financial system that is about to collapse and anything involving agriculture and the environment should be long term if it is going to be sustainable. Would like to see strategic banks, instead of NRCS being bureaucratically focused, would like to see the funds spent correctly as a representation of trust. Strategic banks need to be built to fund those starting out.

It is important to take the kids out and do different conservation projects and that it doesn't stop at the elementary level. One of the biggest things we can do is encourage propagating this type of program and get the word out.

We need resources and time in support of the environmental literacy plans (no child left inside act). That effort also supports the US F&WS. That legislation has been taking a bit of a back seat; she really supports making this a priority.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Concord, NH***

***(cont.)***

We are asking teachers to take children outside, but the teachers themselves need some help in understanding how to take kids out and mitigate the risks of going outside (some teachers are hesitant to go outside). E.g., program focused on learning more about your back yard.

Going outside to do something free with your family can be attractive, esp., while we are in a recession.

We need good program evaluation. E.g., they worked with one elementary school for 3 years and they evaluated throughout the effort so they could clearly show how it was successful-for replicating elsewhere. We have a growing base of good evidence of the positive value of environmental. education.

Schools around here do their testing in October and that is during the time that would be good to get the kids out. So it would be helpful to move that testing time frame to a different time of the year so it is not an obstacle to getting kids outside.

Idea of modeling in addition to mentoring. E.g., tremendous example is Michelle Obama's Move It initiative and organic garden. Those are key models that can go back and be replicated in our communities. When kids have experiences with hunting, hiking, fishing, etc., they build strong environmental ethics.

Idea of Conservation Leaders is important. For example, how could they take the Environmental Teacher's Institute model they are using in NH to other places to help increase the collaboration.

Imagine the potential if everyone is funded to have their first job to be to make the best decisions for the environment. Referenced his web-site "Common Goods" forestry on-line (<http://sites.google.com/site/commongoodforestry/home>)

Would like to see the Forest Service purchase land to include the Cascade Brook area in Waterville Valley

Would like to see Trail Adopter Workshops for trail maintenance.

the Clear Act - preservation fund House bill includes full funding, would like to see the full funding to go forward (HR3534 Clean Energy Jobs and Accountability Act - companion act)

Food labeling needs to be easier for local farmers - not so restrictive. We don't want to lose our local foods while trying to protect it.

We need safe, clean local foods.

We want natural foods, not processed. Support local schools using local foods. Local farmers markets should be able to accept Food Stamps

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Concord, NH***

***(cont.)***

Federal Government role:

Invest in the successes of others and try not to duplicate efforts. Provide more federal funds to successful programs. More Kids in the Woods - Add DOI and DOD to these programs.

Federal Actions Needed:

these thoughts come to mind that might strengthen on-going activities that are working across the urban/ rural/ wild-land continuum:

Reposition the Land and Water Conservation Fund to better address local and state concerns: reduce competition. and improve collaboration among partners and the federal managing agencies. A national recreational resource conservation strategic plan might also be useful to public agencies. private businesses. communities and other stakeholders.

Reframe the role and relevancy of State wide Comprehensive Planning. as it needs to be more inclusive, inter-agency in nature, and expanded to include local. state and federal agencies, communities. private sector entities, and other stakeholders.

Work to make Stewardship authorities for the Forest Service and BLM permanent. The authority to trade goods for services through contracting and agreements has proven to be a successful tool in every region. The ability of a Forest or District to use these tools has resulted in getting more work done on the ground. putting local contractors to work in areas they care about. and the agreement authority allows groups and organizations to raise additional funding to leverage against scarce federal dollars.

Expand the delivery of NWTF programs that have demonstrated they can have landscape impacts, get more people outdoors. particularly kids and help local economics.

## Discussion Question 4

***Concord, NH***

***(cont.)***

The America's Great Outdoors Initiative may be the last and best opportunity to preserve the world class resources of the Northeast's vast working forest, the mid-west Prairie Pothole Region and the southeastern Gulf Coast estuarine and freshwater wetlands recently threatened by the Deep Horizon oil spill disaster, among others. As we have done for the past 73 years, Ducks Unlimited stands willing and anxious to work with our many partners and private landowners- so that the resources and wildlife that call these areas home will continue to flourish and nurture American's love of the outdoors. We appreciate the Administration's effort to reach out to all stakeholders to bring new ideas, perspectives and concerns to the table as we look for ways to collectively formulate policies and legislation that will have positive impacts how we manage, protect and restore and enjoy our Nation's rich natural diversity and beauty by this generation and all generations that follow.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Fort Pierre, SD***

Hot fax hot off the press, YMCA USA national office has received a grant to give out to smaller YMCAs for purpose of teaching conservation water safety. It was accomplished through new partnerships with private organizations to provide funds. Example given, we have 0.75 million kids in after school programs. Partnering can reach a lot of people. It is a tool we have that is underutilized.

One concern with government agencies is that we through money at the problem. A lot of ranchers look at NRCS as a place to go for money for water development, but they don't understand what water development is all about. Educational disconnect between people, the landowner and the people that benefit from the land. There needs to be more emphasis on education than legislation. If you don't educate then you can't pass on what we are trying to accomplish. Its not just about the money but the conservation benefit that it brings. One thing we are doing in SD will see next year, Leopold Conservation Award, we showcase people that are doing good conservation, showcase what people on the land are doing. How do we get reconnected with them. We have an open door at our ranch to show people what we are doing. I was raised that there is not a wetland that could not be drained . Government was paying us to do it. Had help from game and parks to blast wetlands and make them deeper. It is tough to overcome those old ways of thinking.

Some tools that are needed from my organizations perspective: When we are dealing with government agencies people get moved from one position to another and you lose institutional knowledge. We have to start over and retrain or educate the new employees. Also the new employees would come in and not email us. We need tools in place to bring new people up to speed and inform them of our group. Need to recognize the value of institutional knowledge. Government needs a tool to keep people around or pass on the institutional knowledge to the next person. I do an educational thing at the fair and I have a resources poster and I show the kids a picture of a hamburger and ask where does that come from? They say McDonalds. There is a disconnect on understanding what comes from our resources. Need to teach kids food and resources come from the land not the store. Also, when you are talking about programs for kids you need to involve the parents. Parents are probably not going to go look at the trail their kids experienced unless you get them involved too.

Two tools: 1) permanent dedicated funds for state agencies. States deal with fluctuating budget numbers yet issues are getting more complicated. Not enough money comes from hunting/fishing licenses. Need a more dedicated funding source for state agencies. 2) additional volunteers. Nonprofits need more volunteers, for youth hunts, habitats projects, finding ways so that everyone finds ways to enjoy outdoors whether they are a hunter or not. We need tools that bring more volunteers to groups.

Fish and wildlife have a proportion of funding, sorry. There are other agencies that need dedicated funding. For example, local conservation districts can really use some money.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Fort Pierre, SD***

***(cont.)***

My experience is that most successful projects have been done at the local level. Unless people have an organization structure they are a part of then they don't get involved. Place biologists in local offices so people can go to them directly with questions. Need somebody there locally to walk them thru the rules is critical. It does not come from the top. They need somebody local that they can trust, somebody that can visit their land. Need to institutionalize that in partners program and fill the gap between federal and state agencies. It's hard to get that institutionalized but it is critical

Good news can benefit from volunteers – potential for volunteers (baby boomers). Great grandchildren's initiative – give something back to the next generation and next.

Not only grant but technical assistance, maintaining the level of employees to deliver the programs out on the ground.

Non consumptive uses – works with sportsman's groups – have members that don't hunt or fish and want to contribute but don't have a vehicle. Fed people get some thought and get a program together.

Coordination to allow pl to open their land but not be liable!

Migratory conservation stamp (duck stamp) not just for duck hunters 98% goes to purchase land. If few manage it they need to do a better job publishing and educating them about them. JR duck stamp another avenue – environmental education.

Duck stamp increasing – hunters would not have any issue raising the stamp.

The Key for increased success in the easement program is increased funding. The land and Water Conservation Fund could serve as an important source of funding to significantly advance protection of these priceless prairie landscapes while they are still available for conservation.

Investments made now in these areas are a great conservation bargain at \$250-\$400/acre for perpetual protection and will forever ensure heritage of these areas are preserved for future generations

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Godfrey, IL***

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This federal program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides competitive matching grants to federal, state and non-profit conservation organizations for local wetland protection and restoration. DU and its partners have utilized the NAWCA program to conserve thousands of acres of habitat in Illinois and Missouri. Typically, non-federal sponsors provide up to \$2 for every \$1 they receive from NAWCA for local habitat projects. Lands acquired with NAWCA funds are generally open to the public for compatible recreational uses such as hunting, fishing and birdwatching. Federal appropriations for NAWCA are critical to the success of this program. Funding should be maintained or expanded in order to leverage federal funds to the greatest conservation good.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This federal program administered by the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture pays farmers to convert environmental sensitive cropland to wildlife habitat and to maintain it as a privately owned conservation area for a period of 10 to 15 years. Populations of grassland nesting birds, including ducks, bobwhite quail, and native songbirds such as the dickcissel, have rebounded thanks to CRP. The program also conserves soil and improves water quality by reducing nutrient run-off. Often, CRP lands are open to sportsmen for hunting with permission from the landowner. CRP caps limit the amount of lands that can be enrolled in this successful and popular program. Acreage levels should be maintained, especially in geographic regions like the Prairie Pothole Region where CRP is providing critical habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). This program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture is used to restore and protect wetland habitat on private lands. Typically, this involves the acquisition of permanent conservation easements by the federal government on lands that are voluntarily enrolled by private property owners. Such lands are restored to wetlands or planted to trees at no cost to the landowner. In addition to establishing vital habitat for wildlife, WRP lands provide recreational opportunities for landowners and their guests. Authority and funding for WRP is due to expire. This program should be re-authorized in the next Farm Bill with more opportunities to target enrollment and to encourage conservation partnerships.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This federal program provides funding to federal agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service to purchase new lands for public stewardship and public access. State conservation organizations also can use LWCF to supplement state funds available for land acquisition and recreational development. Increased appropriations from LWCF are needed for federal agencies to acquire critical lands within existing boundaries of national wildlife refuges and national forests along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers. To the extent practical, LWCF should provide incentives for states to increase their investment in land acquisition as part of a comprehensive program to expand outdoor recreational opportunities for their citizens.

## Discussion Question 4

**Godfrey, IL**

**(cont.)**

Navigational and Environmental Sustainability Program (NESP). This program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide federal cost-share funding for navigation and ecological restoration projects on the Upper Mississippi River, including the Illinois River. Appropriations are needed to implement ecological restoration projects designed to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife species along these important river corridors. Most lands subject to NESP restoration are either owned by a public agency or are considered to be public waters open to public access. Federal funding for NESP project should encourage partnerships with state conservation organizations and with private organizations like DU.

80K site on the historic places register in Illinois. Fund the preservation fund. Historic preservation is a form of sustainability. Historic preservation is sustainable by encouraging reuse of buildings. It's a different way to look at historic preservation.

The watershed covers 10% of IL and has multiple partner types. They are concerned about rapid erosion runoff. Erodes banks and the sediment clogs rivers. WRDA 2007 and grants are being used to help with this. We have language to study it, but it needs funding. 3 years have gone by since authorization, but it still has received no funding. Kaskaskia can be a model for similar rivers in the U.S. IDNR is willing to be a cost sharing partner.

150 million dollars invested in reconnecting people to rivers. 11,000 acres of open space in the area and hundred miles of trails. Museums and visitor centers in bunches. Cahokia Mounds, Mary Meacham Freedom Crossing, Habitat Restoration with AmeriCorps on North Riverfront. These efforts are great for reconnecting people to rivers. We need sustained or increased funding for these types of activities.

Owns a family farm that has been around for 188 years. Farmers have done a tremendous job of providing conservation measures. Still have a lot of problems private landowners can help with. USDA programs can help do this. Work conserving private lands will never be done. Good information can help. Need more staff, technical experts and incentive programs (keep them funded and increase).

Losing IL River to sediment. Need appropriations from WRDA to fix this. Planning on how to fix the problem is done. We just need funding to put it into action. This is the most important thing for IL River

Tests water quality at ten sites along the Mississippi River. E-coli are more often than not, bad. USACE oversees more water than almost anyone else and are great advocates for water safety. Would like the government to mandate them to be as equally concerned with safe water quality. St. Louis has combined sewer overflows that were designed over 100 years ago. Raw sewage can escape into our rivers. MSD estimates that this happens 50 times a year on average. Need billions of dollars to fix this or it will only get worse.

We need full funding of land and water conservation fund. Need for state money from this fund. 85% is diverted to non- conservation uses. Half to federal and half to state agencies are needed.

## Discussion Question 4

**Godfrey, IL**

**(cont.)**

AmeriCorps teams have partnered with state, federal and NGO for invasive species removal, cleaning, studies, trail maintenance, etc. AmeriCorps program is extremely cheap and you get a lot from utilization. The program targets youth and directly gets them involved. This program is already in place, it just needs more staff positions funded.

I would like to speak at this session and provide testimony about the importance of the National Park Service's program for historic preservation and historic sites.

In Illinois, there is only one National Park, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield. The site speaks directly to the importance of historic places in the national collection of America's great outdoors and indoors.

The NPS has a special role in assuring that historic places are accounted for in the collection of Americas "great places" through several key programs and policies. Foremost among these is the Historic Preservation Fund, which established and sustains the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) across the country. This is a shared federal and state responsibility that stems from the National Preservation Act of 1966. The NPS has been a leader in creating and supporting this partnership. The continued funding and even the potential full authorized funding of the HPF grant to SHPOs should be an NPS priority.

80K sites on the historic places register in Illinois. Fund the preservation fund. Historic preservation is a form of sustainability. Historic preservation is sustainable by encouraging reuse of buildings. It's a different way to look at historic preservation.

Want to get kids outdoors. Make sure we have another generation ready to be stewards and ambassadors to the outdoors. Need upgraded version of things like Smokey Bear and Ranger Rick. We need more media attention.

We need full funding of land and water conservation fund. Need state money from this fund. 85% is diverted to non-conservation uses. Half to federal and half to state agencies are needed.

AmeriCorps teams have partnered with state, federal and NGO for invasive species removal, cleaning, studies, trail maintenance, etc. AmeriCorps program is extremely cheap and you get a lot from utilization. The program targets youth and directly gets them involved. This program is already in place, it just needs more staff positions funded.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Golden, CO**

It's important to have a usable website with good information, and interactive use of technology, such as online registration, info about what types of programs are available, links on website to see what is offered. Youth and teen volunteers are a great idea, a win/win, they are interested and we need help, it's a growing area.

Spending money on ground field restoration generates a lot of jobs and final disposition of that land.

Flexible money

Lots of flexible money

2. Conservation easements: program is capped for next 3 years. Given states budget, would like express importance of these tax credits.

Resources: make them more efficient and clear.

Flexible money, certainly, but the flavor determines whether it's successful. The GOCO model of landscape-scale efforts by state or region, tax credit option in CO facilitated a lot of conversion of private lands, funding for partnership-especially successful existing ones, and supporting infrastructure/needs –the pieces are in place, the conservation infrastructure could be spurred with more resources that it would take to get to the next level.

We need to remember our local parks and recreation departments. They are always looking at opportunities to partner with other folks. Denver Parks and Rec have Denver Mountain Parks, but it is a constant struggle to protect, conserve, and maintain these parks. We need to keep our focus and priority in urban areas on our parks and rec departments.

1. make sure we have tools in place to do what we actually said

1. Capacity building for grants--available for all not just a select few

1. Funds for schools

1. Exchange program between rural/urban schools

1. \$ for acquisition of water 2. Consolidated process for grants

## Discussion Question 4

**Golden, CO**

**(cont.)**

### 1. Focus on local outdoors

Market, promote, reach kids – mobile marketing like Ipod apps. Give them the tools using the tools they know. Niche marketing. Be forward thinking – they don't read newspapers.

Partner with groups like the Co Mtn club to generate interest in the management and conservation of the land for future generations. Develop plan for long term costs - Use tools such as the wilderness act, and less stringent oversight. use resource mgmt planning - agencies. Enforcement.

Hearing about projects getting hung up. The federal employees are not getting the message on new policy. What are you planning about setting the working action groups about dealing with the new policy. Mentoring, have a forum. What would you like us to do? Reiterated the failure of agencies to move on new directives, and wants to know what is being planned to breakthrough such barriers.

More funding, websites, public service announcements,

translate the science to people to understand - more user friendly.

The President himself a great tool - to educate kids. Use the President & First Lady to promote these values.

Get natl comprehensive survey on education programs, parks, wooded areas, identify areas for greatest need whether urban, city

So many agencies wkng on same issue - create a clearing house i.e. Dept of Interior for education - put something together more user friendly. Updated info.

We need to get kids out with the ski industry, and also year round. Ski areas would be very supportive for camp situations in summer - lodges, parking spots, and other amenities are in place. We have also provided such summer activities for decades, but now there's a bill in congress trying to formalize this. Use of ski areas to shift kids to outdoor recreation year-round.

I'm a common man living in Denver. Have lived here over 30 years. I very much hope this policy will integrate the non-profit community, GOCO, etc. into helping non-profits to help kids get outdoors. 2nd - I fully endorse initiatives to get kids outdoors. Growing up, our folks used to kick us outdoors, but that has changed and we need to help get kids outdoors. River programs are a good idea. Mission programs on weekends and off-school days help to get kids out. Lastly, the elk example seen today helps get kids out. We need to train kids to be future environmental educators. We should create a whole new "Force" (both adults and youth) with love for the outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

**Golden, CO**

**(cont.)**

Preparing for the "Heritage Area" - this pulls the history and land together in South Park, Colorado. There's reality and authenticity. Outside mentoring with kids on the range and Platte River. Heritage Area connects volunteers, grass roots, and others, ranchers, ranch experience, miners panning, miners with engineering thinking, partnering with other groups and offering Heritage Area resources. Include this with what's happening with the land. Visit an old miners cabin, ranch, one room schoolhouse, and see and feel what it would have been like for a kid to live there. We have a museum with 35 buildings in South Park, to visit history. Partnering with other places and other resources. Huge ranches in South Park, but putting in easements for the future. We need to ask ourselves, what can I do, how can people appreciate this as much as I do?

Support leaders of outdoors in kids and others being in even just their backyards. Support initiatives - getting people out, revitalizing cities. North of Denver are working farms - I love to see these. Important to see areas outdoors is not exclusive, and you don't have to travel far. You can even just plant flowers on your doorstep, or you can just stay close to home sitting under a tree. All this is really getting outdoors, too.

LNT.org, simple resource for everyone with curriculum already available

Cultural competency ... face of America changing and forest service needs to maintain a relevance.. administration looking to involve more ethnic groups

Education, other ways of helping trails, give people probational time to help with trails, more programs and volunteer efforts be put in place; reach out to organizations

President not jumping on executive orders, can't be dynamic enough to meet needs at local level

Some matter of legislation needs to dedicate funding of sources.. Need to get a handle on petroleum, protecting urban watersheds

Increase land and water conservation funding

There is not an enforced national policy about keeping land as it is

## Discussion Question 4

### *Grand Island, NE*

Carbon in roles of tree planting can be an effective tool to do limited tree planting to augment wildlife. Good public purposes. The role of carbon in terms of conservation then put trees where they ought to go to accomplish. Help augment conservation and resource management efforts. Nebraska 4.6% total available. Land signed up in Chicago Climate Exchange. The idea of what that is worth is \$18 million dollars. We have resources in our state. Is if you have 20% of all electricity used and you gave farmers a top of line land lease payment of that would generate \$9 million. If you look at potential for carbon to find market based value for conservation a lot of the incentives come down to money. Looking at the role of carbon in that way is a huge opportunity. My experience with landowners is that the access issue is about control and bad experiences. The amount of money we pay landowners is it worth putting your family, equipment at risk. Those bad experiences color a lifetime of cooperation. Those people that abuse, landowners never forget that, plus the coffee shop feeds that. More incentives and education for hunting access.

How to connect people to outdoors. No offense but no one in this group is young enough to appreciate the social networking available. Conservation community needs to recognize that they need to advertise this kind of information in Twitter, Facebook, etc. Show the kids a good time and it will be all over the network.

The funding availability to do education whether it is to build a web page or to put techs on the ground is just not out there. I know money is tight everywhere but I have personally been surprised to find out how few dollars are out there. This has to start with the next generation.

Access issue that was raised .Game and parks does have a long standing program of paying farmers for access but that funding has plummeted and that has suffered. We're more immigrants and more urban dwellers now so fewer and fewer people in state have ties to land. #2 in the country for lowest public lands.. Huge lack of public lands for people to get onto the land. Needs to reinvigorate programs to get public lands for access for people. Need to address fundamental issue.

Talk a lot about private land use and partnerships. Anyone from Gehring area? There was a wonderful land partnership of opening up thousands of acres of land for just bird watching, no motorized no hunting. Promote for tourism. Wildcat Hills - Wildland Initiative (Game and Parks, NGO, Ducks Unlimited, varieties of partners, NRCS) 24,000 acres of private and public land open to public. Grown to be very important natural amenity for local people. Federal government has helped put a lot of easements on lands. What are economic benefits of this? We have uncertainty of what economic impacts are when investment in public access when competing with agriculture. Look at what happens to community when an investment is made on land? Are there compensatory gains by supporting recreation activity? Wildcat Hills great example Excellent opportunity to promote tourism.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Grand Island, NE***

***(cont.)***

His dissertation was on outdoor learning theory. Kids learn if they walk in the ruts made by our ancestors more than being inside. No child left behind has put too much importance on tests. My plea is for private ranchers and farmers to reach out to the schools, especially the principals. Don't wait for them to come to you. If you can convince the principal you will find teachers who will bring their classes to your ranch or farm. We are having trouble funding outside activities. Find grants or private citizens who will fund these type of activities for the kids. We have to get the kids out there.

Schools should ask the parents for gas money to get the kids out on field trips.

The Kearney & Platte River expo reaches audiences at a certain level. If you take the kids fishing they forget when they get home. We need additional personnel to put these expo's on in different parts of the state.

Children who play with mud pies are learning. How can we tie this in with a program like big brothers/sisters. We need trained mentors. These mentors could take them fishing or teach them about conservation.

Property taxes went up 30% in two years – we are hooked on local control. Challenge – how big is big. 20 qtr pivots isn't big. Trying to make it work on 2 sections of grass. Property taxes go up 40% in 3 years he is not trying to live on it, just get it to work with others. Markets are a big issue.

More programs in the other sectors. Needs to have community buying 50/50 - additional programs like this in other sectors. Land & water conservation is a good tool.

Farmers tend to fortify their positions. How to turn around? (attacks -i.e. atrazine) protect Ag-better educate.

Promoting agriculture to consumer. Getting the right information to where it needs to be. Opportunities for landowners. Bad rap GMO etc need show how it connects to consumer. Agri-tourism and education.

Education, understanding, appreciation. Bring more people to the table and educate them.

Wind energy, solar energy – would get revenue. Promote idea of windmill on each farm - could access low-rate loan and use profit off of selling the electricity. Electric companies can't invest in that. Would do something for environmental growth.

Farmer ranchers need easier way to be involved. Open door for them to educate and make money at the same time. Beneficial if producers would work together.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Grand Island, NE*

*(cont.)*

I think we need to go back to No child left behind but we need the no child left inside act to be passed to promote environmental education. There are a lot of conservation grants out there that get conservation work done; but allow for those grant programs to do environmental education. Some grants provide the money, but it has to be tied to a big on the ground million dollar projects.

Landowners can't tie up their lands in conservation. The tax code can be used to apply incentives for land conservation. Creative things need to be done to the tax code.

My organization would like to create a conservation corp, a work corp of interns to do stewardship, prescribed fire, and other management activities. That idea at some point, since it has a historic idea (the conservation corp) may be adapted to different settings.

The importance of farm bill conservation dollars are really critical, it is the biggest pot of money. It is the right decision to rethink how much program dollars can be used for technical assistance.

There is not enough environmental education has been going on. Teachers have been taking the initiative by looking for information on the internet, but in so many classrooms today, the way the laws are written they focus so much attention on math and English that the Department of Education needs to look at this from a different perspective. We need to focus on holistic learning, teaching kids how to solve problems. I work with pre-service teachers...they are the computer generation. And they have a different style of teachers. This generation is so driven with technology they don't know what to do with kids outside. On the ground conservation works, but we will end up redoing these conservation projects if we don't teach people why we're doing them in the first place. We need to provide more environmental education in the schools and with the land.

There's a group of nonprofits and organizations involved in an organization called green infrastructure. Its an idea that green infrastructure is just as important as gray infrastructure. Part of this involves collaboration and a process to talk about how, if something needs rebuilt, that you can incorporate green infrastructure into the mix.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Grand Junction, CO***

more people on the ground; make partnerships required where possible

need policy to direct agencies to manage areas with wilderness qualities as such until designated or not

more involvement in third party conservation easements; conservation through farm bill, maintain or expand tax credits for conservation easements

create a model to provide information to school districts for where they can go for sources of information

more local decision making; pay as you go (spend money directly on things you use)

No child left inside legislation; fund youth programs

create initiative to explain role of federal agencies in local communities; federal lands belong to everyone - what are the processes available for local communities to work with federal agencies

renew farm bill (CRVP) to get money to farmers and ranchers

stakeholders initiative should be created - get input from everyone not just a few squeaky wheels

have more listening tours in more places throughout the state

mentioned a "get kids outdoors" transportation fund in local school district

II. Ecoregional perspective is helpful for BLM and publics to have basis for conservation dialogue. Traditional uses are very important - as important as newer recreation interests. Only by incorporating those interests do we get long term stewardship.

Conserved about 164 transaction, help leverage local and federal dollars, example on Pinion Mesa Conservation Easement -- utilized USFWS grant thru CDOW and great outdoors stamp money to make easement happen. Abuts FS and BLM land on other side and protect

Connection to rivers, work in all 17 western states, role is to give land managers and education and tools to improve riparian lands, work with federal agencies and governments, youth corps -- would say that one of our biggest obstacles getting everyone t

## Discussion Question 4

### *Grand Junction, CO*

*(cont.)*

Reaffirmation of existing tool, BLM authority to establish and protect wilderness areas -- believe is valid in 1976. Fulfillment of BLM responsibility to implement and use this tool. Creates partnership to look at unique landscapes and team up with \*\*\* Rea

BLM book and provide meeting space as needed, Pull together website that lists various groups that could be contacted or interested in a issue. Research group developed to better prepared for clean up oil spills - frac fluids also. \*\*\* Friends of Northern

Education is very important, currently studying environmental studies, make it more affordable to go to national parks and experience the outdoors. Making more programs available to students to connect students - education of youth. \*\*\* Education of youth

Have national lottery to fund work, needs to implement \*\*\* Suggest having a Federal National Lands Lottery. If you buy a ticket you feel like something is happening with the money.

Appreciate opportunity to discuss issues \*\*\* Thank you for having these discussions.

Education is needed on many topics -- oil and gas issue for example. Roads built into areas we already have legs to walk in. We need to do our homework on information -- education ourselves to make good decisions from reputable sources. Starts with us - p

Sportsman's education: The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the only agency getting kids involved in the outdoors through sportsman's education. Need to get federal agencies involved in similar efforts. Hunting and fishing will foster interest in outdo

One of the best tools is NEPA. Agencies do not apply the same NEPA standards for themselves as they do for industry. Agencies are stringent in applying rules to extractions activities, but agencies don't apply the rules to themselves. That detracts fr

Good Samaritan Legislation very important. Abandoned mines could be reclaimed without liability to those doing the reclamation. Consider adding a 25 cent charge on water bills to protect ecosystems. This could help with watershed protection for future.

Fundfrom programs in Farm Bills, and Land and Water Conservation can be available to help support connectivity and resource protection. This needs to be an approach by this administration.

Encourage congress to listen to what the people said today. Communicate a thanks for organizing the meetings. They should listen and act . They need to think long-term. Think of the tremendous resource they can take advantage of. Agencies need to wo

The listening session is good. Take advice from the bottom, up. We can engage people at our level

Strengthen management of BLMs wilderness study areas and USFS wilderness. Outside impacts identified in NEPA but are not being addressed on the ground level.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Grand Junction, CO***

***(cont.)***

More decisions should be made at the local level within the federal government instead of going all the way to the Washington office. This wastes time and resources.

Identify a few problems (e.g., getting youth into the outdoors) and get the communities involved in resolving them. Let them be models, doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

Population growth can't be controlled, and that is biggest threat to sustainability. Need to concentrate population in established central areas instead of rural subdivisions. There are infrastructure issues with this. We should be planning for populat

NEPA identifies offsite impacts but they are not realistically addressed on the ground. Agencies need to mitigate them instead of having local communities deal with them. Fire policies will become a growing concern. Fire management education programs

## Discussion Question 4

### *Helena, MT*

Opportunity for recreational diversity- We're making enemies out of 4-wheelers, motorists, snowmobilers, ranchers, horsemen, bicyclists, etc. by closing off access. They all need a place or they'll have no reason to fight for any kind of conservation. Consider National Recreation Areas (like in OR, CA and elsewhere) to satisfy some of those.

Supporting the programs that help to serve our youth in areas which will both encourage their development and ability for them to be stewards of their (our) public lands. Conservation Corps and other programs which incorporate national service and an introduction to issues facing public lands are a step in the right direction. Drawing youth and young adults into programs which are supported by federal land management agencies will give them a stronger education and an ability to be more engaged citizens.

Use the good will, motivation and concern for the environment and our public lands on the part of American citizens, especially youth/ children, to overcome some of the work that they long to do and that needs to be done to protect these resources. National Parks Forest Rangers can help facilitate this by partnering with local, non-profit and other groups to get Americans out in the land. Imagine that you could go to a National Park or forest or state park and on any given day find a program, sanctioned by the park, where you and your family could help preserve the park (e.g. paint a picnic shelter, pick up trash, pull weeds, build a trail, etc). Our parks are underfunded and in need of repair. If we can budget the money to get the work done then ask citizens to help. This will get people involved, give them a sense of ownership and accomplishment and ensure that future generations grow up learning how to care for our national treasures.

1) Please continue to support and fund the AmeriCorps and Conservation Corps programs. It helps connect youth to nature and the outdoors, builds job skills, and supports community service. 2) Please continue to support the national Leave No Trace outdoor ethics program as a means of promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of public lands. 3) Establish federal and state funding sources and mechanisms to match local money with children and nature initiatives. Improve recreation management funding in agencies and streamline the ability of local, state, and federal agencies to develop programs that effectively bring partners together to protect recreational river corridors and opportunities and other public lands across jurisdictional boundaries.

1) Allow private land trusts to hold conservation easements purchased with LWCF funds. 2) Allow donated match for FRPP conservation easements rather than private cash match.

Thank you for your commitment to conserving open and working lands, wild and agricultural lands. I appreciate your seeking local and fresh ideas. I would encourage you to also recommit to programs and policies that are already proven effective. Voluntary conservation on a local level relies on LWCF funding as an engine to spur local investment like the bond funds in this county. It spurs other private and state funding. Please consider making this permanent. Tax incentives are an essential piece and the third-leg strong partnerships with private conservation groups.

Get programs in the schools, more funding for conservation programs, Government working with grassroots organizations, listening

## Discussion Question 4

**Helena, MT**

**(cont.)**

Thank you. Let's have more information sessions such as these. What are the next steps?

More of the meetings need to be held in the rural areas of Montana, where they are more susceptible to feeling the impacts economically, when more land be designated for wilderness or similar uses.

Adequate and sustained LWCF funding-community involvement-consensus building-continued investment in involving children in the outdoors thru land management agency programs.

3 proposals before the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior for consideration. 1. Individual plans/statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans for outdoor recreation needs - aggregate into a national report/plan, establish priorities as a Country, data every 5 years. 2. Create a pilot program for best practices for outdoor rec planning. 3. More federal assistance and staff to help with outdoor rec planning. Value of state wide planning and recreational opportunities; however, federal agencies not living up to Land and Water Conservation Fund Act provisions, greater participation, comprehensive plan; is critical in MT- recreation provided by federal lands

As an elk hunter, user of the lakes, sees 300 million acres with livestock and stewardship is not what it should be, areas not looked at in years, no grazing plans, sees excessive grazing to detriment of wildlife, grazing could be better managed, too few staff to enforce protections.

- How tools could be better used: help with NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) law, it is too cumbersome; Elkhorn Working Group experiences with NEPA - saves but also works adversely to doing positive things

Reinstate the tax legislation which benefits use of conservation easements, expired 6 years ago.

- Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), it allows for MT working ranches to be compensated, keeps open space, USDA should change restrictions on Rocky Mountain Front, not all private owners want to partner with the feds (USFWS) so make changes where conservation easement holders could be non-governmental [private land trusts]

Working with schools to explore off highway vehicles, communication with youth is important...especially since we are so urban... today's kids need special attention to connect up with outdoor situations.

- Conservation easements as a tool: example with American Public Land Exchange (APLE) facilitated an easement with the flexibility to allow motorized recreation and successful in maintaining open space

Wants recreational opportunities for his 5 year old daughter, she is recycling in preschool, interested in conservation, wants programs for a 5 year old to do: help build trail, pull weeds, nail one nail on a bridge, something with a conservation flavor.

- Too few park rangers any more.
- Hard to find the opportunities at national and state parks, national forests.
- Too expensive for a family to stay at Yellowstone NP at \$200/night there is something wrong with that, camping not for all families with babies or grandparents

## Discussion Question 4

### *Helena, MT*

*(cont.)*

Cultural heritage goes with other conservation values, recognize how land has been used through time, support heritage . •Fund the Historic Preservation Fund (sister to LWCF), threatened by cuts, allows working with conservation groups. •Preserve America Fund - locals identify what is important, heritage tourism, appreciation of values and use of land through time. •National Heritage Areas, open space trails and heritage areas, example the whole state of TN is a NHA but none here in MT and they can bring \$, arts and crafts, interpretation on the land

Need to measure conservation restoration work in terms of its value to society....helps set the value of conservation effort for use in planning. •A youth restoration partnership is under development to help teachers take kids into the field to conduct conservation work

We have a lot of intellectual capital... need a survey of intellectual capital in natural resources work, how decisions were made previously, McKinsey and Co., lost expertise due to retirements and layoffs, need federal money to design a survey. •No academic program in MT for historic preservation matters... has to go out of state for academic training in this field – expand natural resources studies to include historic preservation matters

## Discussion Question 4

### *Kissimmee, FL*

Biggest challenge for achieving conservation goals is trying to balance the built environment with conservation. State buys lands for conservation and as the economy tanked, there became a huge opportunity for governments to buy lands. But what happened was that Florida cut out the Florida Forever land buying program to balance the state budget. Obstacle is making state legislators understand that conservation is important and now is the time to buy land. Second obstacle is when we buy conservation land and human recreation is the first thing that is allowed on the refuge/park. Before allowing recreation, need to study carrying capacity for animals, etc, before deciding to open to recreation. Need to do scientific study to determine if the animals will be impacted by the human use, especially consumptive use of wildlife/fish resources. Not getting answers from the agencies about impacts. Let flora and fauna survive first, and then consider if recreation is compatible. Need to keep ORV and Jeeps out of conservation land. There are Jeep people that stay on trail, but once someone goes off, then you have everyone else follows. When managing conservation lands, government needs to consider recreation vs protection.

I hear a lot of teachers are saying that the way curriculums are structured is an obstacle to field trips. May need to address issue in education. Maybe President's recommendations will have positive impact. Scouts have been mentioned – Rotary , etc., - doctors, established organizations – so, if there is a way to build on existing structures, YCC, stuff your agencies do, with civic groups – to expose young people to environment.

I think Audubon has done something with Apple and bird ID.

in Panhandle FL, Walton County – M.C. Davis, has established E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and this partnership should be looked at. M.C. Davis is wealthy and paid for a PhD study and did an analysis of best techniques to influence kids. Kids are exposed 3X during their 12 years of school. Have a week long experience. Actually test them. M. C. has worked out a program with entire school district. Might be something useful from that experience. Activities support curriculum.

How about civic groups? Maybe Kiwanis, Rotary.

they have developed educational materials and websites to download these materials for free. Videos, posters, interactive materials – very good for kids all the way through the university level. <http://usgs.gov>. Work a lot with counties, cities, WMDs.

Create more interior Wildlife Refuge in state of FL. Then they must be staffed to operate. Fund Pelican Island staff decreased our first NWR... Fund NWRS

Marketing tools to market recreation. Tree City USA example. Where is that now? Protect the lands.

We can only rely on Volunteers for so long, quality educators are needed. We pay them.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Kissimmee, FL*

*(cont.)*

Produce more educational tools and get in the hands of teachers. Provide incsective to schools for EE .

Fund field trips to everglades and other places to make future rangers

Fund people heading into schools to specific wildlife to schools to make presentations

Embrace technology advertise get message out to public. Message to non profits to help out. Use internet. Invoke conserving land for next generation worships for next generations

Cutback in enforcement is problem. People come on lands human disturbance of bird nests. They think it's "My right to go and do what we want." Help understand public recreation on federal lands. Discuss uses to young generation. Create designated areas for all uses.

Expanding Refuges and plan recreational opportunities.

Need Money and people

Scholarships is a must for interns... to youth camps.

Marketing... for young folks. People in land management with users. Connect groups workshops, yearly meetings. Conservationists understand recreation. Give the conference weight. Action points are agreed upon both parties will work together and agree. Work toward them.

Recreation DOI new catagory, disturbed lands could be used for recreation active recreation.

Greatest tool is education in schools. Look at school system. Recreation, NResurces, look at what we are teaching them.

Grant to educate about careers in outdoors

Give land owner tax break to help with conservation. Tax incentive not money.

Programs into schools with birds, live birds into school. Grants for volunteers into programs schools. Help them to live.

## Discussion Question 4

***Kissimmee, FL***

***(cont.)***

Private landowners and liability

Inmates - CCC to help federal lands.

Great idea to add accessibility to lands. Provide liability to private land owners. Private sector to provide lands for citizens to recreate on.

People will recreate on lands so we need to provide lands for this.

Health care to fund preventative messages. Fund programs like: Get Florida Outdoors.

Augment of conservation easement with recreation; look at access and conservation easements differently.

Work with state on legal barriers in particularly Florida trails; work with state to provide insurance use funds for access payments on private lands.

Look at various foundations as a resource avenue to assist with trails or other areas looking at public private ventures.

Broader Federal opportunities that get at sustainability besides wetlands

land up for conservation and encourage children to come to these lands.

agree on best management practices. Rotational grazing so cattle will be in different cells.

Combination of easements and fee simple

lot of people need to invest in things for the long run it will save money and be better for the environment. i.e. Alternate energy Type of national pass –seasonal activities related that people can know about teach and educate people who registered. People aren't afraid, have someone to show them the ropes.

don't see as much Boy Scouts anymore. Need Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help teach outdoor skills, allow groups to have meetings in public schools and more available. Use what is already out there.

## Discussion Question 4

***Kissimmee, FL***

***(cont.)***

school districts you build a place big enough to play sports and play outside. Now days no room for outdoors activities

interlocal agreement between school district and city-shared cost solves a lot of problems-probably a state issue

emphasize sustainability in schools and encourage good habits-environmental educators throughout Florida

Include more of a free time for recess. Don't have things like computers to distract you other opportunities to use this time to go outside.

before Army corp more private landowners-private industry land to be preserved through mitigation. Corp has control to do mitigation. Ranchers have investment that they need to protect.

retention ponds-take a look at how they are doing it. Making it deeper than needed. Development when put in a new neighborhood put it up higher so runoff goes to old neighborhood. Creating a flood that isn't there.

Simple for regulation to put in place put bahia, put Bermuda-not St. Augustine. Initial investment-Revamp ag program to add conservation.

Job development programs for youth that are around their community. Could create jobs in the outdoor sector to encourage environmental opportunities.

Been camping once. Never really been outdoors in a tent. I don't see many little kids indoors but once they get to teenager they stay inside. Maybe emphasize teenager.

Building YMCA in parks with trails, using the parks to access the YMCA. Kids are exposed everyday to the trails, environmental education. For the national effort for what we are doing for young people the cumulative effort every day on environmental education. They learn early on a broad and deep appreciation for the out of doors that they carry with them through life. This preserves our great outdoors. Two YMCAs at Walt Disney from birth to 5 seven days a week with butterfly gardens. Giving the very young the appreciation. Buildings are constructed to give people the opportunity to always have a view of the outdoors. Build public schools and YMCA-24 acres city park, public school and YMCA on lake. Conservation for all these buildings. After school learning social, academic, skills, see parents, teachers, YMCAs staff seven days a week 365 days a year. Community destination. Looking at conservation building them together reinforces this opportunity to gain and maintain and appreciation for the out of doors. Educating across time.

Environmental club at school but don't really go outside that much. Reward schools that go outside and do environmental programs outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Kissimmee, FL*

*(cont.)*

Groups and organizations that provide these opportunities so families can access these opportunities and that these opportunities exist. People would be able to connect these places. Where can I go? (examples Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, religious organizations) These places connect to the outdoors.

Service that families can sign up for. Opportunities for activities season pass or pay in advance. Tour guides and educational program that goes with the event. Canoeing, fishing and hiking. Nationwide type service go to multiple locations.

Vacation opportunities

Federal funds for the Northern Everglades Restoration. Stop offshore drilling; enforce regulation on water quality; funding staff.

Give the people a program they want. Influence corporations to assist with ideas and incentives on volunteerism....Day to Disney, Pepsi Points.

Fund the Wetland Reserve and Enhancement Program that would allow smaller landowners to participate in the program.

Consider minorities and outreach with any program that is proposed. Cultural differences need to be considered and appreciated throughout.

In FL, the Hispanic population is greatly increasing and we have not done a good job of understanding the Hispanic culture and establishing programs to address the needs of our population as it changes.

The federal government needs to use virtual tools, kids are into the computer and social networking. We need to use social media, kids are so hooked in, even though we want them to get away from that stuff and go outside.

The federal could provide great maps to schools. Kids love maps, they would be a great tool.

Need more loans to C4 organizations than to C3's. Having a hard time getting grants.

"Lost Child in the Woods" backed by solid science. Develop a communication campaign to communicate it to the country. Campaign can impact lots of people.

Federal Department of Education has a lot of leeway to decide what to fund. For educational institutions removing outdoor exercise from the curriculum yet receiving federal funding, there needs to be federal intervention. Outdoor recreation should be put back in curriculum for anyone receiving federal funding.

## Discussion Question 4

***Kissimmee, FL***

***(cont.)***

There are transportation barriers to get kids out to natural areas. Provide School districts with access to vehicles to get them to outdoor places.

Effect on health. How are we networking with the health community to provide opportunities with getting people outdoors? Develop wellness programs between health care community and outdoors community. Get health care community involved.

Hunter safety programs. Take the same model of hunter safety programs and use it to do wildlife programs. For example, how to build a fire, teach/use things they can see, touch and use their senses. The Boy Scout Program emulates this. Bring scouts, 4 H, other programs back into schools. Get the instructors connected across these programs.

Make outdoor activities mandatory in school curriculum. Have a science teacher symposium. The Department of Interior needs to work with the Department of Education.

Green school program (in MD) developed a culture within the school with kids, teachers, parents.

Florida green building coalition

Marketing outdoor activities as an alternative to the indoor electronics world.

A kid catching a first fish or hunt makes an impact. Need to provide those "firsts" experiences.

Consider building regional USFWS training schools (like the National Conservation Training Center) that teachers could utilize with reduced travel expenses.

We need a guided experience and it needs to be cheap. Come up with additional experiences even if it's Ducks Unlimited showing people nature, not necessarily taking them out hunting first, which can be a bit intimidating.

HAVE TV OR INTERNET TO SHOW PARKS AND REFUGES WHAT IS GOING ON IN THEM AND WHAT TO DO. FACEBOOK AND TWITTER TOO.

OUTSIDE TIME IN SCHOOL

VIDEO TO SHOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T START TAKING CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

VISUAL TO HELP GUIDE YOUTHS TOWARD STWARDSHIP

## Discussion Question 4

***Kissimmee, FL***

***(cont.)***

use hunting as a management tool

expand the acquisition boundary of the Florida Panther refuge by 50,000 to 60,000 with willing sellers

certain elements that allow for land to be purchased not within a acq. Boundary; flexible in the land acquisition

additional resource for education

more town hall meeting

Begin an outdoor educational class as part of school curriculum.

Outdoor education in schools, creating community centers that incorporate outdoor education.

Education programs funded by and through conservation funds to cover transportation costs of exploring outdoor areas, bring back the Civilian Conservation Corps, re-vitalize the Youth Conservation Corps.

School course that incorporates outdoor education where students could learn basic skills, safety and learn about nature. Plan and prepare a small garden on school grounds.

Funding available to community organizations to provide outdoor education.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Lawrence, KS***

Educate people- pamphlets about local region- weather, land, how to replenish the earth

I recycle

I give back to the land as much as possible

I turn off lights

Plant trees

## Discussion Question 4

### *Los Angeles, CA*

We need a national resourced Area designated to include the San Gabriel Mountains URBAN River Corridors. To achieve this, I strongly believe that the Emerald Necklace will be able to transform the densely gray and urbanized San Gabriel Valley Region into a vibrant green landscape. The Interconnectivity of parks and trails have the ability to improve communities and will give residents greater accessibility to local and regional resources. Here are the many benefits the Emerald Necklace can bring to the San Gabriel Valley: it will bring green infrastructure jobs to local communities (water resource protection, urban forestry, sustainable landscaping careers) Emerald Necklace can be a valuable public asset it serves as a public park space and many youth adolescents in the San Gabriel Valley, It will help expand and preserve natural habitats and wildlife, It will also establish a more efficient transportation corridor for humans and native animals. Connecting with the San Gabriel Mtns. to the beach via natural and urbanized waterways. We have the following support: 25 cities, 3 HOAs, 3 school districts, 1 environmental group, 1 trail group, 1 state conservancy group and 1 county board of supervisors

Allow the USACE to use credit and funding from different funding sources to be used on the same projects ei: Flood control vs. ecosystem restoration. The USACE prioritizes projects in part on a \$ per acre criteria. Due to the cost of urban development this puts urban projects at a disadvantage compared to projects in areas where land is less available. The USACE typically requires a 35% total match which does not allow the match to be met from another federal funding sources. This local match requirement should be modified to facilitate collaboration between federal agencies. Funding for land acquisition should be available. Increase funding for the Land Water Conservation Fund for urban projects.

Challenges: Getting all of every groups ideas and efforts coordinated (shen possible) and eomminicated well. The sharing of information is a key! If we can work with toher groups that we didn't know about before, we may help each other solve some of our own challenges. Get the kids outside!!! if they are in school all day, they think (are taught) that it is normal existance. What works? Get kids outside!!! Not only will they enjoy it but they will want to retun outside. Getting thme out and involved also will create a new generation of concerned activie citizens. 3) Federal Government Role: Require cooperations that have land leases on public land, to give bak in a way that benefits the public (in the long term). Repair the damage caused, not take us out for a Latte! 4) Tools: Funding of course!! But getting the funding to each groups pet project isn't feasible so get into the schools to get the kids involved, have them go on field trips and camp outs and "day projects" to work on some of these grass roots organizations. They want to get their hands dirty.

Prohibition of public funds spent on bottle water: Superfluous administrative cost:Environmentally disastrous: Link Parks and Multi-Benefit Projects (community gardens, water sheds, storm water collection) Federal land sales should have strict environmental regulations and priority should be given to conservation iniatives/buyers.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Los Angeles, CA*

*(cont.)*

"No Child Left Behind" in taking away opportunities for children to learn in their classrooms about environmental issues. There needs to be a federal mandate that would require students to have environment/conservation training including hands on, field trips, community service, to visit wild spaces, mountains, beaches, deserts, parks. Environmental Science camps should be a regular part of curriculum, once in elementary once in middle school, once in high school. Working on an environmental project and reporting on it should be requirement for graduation. Children need to be educated because they are going to carry on our passion. 2) Federal Government needs to fully fund the land and water conservation fund. Have a common sense, methodical plan for renewable energy that involves a variety of stakeholders. Plan renewable energy closer to urban centers where it is needed most. Get developers to NOT BUILD or develop - give them incentives to develop urban areas already built-rehab houses empty or up for rent. Fund community gardens, school gardens-kids need to know where their food comes from. More collaboration between grass roots agencies to work together-user friendly websites, kids' sites, that they will want to go to learn about environmental issues. More youth involvement.

Suggestion: National Park Service should use volunteers (local) to maintain trails and keep areas open to public. This should be done more often! Advertise! There are plenty of people who would be interested but this needs to be made known (Engage the individual)

Challenges-support for responsive renewable energy development in the CA desert. It needs to happen on private disturbed lands closer to urban load centers, NOT in the treasured, pristine, untouched public lands in the core of the Mojave Desert. 2) The Federal Gov't needs to take the pressure off the BLM public lands in the CA Desert for renewable energy development by looking at ways to make it easy for cities and counties to have solar/wind development on private disturbed lands&solar panels on commercial buildings. 3) Fully fund LWCF and AB811 program funding 4) What's working: Private, local, non-profit land trusts. We are able to purchase & protect & then manage large landscape level chunks of land that the federal gov't doesn't have the tools/resources to save. We (TWC) through private donations and grants are able to save critical habitat "islands" between already protected lands National Parks to protect ecological corridors so we don't end with islands of biodiversity and unhealthy ecosystems. Help us to get funding so we can continue our jobs & mission. (ie: UCF stakeholders in federal process,

In the LA Region, Water is among the most critical issues-Both Water supply and water quality. A century of misguided Development decisions exacerbate flooding and water pollution while conveying a precious supply to the ocean unused. What has been working in the LA Area is the slow but steady move toward multi-benefit capital improvement projects that capture water (both rainfall and dry weather runoff) close to the site where it falls and either allow it to be absorbed into the ground to replenish local aquifers, or stored in cisterns or rain barrels for later use. These projects are best conducted through public-private partnerships between Government Agencies and local entities including NGOs and business. There are excellent examples of these projects in LA, including LA's newest green street-Elmer Avenue in Sun Valley. In order to make such projects status NGO we need Federal funding and mandates for multi-benefit projects.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Los Angeles, CA*

*(cont.)*

In order to ensure that the connections we help people make to the outdoors are lifelong and life-changing education must be a core component of how we make that connection. Getting youth out to our National Parks as part of residential environmental education programs, such as nature bridge field science programs will build a generation of environmental stewards who will make responsible decisions and take actions to protect and preserve our environment. The connections to nature young people make through residential environmental education programs such as NatureBridge Field Science Programs often light a spark in students that turns into a lasting love of the outdoors and lifelong stewardship. The Federal Government should work to spur growth of NatureBridge and similar programs to increase the scale of these programs and number of youth that they reach. Invest dollars and resources. The Federal Government could be more effective partner by having more flexibility in the kinds of partners it works with and should work to remove obstacles to partnership or growth or partnership for nonprofit organizations. Provide resources to nonprofit partners to allow them to house and educate students in national parks.

1) Stop closing land to people who wish to use the trails and roads 2) Less Federal involvement 3) Cutting the Fed. Gov't 4) Tools-Chain Gangs use to work Fed trails and lands.

Agree with need to get children outdoors. Organizers should have the US Dept of Education involved. Consider getting Michelle Obama involved in promoting the outdoors to help combat obesity. Give credit to college students for working with children outdoors. Hire H.S. and college students to work in parks outdoors. Think about partnering with the Big Brother, Big Sister program.

80% of kids are in low income households. This is an organization nationally that could be tapped into. He would like to see getting more kids in the outdoors. The organization could provide a great avenue to accomplish goals of this initiative, especially for economically disadvantaged kids. Federal planning and implementation needs to be on a macro level.

Are there are best practices models that could be adapted rather than reinventing the wheel? In terms of funding, are there some pots of money that are easier to apply for (not ARRA funding)?

Lots of funding is locked up, especially in CA. She wants to see enhanced funding for land acquisition. No local land trusts are in San Gabriel Mojave area. Should focus on existing infrastructure rather than destroying habitat.

1) YMCA impacts 10 million kids annually. 35 million kids live within 10 miles of a YMCA. The gov't should partner with nonprofit groups. They have access with lots of programs already in place to help get kids outdoors. What is the most efficient method to get kids outdoors? 2) Would love to see Michelle Obama include an outdoor component. Read book Black Swan. World doesn't move in a straight line. Gulf oil spill is a black swan – embed "black swan" into planning process. Great job in parks.

Gave information about the documentary to session facilitators.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Los Angeles, CA***

***(cont.)***

Transitioning now. Wants to know if there is place to call to learn how to partner with others in the future. Suggested a hotline to answer questions like where to get money, who to partner with. It would be a very good tool.

They want to build edible gardens in schools – interested in partnering.

Funding is vitally important to get kids outdoors.

Land and Water Conservation Program should be restored.

Healthy restoration of LA river- tools by Federal government should be created to make this happen within 20 years, not 40 years.

Federal government has the tools, use them! Political will to do it is needed.

Land Water Conservation Funds need to be increased and allow for urban lands to be purchased. Need Federal Wilderness Act to stay in tact.

How can EPA process be sped up Water for wildlife project should be reviewed and done quickly.

Need Department of Education and they should be included. Get kids interacting with wilderness not just parks, kids need fresh air and exercise.

Need for feds to engage with community and explain resources, what's available and what has worked well.

Playground

6/14 group members have camped

Provide outdoor jobs (e.g. internship for F.S.)

Clean bathrooms

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Los Angeles, CA***

***(cont.)***

Off-highway use, kiosk, maps, and Federal land management works.

managing Angeles National Forest with fire fighting and fuel reduction that collaboration was the key.

barriers exist, youth not included in planning. Lack of cultural shift, older generation and diversity. San Gabriel Mountains were used as an example.

urban sustainability needs integration with recreation sustainability.

all data should be easily accessible to the public.

stewardship and partnership opportunities should be posted on a website, periodically updated to engage the youth in outdoor opportunities.

explore off-road 4x4 vehicle opportunities and trails to accommodate them.

community groups need to come together to brainstorm with the government to address developing a tool box to tackle floodplain issues.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

I propose that the National Park Service boost its mass transit initiative to a high profile by taking a few selected parks and making them public transit access only (i.e. no cars). The NPS has an educational function as well as a stewardship/leadership mission and could promote mass transit as a national good. Glacier NP could be a pilot. Railroad connections could be revitalized. A carefree coing-to-the-Sub (?) Road could be a new national treasure.

There is a need to re-staff each Federal agency involved with public lands with Landscape Architects! Our profession can greatly help to connect people and their needs to this great land of ours!

The US is headed for difficult times if we continue to abstract natural resource industries from producing these resources. We are at the mercy of other countries for our energy (oil) we will soon be not importers of hard mineral commodities. Why hasn't a meeting planned on the east side of MT, the largest population is not considered in Montana (sic).

Climate change is a challenge on all levels -- environmental, economic, health, social, equity, agriculture, national security, etc.

1) Protection of roadless lands from motorized uses permanently 2) Better ORV law enforcement 3) Better coordination on administrative and judicial on ORV law enforcement 4) More use of fire in fire dependent ecosystems

Recommendations to Federal Govt: 1) (\$) support existing cross-jurisdictional partnerships, such as the crown mangers partnerships whose mission is to "achieve/maintain an ecologically healthy crown of the continent." 2) think big about scale of crown of the continent 3) uphold our iconic federal laws --> ESA, Clean Water Act, list new endangered species eg wolverine 4) protect our water quality and riparian areas, use this to prioritize conservation efforts, including headwaters of rivers and streams 5) support local citizen efforts to protect water quality through growth planning and zoning 6) complete Montana and Idaho road less review and designate wilderness 7) (4) support objective science from academic institutions 8) don't be bullied by the loud anti-conservation minority

The Conservation Corps efforts around the country are working! The MCC serves hundreds of youth (14-17 and 18-30) annually, engaging them in meaningful projects enhancing the public's land. Keep the investment in Corps strong. My comment is to provide opportunity for young people, who are stewards of the environment to enter a career path with our land management agencies. Too many quality people toil in seasonal work for federal agencies and give up their career as public servants because there is no or relatively few opportunities for permanent employment.

Not all people are capable of hiking for miles and miles to get into the forest. I think we need roads in the forest, I don't think the forest should be reserved just for a small group of people.

Some roads need to be left open.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

When a agreed upon Executive Order is handed down from the Great White Father in D.C. that is thoroughly followed.

1) For youth I believe there should be more programs like the CCC to help improve our natural areas and help youth get outside. 2) Start saving critical farmland but allow farming/farming program.

I am really impressed by this Administration's outreach. It was great to have "DC" come and listen to Montana. There was some great ideas presented at these listening sessions. I also am pleased that there is also a special youth session. I think it is great to talk to youth because we will be the ones impacted by these decisions.

Thanks to the Obama administration for creating the recovery fund that created jobs for millions of people young and old. On a more local level, I would like to see organizations come together to market the public private, and locally managed lands. Such as DNRC, conservation groups, and local land owners, to create new ways to connect and encourage and educate the public about there immediate and national lands. Using maps, films flyers, education center, school systems, local volunteer days, outdoor equipment stores, recreational sales places to hold these pamphlets of knowledge and hold educational seminars to educate the people. Educate the people on topics such as volunteering, weeds, species, public lands, private lands, watersheds, erosion, logging roads, wilderness designation etc. I think it starts with in the local community but also on a national or international level. Using programs like AmeriCorps to get people working on a ground level. Though there needs to be a demand for these jobs. Also funding more organizations such as YMCA or YWCA to encourage and facilitate outdoor experiences and education.

\* Video was good, but didn't include people with disabilities enjoying public lands. \* Would have been nice if the video had included National Grasslands! \*Doesn't appear to be a very strong Tribal presence at the session -- might need to make a greater effort to get tribal participation. \*Groups are generally too large to allow participants or opportunity to offer comments given the limited time. \*Need to hear a strong facilitator -- keep track of who is up to speak and move to next questions.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is incomplete. A map clearly shows that the missing piece lies in British Columbia's flathead. Canadians welcome and encourage the USA to work with their counterparts in Canada to complete the world's first peace park. Currently, parks Canada has a proposal to expand wateron into B.C.'s Flathead.

Protect water quality and quantity and improve it. Limit permitting of fossil fuel extraction from all public lands. Stronger travel and management plans that include better monitoring and enforcement standards and indicator species. Protect old growth forest (sic) for carbon storage and biodiversity. Establish wildlife corridors for movement of wildlife.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

The U.S. Bicycle Route System is a project that promotes bicycle travel across America -- partnering grassroots efforts (bike advocacy and trail groups) and transportation to promote tourism and recreation. This is good for communities and promotes an environmentally (sic) friendly, economically beneficial form of tourism. Cyclists stay longer, have no carbon footprint and bring people into a community in a "human" way. I think we need to stop incentivizing things that promote pollution and global warming -- vehicles: emissions, parking lots, distracted driving, built environment.

Trails, school programs which utilize our public agencies -- BLM, FS, DNR, etc. liaison educators. Investment in our wild places -- reclamation, national and state parks etc, incentivize sustainable transportation such as biking/walking, transit, etc. Get airlines and trains to support these.

I think one of the most difficult is convincing conservatives that conservation is NOT a middle step to socialism! As the oil addeon in the Gulf exemplifies we need to place a true value and cost on scarce resources. We need to end corporate welfare first of all. The current subsidies for non-renewable energy are a disgrace! What we need is a surtax on all mineral royalties to be used to place solar/wind/renewable systems on every building in America. Begin with all public buildings followed by private residences and then small business or reverse the order -- just start somewhere! The boost to over economy and National Security would be incalculable. Such distributed generation would insure (sic) no more blow-outs, no Chernobyl's (sic) and no cyber-terrorism, I could go on for pages but this is a good start.

America Highway Program: The signs of the adopted sections of the highway that are supposed to be kept clean. I find that they are majorly neglected and wonder who is in charge of any sort of accountability to those groups who have adopted these sections because if they are not held accountable the sections should be given to someone else. Recycling: It should be made one of the easiest processes available in every city/town. In most places the search for a recycling center is long and when found, they tend to have so many restrictions. And although we are making movements to conserve, there is a lot that has been wanted and recycling is the chance to make up for that. Please help make it easier .

Encourage environmental and conservation cooperation between agencies and citizens -- FUND restoration.

Provide or guide funding resources into stream restoration and watershed conservation, including support for citizen involvement in watershed groups...

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

To connect kids and people in general to nature adequate access must be present that is easy, marketed, and accessible to diverse groups. This means both urban and rural opportunities. Full funding of the land and water conservation fund will provide both rural and urban opportunities through large scale land conservation, fishing access sites and urban parks. In addition, our first lady has the "bully pulpit" to make getting kids outside a part of our national education curriculum. If we don't connect kids to conservation at a young age, they are less likely to have an affinity (sic) to keep pass along out country either better or the same that they experienced it. Lastly, private land provides some of the best wildlife habitat in this country. Particularly between federal and state governments for access promote opportunities that are win/win for landowners and recreation. MT has the block management (bm) program the (sic) voluntarily enrolls eight million access of private land for hunting. Landowners are paid for impacts to their land. The last farm bill provided additional funds for state programs like (18 million) a larger commitment would gore this program (sic).

Education opportunities in these wild places. Somethings cannot be taught any other way than by getting people outdoors.

Full funding LWCF including state/local set aside policy, incentive, education, research documenting and educating as to the value and importance of the outdoors to our individual, community, environmental, and economic health.

Please consider policy changes that incentivize, regulate, and educate toward goals of preservation, sustainability, healthy built community, education curriculum supportive of the great outdoors, human powered transportation, work programs such as conservation corps for all ages. \*Please stop the polarization and negative discourse of recreation is bad. Example -- no stimulus fund for park, recreation facilities.

Funded projects to get families into public lands with interpreters

1) protect intact habitats and restore degraded habitats on both public and private lands, 2) make the outdoors a more integral part of school curriculum, i.e. No Child Left Inside; Ways Federal Government can help: 1) Foster more cooperative efforts like the Forest Jobs & Recreation Act that bring together diverse interests based on shared common ground, 2) Mining Law Reform that provides opportunity to restore degraded habitats, 3) Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, 4) Provide better stewardship of public lands; Secretary Salazar's oil and gas leasing reforms are a good start for BLM lands, need something similar for the Forest Service. It is easier not to degrade important habitats than to have to try and restore them after they are degraded.

increased education/information/access/advocacy for conservation; contribute to increased collaboration fed-local; restructure fed agencies; limit (mal)development

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

construct a natural sciences curriculum that lasts through education; incentivize voluntary public service for higher education financial assistance; mandate a minimum standard of community service

Define the legal parameters and stick with them. Too many people are afraid to make decisions/move because of the legal unknowns.

Citizen Science Monitoring; User group involvement in monitoring/restoration

Education; "Made in America" sustainable wood products given priority in government projects; Biomass from sustainable family-owned forests

1. Educational programs funded; 2. Fund trails (alternate transportation); 3. Subsidize volunteer programs; 4. Support awareness; 5. Provide successful samples (&workshops) for public/private interactions; 6. Continue similar meeting & require political reps to attend!

1. Increase awareness through heavy advertising online and on T.V. Let people know conservation jobs exist and you can help w/things like global climate change. 2. Cut down on car usage in parks by offering shuttle services for tours and transport bicycle rentals. You can charge for them as well to help raise money for parks. For example, a \$2,000 mountain bike rented out at \$25 a day would only take 80 rentals to pay off. Maintenance would run at roughly \$10 per rental, so after the bike is paid off, the parks would make \$15 profit per rental day. This may not be ideal for smaller parks, but Glacier Park and Yellowstone could make lots of money which could help relieve their funding from the Federal gov't and that money could be distributed elsewhere.; 3. The federal government is already doing a good job through AmeriCorps by offering the education award which can be used to pay for part of school or pay off school loans. By offering this to high schoolers, it may entice them to study environmental concepts in post-secondary education.

Gov communication with people - miscommunication has cost money

When the federal gov't acquires new lands, keep them open for hunting, fishing, & management. Utilize LWCF to purchase land including access. Access to public lands that are land locked by private land.

Let us please encourage/support more education that is place based & experiential to support our future generations

Increased funding for FRPP, Land & Water Conservation Program. Maintain/extend laws which provide tax incentives for donation of conservation easements.

Integrate outdoor classrooms/science in our schools K-12.

## Discussion Question 4

**Missoula, MT**

**(cont.)**

equipment loan programs

Addressing all questions; restoration where it's at. Trout conservancy working w/ many landowners and partners at long term restoration; applying science (how streams work). We have plenty of biologists, need people that can put it to use on the ground. Knowledge has increased, but problems are same – collapse of habitat and land relationships. Best strategy is volunteer work – planting native plants, hands on projects; satisfaction of long term benefits; Obstacles – Restoration is where it's at. List of work goes on and on – mines, roads maintenance, culvert replacement, roads put to bed; agricultural impacts. People want to know what they can do to help – need projects & money to be ready (e.g. Clark Fork project). Need more of these types of projects. Interest will wain w/o restoration activities. Need more than one-shot stimulus – need longer term commitment of resources. Make sure environment will be there through stewardship.

Thank \_\_\_\_ for being here. I'm here representing private land conservation. We partner with landowners to protect farms, ranches, etc; to keep lands intact.

Org helps create trails & do conservation projects on private land. Enhanced tax incentives for conservation easements doubles the work they can do. Without the tax incentives, it won't work. These tax incentives expired in 2009 and she would like to see these incentives made permanent. GVLTP preserves working ranches/ wildlife habitat. Keeps ranchers doing the good work.

Curriculum with lesson plans that get kids outdoors. Curriculum supplements what they are doing in classroom; provide materials not available in schools. Takes the resources to schools.

huge opportunity for govt to look to outdoor industries. Working with industries, listening and working with them can provide financial role in assistance in getting people to visit the outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

Getting more Children Outdoors – This is one of the biggest and most important challenges for this generation of children who have the highest rates of obesity and health problems related to being over-weight, such as diabetes. - Pass the No Child Left Inside Act (HR 2054 & S. 866) – This Act would provide funding for expanding environmental education in schools in order to get kids outdoors to learn and care about their environment and have the opportunity to be active and enjoy the outdoors. - Children in Nature – Many local, state and federal agencies are working separately and together to develop programs to get kids outdoors to connect with nature and be physically active after school or on weekends. Greater coordination and funding from the Federal govt could substantially increase these efforts. - Increase funding for the Recreational Trails Program – The majority of this funding goes to construct trails that connect city residents with parks and open space, providing more opportunities for children to be active and enjoy the outdoors. - Increase funding for Safe Routes to School – This is one of the best ways to reduce children being driven to school each day – provide a safe route so that they can walk or ride their bikes instead. - Help create more opportunities for both volunteer programs and paid work – 1000's of young folks are connected to the outdoors by volunteering for local, state and public parks, but many local govts don't have the resources to either create or expand upon volunteer programs. Assistance from NPS or the USFS could make a big difference. Also, help increase programs that assist college students with paid internships or paying back college loans in exchange for working outdoors.

Getting more Adults Outdoors - Support Social Marketing and Social Norming – This is one of the best ways to inform leaders, parents and children that getting outdoors is healthy and positive. Social marketing has changed the way we think about litter, forest fires, seatbelts, recycling and more. - Increase CTEP Funding – This is one of the major funding sources for constructing bike/ped trails that are used for commuting and recreation by adults of all ages and abilities and children. Such funding is often used to build bike/ped trails that are completely separate from roads in beautiful greenways, which encourages more adults to ride and exercise when they feel safely separated from auto traffic.

TOOLS NEEDED a. Incentives, regulation, research, and policy supporting the following: i. Emphasize moving people in healthier and more sustainable ways  
ii. Sustainable development and management  
iii. Healthy places and healthy lifestyles

Would be helpful if there were money available for community collaboration. A piece that is missing is a way to provide incentives for youth to participate and ask them what would get them out. Also need to think about access – for example this was held during school and the kids couldn't come.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Missoula, MT*

*(cont.)*

Has been an environmentalist for years; he's never seen an effort like this listening session. He's asked the government agencies to follow up by creating an interagency working group combined with local participants to work together on local issues. There are a lot of people who don't want to do anything different than the way they do things now – coal, oil, etc – and when you are making a lot of money you don't want anyone to break up your game. The state legislature follows the money so it's hard to get things done through that route. But here there are progressive agency people. Let's bring them together with the local citizens to get out from under the money game. Get all outfits to the table and work together to solve the local problems. He asks the top government agencies heads to leave in place a process for the locals to have follow-up to this session. He's very appreciative of our Agency heads coming here and taking this leadership and listening to all of these great ideas. He's inspired by all the great ideas he's heard here and very invigorated by it.

Two issues: Sustainability in the timber industry. There is a way to use these renewable resources. There's a way to use the trees without clearcuts – use the woods at the same time as keeping them growing. Land use ethics: he moved to Kalispell thinking he was coming to a little mountain town and instead found out it had six grocery stores and two Walmarts. He'd think it would be huge if people understood the land that they're destroying by building on it.

Tools for private land conservation - don't forget fracture zones both the scenic landscapes - development in valleys, area between Crown area, Glacier, Blackfeet, etc

Ken Burn's film on parks

Flexibility is a tool that's key

Land and water conservation funding good tools. Advocate for permanent extension to conservation easement incentive tax. Sometimes the public can get access to eas

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Nashville, TN***

Some place (ie. website) where everyone can go to find everything they can do outside.

Compensate landowners for maintaining viewsheds

Engage with strange bedfellows such as developers to plan green space within communities  
change ordinances within local statute to better allow green spaces. Beneficial with developers.

REI in Brentwood. A lot of initiatives to kids outdoors. There is no mission without a margin of profit. Be sure to include the private sector when considering these incentives.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Philadelphia, PA*

Edgar Allan Poe Museum is one of greatest success stories. Museum contains very little, what's important are the stories the rangers tell – “troubadors” – do great job. We need more of this -- CCC type projects -- look for people with this talent, bring places alive again. Set up websites – outdoor enthusiasts; pieces of our heritage out there. Go to the places, the exuberance is there. Need a “processing house.” Help small organizations start websites about tomatoes, wines, saving the foodways of a place. Many disparate pieces that need to be brought together Bring together cultural & environmental history. English do this very well.

Powerful tools that don't cost anything: Preserve America Community Certification signed by President/First Lady. Revive Presidential Awards for Historic Preservation Excellence. Preserve America Program. Take advantage of White House as bully pulpit to elevate Historic Preservation as long overdue priority. Reinvest in Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund- existing federal programs that work. What we have here is a “failure to communicate” great opportunity to build partnerships with organizations who 's job it is to communicate the importance and relevance of History/Nature/Conservation/Preservation such as National Geographic, History Channel, Google(?),

working on a way to meet challenges with post-college age adults, classrooms without walls, electronically through Smartphone, developing step-by-step scenarios

At Independence National Historical Park -- volunteer opportunities are great; a friend of mine leads tours. Lots of people are very interested in history. Many more people could be connected to historic sites as volunteers if opportunities were provided and more publicized.

The sites NPS manages & stories they interpret, NPS is one of largest stewards of African American history in the country. Needs help in how to promote to diverse audiences.

We need digitization of historic resources, put them online for general public, user-friendly. NPS initiative is a good start but can go beyond. Would help raise consciousness about priorities.

youth were not aware of the job opportunities in these preservation and conservation fields, one thing that need to do is increase the knowledge of the job opportunities in diverse communities.

is there a Federal Database that crosses departments and agencies ?? Need a federal networking tool/database to communicate these great programs and ideas in one centralized place (accessible to all - professionals and citizens)

There's a lot the preservation community can still do in terms of advocacy. We have to be more engaged with our legislature. We need to translate that preservation does equal jobs; it contributes to the local economy. Those of us involved need to collect data, use metrics, demonstrate to powers that be. These are projects that do work. Surveys would be great, to know what's out there. The National Trust has launched a huge campaign & we are trying to collect that data. We all know the benefits to the work we do but we need to back it up with data.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Philadelphia, PA*

*(cont.)*

In addition to the Historic Preservation Fund, make preservation a higher priority within the federal government, increase status within various agencies. Section 106 ends up being an afterthought.

environmental education programs and works in conjunction with the parks, do very well getting children, teens, college. Challenge getting post-college age adults to 30-somethings is difficult; getting message out is an issue. Youth do not have a place to go to find places where I can information on job opportunities

We have had success in attracting funding because we can say how many jobs Historic Preservation efforts create. We must all be prepared to answer how many jobs will be generated. Tools needed to help Increase information base and connection Historic Preservation efforts and Broad Job Opportunities and what that economic impact is.

brochures put out through the NPS Rivers and Trails program that provides information, federal government needs to provide better technical assistance for these programs, process need to be streamlined, access to databases and use language that people understand ( no alphabet soup), government doesn't even trust their own employees to use social media networking until recently

reinforce the youth and keep inspiring them. Example- Wyck house –a Quaker homestead in disadvantaged area of phila. Have a farm and farmers market including youth programs, sell seeds, etc. also a good opportunity to buy good food in an area where that is difficult. Connection btw faith and spirit. Only way we will forward in positive way is create sense of stewardship by teaching the children and reeducating the adults. Creating a sense of stewardship and connection is the real challenge. Nexus of environ & cultural. Leads to knowledge of a sense of place. Really what we are all talking about. Seeing who we are where we are from through real places. Think about how urban and natural connect and are not necessarily competing.

Gets lots of assistance – his organization is considered a friend's group. National Heritage Program helps them.

Standardized testing. We can encourage administrators that the NPS are reinforcing what students are going to be tested on. When we think about heritage education, we need to convince history and civic teachers that we are teaching what they are teaching on standardized testing. One reason this doesn't happen is the concern of taking kids out of the classroom and losing time to focus on material on standardized testing.

NPS should be vigorous in research and should be arbiter on building performance and building science. Promulgate a research agenda and make it available.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Philadelphia, PA*

*(cont.)*

Developers have learned that wetlands are not developable in NJ. There is a wonderful overlay in state planning efforts for historic sites and water corridors. If there is a way to marry the awareness/restrictions on site development between historic and environmental. Would be beneficial to pop this overlay into people's awareness. Developers should have the idea that they are entitled to build on things that don't have historic and environment resources. These areas need to be protected from encroachment. Outcomes of the meeting – Have a Cultural Resources Challenge like the NPS challenge years ago so there is a balance between the natural, the cultural and historic. Funding should also be balanced. Battlefields – stepping up the tools we already have and being aggressive in areas that are really threatened to protect battlefields.

need to bring back the Civilian Conservation Corps. Our country is at a time of great unemployment and we need to invest in our gov't infrastructure. Quality construction is key. Concerned that historic preservation is a popularity contest.

echo the sentiments of our European colleague that Americans much change our lifestyle. Education is critical. We are all looking at a local or national scale but need to also look at a regional scale. Most people unaware of resources in their daily lives. Need to find a way to make people aware of the important natural and cultural resources in their midst.

in her youth group today- #1 integrate more environmental ed in school curriculum.

Recommended creating a training program for historic preservation skilled craftsmen. Recommended a cultural Resources Challenge be initiated to strengthen CR program staffing and implementation. Recommended that NPS CR and NR programs be funded at comparable levels. Recommended strengthening support for the Heritage Areas Program to provide more NPS direct services to heritage area partners. Recommended more linkages between natural resource protection and cultural resource protection.

Federal Role helped with infrastructure. It's a wonderful tool.

Save America's Treasures Grant program – it's a critical tool. Special Protection Waters – NPS wrote letter to basin commission for them to come in and do advocacy to protect the drinking water. Working with friend's group is good for education and quality of life realm but not technical realm.

people fight for what they love. Gettysburg doesn't encourage recreation at all. Locals are hostile to NPS b/c have been pushed away in various ways. We could incentivize the relationship btw the federal organizations and the people better.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Philadelphia, PA*

*(cont.)*

Critical tool – designation. Urban sprawl – if there is some agricultural policy to keep people from selling land to developers to make money. Need national agriculture policy that preserves prime farmland so individuals can take action, not a political body. From a natural resource standpoint – the feds need to look at resources that cross state and governmental boundaries so we don't have these bars that hinder us from protecting areas. – i.e. Appalachian Trail

Need to take the next step in alternative energy. And need NPS to take next step in leading the way to develop. NPS should strengthen standards for historic preservation or bring in more technical assistance on guidelines for green buildings and alternative energy. Example: tax credit for installing solar panels but need to put it on a historic building.

Battle lost against casino (sugarhouse site) had more Native American artifacts than other sites in PA are now sitting in archives. At Fed. Gov't level tools like NEPA and USACE could be deployed at these sites would be helpful. Legal structure – there is a weakness in public interest law. Casino bought out law firms and no public interest firms got involved. Citizens groups had trouble finding law firms that were not being paid off by the casino developers. Campaign finance abuse – casino developers were contributors to campaign funds of the governor.

When USACE got involved with casino – USACE brought in a historian from Texas that didn't know the history of the Philadelphia area. The history of USACE is on the sugarhouse casino site. Somehow the system broke down and the system was used against us. Worked to understand and try to the advance idea that historic preservation is green building. (this worked at waterworks in Philadelphia)

need ongoing funding rather than emergency funding when things go bad. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

French perspective- need to change lifestyle. Cultural, natural & LEED is useless if don't change lifestyle- no air conditioning, live in urban areas, use public transportation. Educate the children. They are very concerned about pollution, health issues (fertilizer in streams)

one of the goals of NEPA was to create an inventory of historic resources. Putting the tools in the hands of ordinary citizens to document places that are important to them. Don't hide. Use media ot get out there. 2020 is the anniversary of NEPA - use it to celebrate.

Having more listening sessions, even with each other (outdoors and historic preservation folks talking to each other) would be great. (Follow up question: Are there barriers for you doing this? Mental barriers, no way to facilitate the groups meeting together.) Need guidance on how to translate initiatives into how they can actually work. Need ways to combine values in open space and historic preservation. Needs ways to get volunteers to help w/ historic preservation work. Revisit what the National Register of Historic Places is – many stories don't make it on the list – revisit how inclusive/exclusive the register is.

Full funding for LWCF is one of the Trust for Public Land's main priorities.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Philadelphia, PA*

*(cont.)*

Lot of networking, talking, listening. Listening to what's important and of value to local communities.

Would love to see recommendations on how to first do no harm in historic preservation – not destroying landscapes during transportation planning, etc.

Increase college programs that educate students how to work with historic buildings that maintain their historic fabric and significance. Need to talk with contractors that are doing LEED projects so that they know historic preservation of buildings is important. Historic pres can be profitable – that is what is moving it in Houston, Tx. May need to redefine historic preservation and what is historic and what materials can be considered for historic preservation. Would be great if there were guidelines through the AIA.

Full funding for the historic preservation fund - it is the best way to support local communities and local economies. Reduces pressure to develop new lands – environmental benefits as well. It's a great value for the cost. That cultural resources ar

CW150 – gives us an opportunity to have battlefields be a lasting legacy and this should be taken advantage of.

more flexibility with matching grants, clearer policy, more technical information.

The use of marketing to develop accurate, current, organized, and appealing information on the web

LWCF fully funded and commitment to keep it fully funded. Homeowner tax credits work, but need to get the word out (relatively new program in NY) and would be great to have a companion federal tax credit program. Important that NHAs continue to receive funding.

wants to hear more from \_\_\_\_\_. Interested in ways to raise money.

Database or rating system.

Go to where the audience is! Facebook, Twitter, television, radio, celebrity spokesperson

Integrate to infrastructure - transport etc. - public bus you can hop on for \$1, even if, once a week, the bus went to a different park. A sort of Megabus learning trip. Direct, safe, easy inexpensive, youth friendly.

Social media - use more - is there an ipod app for NPS?

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

I'm a Hudson River navigator and through American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Also works here at Marist and represents local community groups. Bringing people out are surely things promoted by the grass roots, local community. Opportunities to partner with federal government. Every local community has different needs and it could be recreation or natural resource conservation. But we need to stress connecting people through the rich sites that we have, cultural, historical and environmental. Additional resources that would help our efforts? Coming from the American Heritage Rivers Initiative – 14 rivers that work together. Tools we need from federal government is for federal government to be engaged, but not just through one agency, but inter-agency task forces. It's not once size fits all. We worked with an interagency task force. Can be such a tremendous tool, because if I go to USDA and I'm not talking about farm, it's not a part of the USDA priority of projects, if we could crossover and USDA is partnering with the American Council of Historic Preservation or NPS is involved, then they will recognize needs of local communities are not one size fits all. We need to work across agencies. We also need to re-engage what the federal government has already invested. We constantly struggle with where we belong, because the American Heritage Rivers is not part of an overarching organization. Where do we evolve? Maybe what we do is partner with some of those local initiatives to reengage them and make them part of the project. The challenges are, of course, money. We need to see the federal investment across all agencies. The role can be great. We've seen across our history much investment and it is a golden opportunity.

What works to engage people are community gardens, school gardens, theme farms, fresh air farms, things to get kids out and experience their environment and to understand the food system. Community gardens are a fabulous way to get people even in small spaces in urban environments to connect with the outdoors, to preserve that land. Tools/resources – public land trusts, protection of land rights for community gardens, assistance of soil remediation in brownfields and urban areas, sites that exist and are neglected, mini-grants, funding to get school gardens going, efforts to bring fresh food to children. Challenges – state and local regulations that are seen as barriers right now. Lack of incentives, short term goals for development that fragments the land and takes land out of production as a green space. Green spaces or community gardens being sold. Maybe if they are sold could have some percentage of the fund be put into a coffer – when public land is sold, to put some of that money into a coffer to use for other public lands, soil remediation, etc. Food modernization act is an opportunity to amend that in certain ways not to overburden small producers. Can't be one size fits all, right now it's five hundred dollar blanket fee for every farmer that participates. We need to mitigate that and make it more flexible for small farmers or a variety of farmers.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

I'm here today as an independent professional fundraiser who's worked in parks, gardens, arts related. I want to second what \_\_\_\_\_ said about interagency. Inter-agency approach is essential. When you are dealing with a park, you are dealing with a designed landscape. It can't just be seen as grass mowing. I work for two different Olmstead parks. One has challenges just to keep the trees trimmed, to keep the design intact. Needs historic preservation money and recreational tourism money. As far as activating this, I think that what works is to plot activities to connect people through various methods – slow food, future farmers, etc. Get kids out of the classroom and on to farms and in farm areas. There is no excuse for not getting kids out of the classroom more. Water is also very important and kids haven't had any experience with water and it's very important to educate them about water safety. Every year kids die because they don't know how to swim.

Kids learning how to bike on the walkway because there's no traffic and it's safe. That's the biggest impediment to walking and biking. The traffic free trails, the Walkway is a perfect example of kids walking, learning how to bike, there's not a car in sight. . It's safer and parents are more comfortable taking kids there. I don't think any emphasis is given to getting people out without cars. That's bad because of gas, obesity. Trails, even shoulders on the road are important, 4 ft shoulder gives the ability for bike safety when it's low speeds. Any new roads that are constructed should take that into account. I know it's expensive but it's more expensive to try to fight obesity.

Find a connection to the environment where food comes from where fresh air. Putting funding into programs that train leaders and let people know what the agencies/organizations do.

Get kids out and educate on the ground at farms. More focus should be on hands on education, not on test scores.

Get over apathy toward the environment

Get past human narcissism. Get people in the environment

Ag education should be taught in elementary school. They are our future. I just learned a lot of this. Pesticides and Herbicides should be made illegal

More funding for programs for Fresh Air,etc. More media coverage so kids can learn.

Spent week at camp upstate. I have seen kids afraid of bugs and the outside be transformed. Programs like that are suffering from cut funding. Need to understand that those programs are important.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

We need more environmental education (works with Fresh Air Fund) hosts local schools to come and do overnights and other programs. Budget cuts, have resulted in EE being cut out of their programs

To graduate from HS you should have some type of class on environmental ed. Like math, etc.

Maybe environmental classes can be a mandatory credit like health. Should be universal knowledge. I went to DEC camps as well. I have also others not interested learn and get excited. We need more funding for these types of camps.

Exposure is important. Education as well. Get people to understand they can make a difference. We need to expose kids to what is wrong with the environment so they understand what's wrong with our environment.

A basic class may make kids hate the environment. We should have random club nights in parks so people can have a good time in the park. Music, planting things exploring. Not forced to do it.

All schools should have composting across America. Recycle in lunch room. Education programs would teach people why it is important. All schools should have composting across America. Recycle in lunch room. Education programs would teach people why it is important.

More funding for programs like Green Team. We are leading the mission. Need to keep us and others alive with funding. Local garden programs would help as well.

Transportation is important. People in city don't even know you can take subway to beach. Fares keep increasing. We need to get people out there.

Transportation is important. If there was a bus that took me to the Hudson valley area from the city I would do it. Kids need to be able to do retreats for a weekend. I drive but gas is not good right now. When in the city you start to think that there is nothing out there other than buildings.

There are a lot of awesome programs out there. People are full of innovated ideas. What if there was a green council nationally that was connected to grass roots groups. Help with funding and transportation, etc

NaturalAccess™ – Each year, parks and nature centers are visited by an increasing number of people with a variety of physical, cognitive, and learning disabilities. Taking steps to accommodate people with disabilities improves program effectiveness for all audiences by incorporating a variety of learning styles and supported by appropriate aids and services. Mohonk Preserve's NatureAccess™ program provides outdoor leaders with training in specific strategies and accommodations. A hands-on workshop provides participants with effective educational strategies for adapting and modifying programs, advances planning, and the skills to modify on the fly.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

No Child Left Inside – Environmental education can help us understand the connections between economic prosperity, environmental health, and our own well being. However, studies consistently reveal that the U.S. Public suffers from a tremendous environmental literacy gap that appears to be increasing. When integrated into the core curricula or used as an integrating theme across the curriculum, environmental education has a measurably positive impact not only on student achievement in science, but also in reading, math, and social studies. For over two decades, the Preserve has been a leader in environmental education through our partnerships with local school districts and universities. The Preserve strongly encourages passage of the No Child Left Inside Act.

Scenic Byways – An 88-mile byway encircles the northern Shawangunk Mountains and travels through the Rondout and Wallkill valleys, linking communities that have a common relationship to the northern Shawangunks and forming a distinct region of the state with its own special character. An inter-municipal partnership implements a corridor management plan to help improve transportation systems and to advance a mutual goal of gaining economic growth through tourism while preserving the important natural and cultural resources of the region. The Preserve is located in the heart of the Byway.

What we need now is to establish incentive and funding to assist with the discovery and exploration of the imperative outdoor experience. This promotion can be as simple as encouraging walks in the forest.

We need to raise \$2 million dollars for the purchase of the property in order to realize this great dream. If you'd like to be involved with our funding in the next six months we welcome it.

Use the plan to inform allocation of resources - For example, Parks and Trails New York's Healthy Trails, Healthy People program is funded by the Healthy Heart Program of the NYS Department of Health to specifically provide technical and community organizing support to low-income rural and urban communities to help them develop new trails or promote and increase the use of existing trails because low income rural and urban population have been identified as those who most often fail to meet daily physical activity targets.

Develop user-friendly and standardized processes for data gathering and work with local colleges and universities to undertake surveys that will more accurately determine park and trail usage, visitor dollars spent, issues of safety, and property value impacts.

Capacity building grants can provide much needed assistance with activities associated with organizational start-up and development, training, communications, and volunteer recruitment and management - activities often not funded by more program-focused public and private grants. Two examples demonstrate the value of this approach.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

In NYS, the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, a public-private partnership involving the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Land Trust Alliance, provides competitive matching grants for qualified NYS land trusts to build organization capacity, strengthen partnerships with state and local government, and support critical program to conserve land across the state. Since 2003, the program has awarded almost \$4 million in grants to 67 land trusts and leveraged more than \$10 million in private funds.

A private donor has made it possible to PTNY to award \$30,000 in capacity building grants to park and trail not for profits in the last two years that has helped 17 organizations grow their membership, develop new promotional materials, and increase public usage of their trail or park. To illustrate the magnitude of the need, we received eight applications for every one that we funded.

During our 25 years of existence, it has been gratifying to note that more and more communities - from the most rural towns and villages to large cities - recognize the value of parks and trails and want to either expand what they have or create new resources. While they are very willing to contribute time and materials from volunteers and/or their work force, rarely do many of these municipalities have sufficient resources to fully undertake these often costly projects. But, this is why the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stateside program, the transportation enhancements programs, and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program have been so beneficial as they have helped many communities establish their first-ever park, trail or pedestrian path for their residents.

Fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and equalizing the federal and stateside allocations to put more dollars in the hands of state and local governments to undertake local conservation and park and trail projects, especially in underserved areas

Increasing funding for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program - Parks and Trails New York has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the RTCA program staff and have worked with them directly on several New York trail projects. We know first-hand how highly the RTCA program is regarded and how effectively it has helped communities, large and small, urban and rural, build trails all across the state. For many New York cities, towns and villages it is the only contact they ever have with the Department of the Interior. Some examples of New York trails that the RTCA staff have helped launch include the 350-mile Erie Canalway Trail, 58-mile Champlain Canalway Trail, 90-mile Genesee Valley Greenway, and the Walkway over the Hudson.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

In the enclosed package we have offered you brief descriptions of what is happening here in the Hudson Valley followed by proposals for action by the federal government that can boost our efforts to new heights. Here in the Hudson Valley, we have created inventories of the top priority lands that must be preserved, and we have a cadre of 17 land trusts working together with limited private and state funds to save them during this period of low real estate prices. We have an action agenda for restoring the health of our Hudson River National Estuary and connecting people with the river, reflecting broad consensus among key governmental and NGO stakeholders. To be blunt, the missing ingredient in most cases is money. We would urge you to work within existing authorizations and programs to bring funds to bear to implement these conservation initiatives.

Enact new tax tools, including the enhanced federal conservation easement tax incentive, to help farmers and private landowners conserve family lands. Allow landowners to deduct a larger portion of their income over a longer time period. Permanent expansion would be a tremendous boon to conservation by landowners not wealthy enough to take advantage of current reduced incentives.

Federal resources and legislation will provide a mandate to connect children to the great outdoors, enabling the valley's environmental educators to broaden the reach of their place-based work into underserved communities and provide new places to engage schoolchildren with nature.

Jumpstart the newly created National Tourism Office; fund regional events in the Hudson Valley. Federal funds will be leveraged by state investments via the Hudson River Valley Greenway and I Love NY campaign.

Waterfront revitalization for the river and lakeshore communities through grant offerings, small business loans and regional planning

#### LWCF Appropriations

Improve the amount of funding and federal cost share portion of the Farmland and Ranchland Protection program (USDA NRCS- Cost-share is currently 50% and no transaction costs are covered) As the fastest growing county in NYS with the largest industrial de

Make federal grants for transaction costs and for building stewardship endowments to provide ongoing stewardship of conservation lands and easements

Make LWCF funds a dedicated fund and make them available to nonprofit land trusts, who do the local community's conservation work.

Make the enhanced income tax incentive for property owners who conserve their land PERMANENT.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

We ask that the administration consider the connections between transit and parks. For example, adding shuttles from transit hubs, like then Poughkeepsie train station or the New Palts bus terminal, to local attractions.

Funding for informational hardcopy and electronic informational materials, plans and construction of recreation resources.

Greater access to technical assistance like that provided by the RTCA Program.

#### Conservation Corps and Green Jobs (U.S. Department of Labor)

New York faces environmental a range of problems that will require a greatly expanded and diversified workforce to manage: stewardship of 4.4 million acres of state conservation land; dilapidated state and municipal parks; homes that need weatherization to conserve energy; a growing list of invasive species and damaged ecosystems. With funding from the U.S Department of Labor, NYSDEC and our sister agencies could initiate a summer youth employment program focused natural resource conservation and stewardship projects. We would envision placing unemployed young adults at as forty regional facilities such as field headquarters, fish hatcheries and education centers to where participants would work as part of existing DEC crews on projects such as trail maintenance, campground upgrades, invasive species removal, tree plantings, and ADA enhancements.

Participants would also gain jobs skills training in key construction trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electric, masonry and painting, with an emphasis on developing skills in weatherization and energy efficiency. The training would include both classroom-based and on-the-job skills development,

#### Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program (USFS), while currently underfunded, has proven to be an effective tool when resources are available. The Department of Environmental Conservation has used Legacy funding to acquire key working forest conservation easements that have worked extremely well to keep forest land in private ownership with sustainable management requirements and strategic public recreation rights. While New York has developed highly effective conservation easement programs for forest and farm land protection, the current fiscal crisis has diminished the ability of New York's Environmental Protection Fund, to sustain these efforts. Absent scarce state resources there is a great need for federal funding to support these critical state programs.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy made a pledge to the nation that, as this country exploited offshore oil and gas resources, the proceeds would be invested through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) into the outdoor recreation needs of the states and local communities. It worked, and worked well to re-connect people to the outdoors in their own communities. The state side of the LWCF has been used in the past by virtually every community in New York State to acquire and build local parks and preserves. We are encouraged that legislation is pending in Congress to fully fund the state side of the LWCF; this would address an immediate and pressing need that can quickly help the AGO meet many of its goals to reconnect Americans to nature and promote community based recreation and conservation. In New York, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation administers this program in conjunction with funding from the State Environmental Protection Fund. The infusion of new federal funding could re-invigorate this program and stimulate extensive local conservation and recreation projects.

Other Department of Interior programs that need additional funding, as well as a temporary reduction in the state match requirement in light of states' dire fiscal situations, include the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). Both programs have been instrumental in conserving valuable wetland and coastal habitats and leveraging private investments and support from not-for-profit partners.

#### Tax Incentives for Land Conservation

In 2006, New York passed and implemented a state Conservation Easement Tax Credit (CETC), which offers landowners a refundable tax credit up to \$5,000 per year to offset the property tax burden on lands for which a conservation easement was donated to a qualified conservation organization. The CETC has proved to be a benefit to both the public and landowners. Similarly, the federal conservation easement tax incentive enhancements, first enacted in 2006, have increased the rate of land conservation benefiting landowners and the public. The enhancements raise the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50%; allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements from 5 to 15 years. While initially enacted for the period of one year and extended each year, the enhancements expired at the end of the 2009 calendar year. New York enthusiastically supports the renewal of these enhancements and making them permanent.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

#### Sustainable Food Sources and Agricultural Education

It is or should be axiomatic that the best way to learn about the environment is to experience it directly. A unique program in New York, Operation Explore, offers New York City public school students in grades four through six the opportunity to link classroom science activities with the outdoors. Three distinct but interrelated environments—aquatic, farm, and forest—are explored through hands-on day and overnight experiences. At Stony Kill Farm, a 1,000 acre environmental education center operated by NYSDEC in Dutchess County, students learn how their food is produced and discover the interdependence of urban and agricultural communities. Everyone gets to see and do things they may have never experienced before: a chance to grind corn, feed cows and chickens, and use their senses to explore plants in the greenhouse, and run or walk around the perimeter of an acre to get a sense of its dimensions. Funding from NPS and partners to continue and expand Operation Explore would enhance our opportunities to inform urban youth about the importance of agriculture and natural resource protection.

Implementation of the HREP Action Agenda relies on partnerships with federal and state agencies, as well as local municipalities, non-profits, academic and scientific institutions, businesses, trade organizations, landowners and dedicated volunteers. The Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee provides guidance to the program, helps the state define goals and evaluate progress, and provides a communication bridge to a wider group of partners and stakeholders.

DEC would like to replicate this successful model in other key state watersheds, including the Mohawk Valley and the Upper Hudson River, Long Island Sound, the ocean on the south shore of Long Island, and the watersheds of the Great Lakes. Cooperation and financial support from several federal programs including the National Heritage Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve program, and support for water quality monitoring and geographic mapping has made it possible for the HREP to be effective in its mission. Similar partnerships will be integral to the successful replication of the HREP in other areas of the state.

This year, Governor Paterson and Mayor Bloomberg requested a necessary and appropriate increase in federal funds for HREP through the EPA National Estuary Program that would address issues in the Raritan River in New Jersey, the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary and the Hudson River Estuary. The request for \$52 million for FFY 2011 (copy of letter attached) would implement the existing, consensus-based plans for the restoration of these estuaries: the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (prepared by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Army Corp of Engineers in partnership with the New York-New Jersey HEP) and the related Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda (developed by New York State in conjunction with federal, local, and not-for-profit partners).

The Hudson River Estuary Program is an excellent model that could be replicated in watersheds with additional federal funding.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Poughkeepsie, NY***

***(cont.)***

Wastewater infrastructure investment and green infrastructure incentives

New York's wastewater infrastructure is in decline and needs at least \$36.2 billion in funding over the next 20 years to address the needs of aging, failing and new facilities. [See DEC's report: "A Gathering Storm" <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/42383.html>] An enhanced, consistent commitment of federal funding is absolutely essential to protect this vast and essential infrastructure whose failure will result in irreparable harm to our waters, imperil the health of our citizens and ecosystems and cause havoc to our economy. And as we work to upgrade these critical facilities, we also need to think of new approaches to protect our waters. New York has been working closely with the EPA to (1) make our state revolving fund (i.e. Clean Water SRF and/or Drinking Water SRF) more sustainable by examining how it could better support smart growth, energy efficiency, and asset management, and (2) support better wet weather controls and the need to adapt to a changing climate by encouraging the wider use of so-called "green infrastructure" projects to protect natural resources.

On the first point, DEC and the state's water financing Environmental Facilities Corporation have been working to ensure that projects funded through the SRF do not promote sprawling, unsustainable growth, setting priorities instead on repairs and enhancements of existing infrastructure and support for downtowns and historic town centers. The SRF can be an effective tool for promoting wise local land use planning, and to the extent feasible, finance projects that are consistent with existing land use plans. It also can and should promote wastewater treatment facilities that maximize energy efficiency.

New York State has encouraged the wider use of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund provide financial support to local governments to implement comprehensive green infrastructure programs. NYSDEC's vision of an enhanced green infrastructure program includes assistance to local governments and NGO's to identify and incorporate green approaches into plans to address water infrastructure needs and to develop local programs to protect resources through landowner incentive programs, sensible land use regulations, conservation easements and best management practices. The requirement in ARRA and Federal Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation that 20% of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund appropriations be used for the green project should become the norm in future SRF funding determinations.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

#### Environmental Education Grants

The Environmental Education Grants Program provides seed money to support environmental education projects that increase the public's awareness about environmental issues and provides them with the skills to pursue responsible courses of actions. Smaller grants to local schools and communities have supported hands-on education programs on ecological topics and provided teacher trainings to enhance environmental literacy within schools and neighborhoods. Larger grants have fostered the development of programs with wider focus, such as online teacher trainings in environmental education. With additional funding, standards-based national environmental education curriculums such as Project WILD, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and Project Learning Tree could be offered to a wider range of audiences, providing educators with both skills and knowledge to infuse environmental education into the broad spectrum of their topics. Continued and enhanced support for these grants would allow states to expand existing partnerships, establish environmental literacy plans and a database of resources for educators and community members.

Increased and consistent funding to support federal, state, and local conservation, including full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF investments ensure continued protection of America's public lands and enhance public access to recreation through grants to states, counties and cities. Federal funds like the LWCF that leverage state and local investment in outdoor recreation lands are critical to a successful conservation outcome and require active partnerships among federal, state, and local governments. Increased funding for LWCF should include a competitive matching grant component to incentivize state and local investments in conservation.

Without full, dedicated funding to LWCF, critical land and water conservation needs and opportunities in New York may be lost forever.

Focused federal coordination and investment to support landscape conservation. Integrated landscape conservation that addresses both public and private working lands is the most effective strategy to achieve water security for people and fisheries; protect forest systems that provide carbon sequestration, recreational use, and filter pollutants; and establish connective corridors to ensure adaptive distribution of habitat for wildlife species most vulnerable to climate change. New public-private partnerships that leverage existing federal conservation programs and new federal resources in combination with state, local, and private funding to achieve landscape conservation objectives are integral to these efforts.

3. Federal funding for the NY Conservation Partnership Program, (for capacity building, conservation programs, and transaction costs), is needed. New York's Hudson Valley land trusts and LTA's NY Conservation Partnership Program have created a very successful growth environment for New York State land trusts.

Overdevelopment in the Hudson Valley is a serious threat to: Food security in the NY Metro Area; New York State's agricultural economy; Wildlife migration corridors; Clean water; Tourism economy, both to historic and rural areas.

Please fund: NYDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program, NY Conservation Partnership Program

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

Habitat Restoration funding.

Funding and leadership for landscape level GI plan that considers Environmental Services, local food, smart growth, wildlife habitat connectivity, Environmental justice, climate change, urban heat islands, green jobs, trail systems, containment levels, etc.(GIS based).

Zero access to Hudson River in Town of Newburgh. The City of Newburgh has 400 ft of access. Feds bought riverfront years ago and sold it to private business. EPA bought a large parcel recently. Would like to see access to river for community, not condos or restaurants. People and kids don't get out on river and don't know about it.

EPA has control of property. Make it into a park. Don't sell it to developers. Don't understand why that happens.

What works. State has member items to get money to small groups that get things done.

NY/NJ Trail Conference has dealt with hiking trails for 90 years. Hiking is a low cost part of a healthy lifestyle. Walkway over the Hudson and areas in New Paltz are good examples of access to hiking areas. Public Officials should be seen outside on the trails as examples. Many afraid to go out-doors and parents can't educate when they are afraid or haven't done it. People new to hiking in nature ask us questions like "what do you do about mosquitoes"? Need Education. Urban Parks are a backyard for children. Partnerships are important. Me and my husband are working with bike riders to create trails in our town. We hope the Town will work with this.

35000 acres of Parkland n NYC. It is the backyard to many children. Urban areas need to be included. Problem in urban areas is alienation of parkland. It is too easy for land uses to change and it is not preserved as open space. Urban areas have natural areas too. Our cities and council people are selling our historic and natural areas. Oldest part of Poughkeepsie settled by the Dutch. As mayor I acquired the property to access walkway over the Hudson. Can't make these types of areas inaccessible to people. Friends of the Upper Landing with partners hope to build a bridge (taken from Dutch technology) and help restore old buildings. Need to pursue global projects to boost tourism.

Parks and Trails and Greenways need to be treated as the "main dish" not the side as far as infrastructure. Fully fund the land trusts and heritage area programs. Communities are changing in a tourism economy. NY has a lot of history in the Hudson Valley. Heritage areas need to be connected. Create programs to allow all grass root organizations to have access to funding. River and Trails program thru NPS is only access for tech assistance for many. Needs to have continued funding. The River and Trails program is the only place to preserve, expand and continue the program.

Part of organization to bring back the night sky. Full cutoff lighting promotes tax savings and gives view of night sky. Incorrect lighting changes life cycles of some animals in sound. They move to the Town lights rather than to the moon light. Web site: [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

Historic Preservation When your restore areas of historic sites you keep open spaces open. Funded from Fossil Fuel Resources. Need full funding for historic preservation as well. Conservation and preservation should work hand in hand.

Have seen good and bad of conservation actions over years. NY has over 14000 public/private recreation areas. Each State has unique goals. Local needs are different than out west. National goals not only goals. They may not fit every state. Need to look at needs over the country. NE has more open space than bi areas out west. Needs across NY are all similar. Groups need to communicate across the state and the country. A lot of innovative ideas are out there. Don't re-invent the wheel.

Land and water conservation fund funded most of the parks in the 60's and 70's . It has been a long time since it had an impact. Asking Feds to fully fund this fund. Need it off budget. Need to keep it in the parks. This money gets lost or taken up in federal budget.

The City of Yonkers has only 50 yards of access to the Hudson River. 4th largest city in the state. We see over 15,000 kids a year and they never see or get to the water. Education is an important component. Don't forget the kids that need to touch the water. Stop Hydro-fracking from happening.

Purpose is to connect people to natural resources and history and culture. Please include Americas Byways as equal partners with the park service and others in this initiative. Make sure funding programs are not for just bricks and mortar. Have some for grass root organizations that bring people together. Volunteering is an American activity. These people in these groups can spend funds wisely.

Residential program that get kids to forests and farms is important. Need at lease fed funding.

Put emphasis on hands on learning rather than tests. We can't pay for a bus to get 5 miles to get kids outside in nature. Kids in rural areas don't get out either. We need to build a passion for outdoors.

Working on statewide agenda. Pass not child left inside. Make sure every kid gets outdoor education for every year they are in school. I work with little kids and see the benefit. Test scores go up, illnesses go down. Teachers aren't trained to take kids out. Transportation is a huge issue. Encourage outdoor jobs for youth.

Signs off for environmental education aid for state. Disconnect for administrators at schools. They need to be educated on value of outside hands on training. New teachers are trained on pass tests. The teachers who are retiring are the ones that had the hands on experience.

Too much emphasis on testing. College campuses are great resources for local organizations. College kids and help reach out to youth and non-profits.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

We just celebrated 400 years of history in NY. We celebrated by making everything sustainable and built 3 big projects. Walkway over Hudson, Crown Point Lighthouse and Governor's Island. We have seen thousands of tourists. We had several events including River Day. We brought together every single constituent. This initiative can build on momentum of this celebration.

Environmental movement is future to our society. Yesterday was a great event. We need to pull the youth in. Good diversity in youth. We want to become a model in the nation as we have been in the past. Include young at the table and young people with solutions. Create a CCC but on the level with kids involved.

Have an idea. Raise your hand if you believe that anything is possible. We always hear we need more funding. What if what we do is profitable? All the groups that are here. Small gardens in the Bronx can't produce enough. But if all the groups work together we can produce enough to sell and make our own money. For example Rockin the boat builds boats. They are not for profit but they don't need money. They are making their own. The Carpenter School in Maine only gets a little bit of funding. They sell what the kids make. Think Profit.

Teach the right kind of things to youth. Take kids outdoors. Spiritual growth is more important than physical growth. Spend time with kids outdoors. Parents need to get kids involved in the environment.

Parkways, protect plants that are growing. Education important.

Preservation of unprotected lands: Full funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Preservation of unprotected lands: Increase funding for Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)

Preservation of unprotected lands: Create "Better America Bonds" for land protection and habitat restoration where local and state governments can issue bonds whose interest is paid by a federal tax credit. Local governments only repay the principal to the bondholder. This would highly incentivize local investment in these measures.

Restoration of aquatic systems: Increase funding of National Estuary Program (NEP), National Estuary Research Reserves (NERR).

Restoration of aquatic systems: Fund EPA Healthy Watersheds Program

Reducing non-point pollution inputs from lands in the watershed: EPA funding of the State Revolving Fund for storm water and sewer system upgrades.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

Reducing non-point pollution inputs from lands in the watershed: FEMA funding for post-storm recovery funding for removal of septic and sewer systems.

Reducing non-point pollution inputs from lands in the watershed: EPA funding of Coastal Zone management Act's "6217" program to develop and implement coastal nonpoint pollution control programs.

Maximizing existing federal LWCF program: Expand federal-side LWCF's eligible project areas to include the watersheds of nationally recognized estuaries, such as those designated by the National Estuary Program and National Estuarine Research Reserves. This would give National Estuaries the same status as National Rivers, and enable accessing federal-side LWCF.

Ensuring flexibility for federal programs to allow cross-cutting work and funding for common goals: Encourage and allow federal agencies to collaborate across agency lines, connect and focus existing federal programs within project areas and make the spending of those funds more flexible to meet local needs. Several programs (EPA's Nep, NPS's LWCF, NOAA's NERR, FWS's numerous habitat programs) have common goals of estuary protection, but the programs exist in silos, with little or no ability to fund or work together to meet local needs. A National Estuary Program should have access to NPS's LWCF for watershed land protection and FWS's staff for habitat protection. Local branches of Federal agencies should have more ability to implement grants and programs, collaboratively, in ways that fit a particular place.

Recommendation 3: Investing in public and private efforts to create jobs and connect young people with nature. In today's increasingly urban and digital world, many young people are growing up disconnected from nature. This trend poses a serious threat to the future of conservation, the environmental sciences and environment-based jobs. The more disconnected today's youth are from natural areas, the less likely they are to care about nature later in life. If left unchecked, these trends could rob the conservation movement of its future leaders, and rob our future generations of experiences of our natural world.

Expedite DOI completion of the Hudson River Valley Special Resources Study. Ensure it references protecting scenic lands visible from National Historic Sites and calls for federal funds to meet this need.

Aggressively address the DOI National Historic Landmark committee's 2-year backlog of applications; prioritize review of valley applications. An application was filed in 2008 for West Point Foundry Preserve, awaiting transformation into a heritage-tourism destination. Without approval of NHL designation, it is ineligible for federal grants.

Pass legislation to make the enhanced federal conservation easement tax incentive permanent.

Enact transferable tax credits for land conservation.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

Increase federal support of the NYS Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda to \$52 million.

Extend funding beyond the NY/NJ Harbor Program to the entire estuary up to the Troy Dam. Rename program accordingly.

Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); expand Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) funding. Develop new criteria to support protection and restoration of federally designated estuarine habitats. Make land trusts eligible recipients of these funds.

Expedite completion of the Hudson River Valley Special Resources Study Act. Ensure it includes plans for conserving important natural areas that buffer historic sites, contain habitat for key species and provide recreation.

Increase funding to protect coastal habitats through the Coastal Estuarine Land Protection program (CECLP). Prioritize funds to projects that protect the Hudson's most important freshwater tidal habitats or expand the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Enhance technical capacity available through NOAA, USGS and FEMA. Prioritize technical support in areas where sea-level rise threatens critical habitats, recreational access and key public infrastructure.

Increase support for the Clean Water Revolving Loan and State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. Broaden the SRF to include green infrastructure projects that protect natural systems as tools to buffer urban areas and natural resources against rising waters, storm surges and floods associated with climate change.

Direct transportation funding to inventory and convert abandoned rail beds into trails; fill gaps in existing trails. Improve safety and access for pedestrians and bicycles on public roadways.

Include provisions in the new federal transportation bill to require states to use enhancement funds for trails and non-highway projects, including public access to federal waterways for recreation.

Require that rail lines owned by operators receiving federal subsidies open access to federal waterways.

The DOI should expedite completion of the Hudson River Valley Special Resources Study (Rep. Hinchey, Sen. Gillibrand sponsors). Ensure it references the importance of providing links between city and town centers and outlying open spaces, recreational lands and historic sites.

Expand "National Recreation Trail" designation beyond Walkway Over the Hudson to include other trails; accompany with funding to enhance the trail system and related recreation in trailside communities.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

Support the Clean Water Revolving Loan program and State Revolving fund (SRF) - a critical tool for mitigating flood damage and providing clean water. Broaden the SRF to include green infrastructure projects that create soft-engineered systems.

Federal funding for communities/municipalities to sample and report on water quality. Improving water quality must be a priority in any valley/river-wide initiative, because it implicates so many other issues - recreation, ecosystem health, public health, tourism (economic benefits). Federal funding for local governments to sample and report on water quality in their part of the river is a fundamental way to engage the public on creating solutions and augment existing environmental education programs.

Establishing a Clean Water Trust Fund. Such a fund would bridge the major gap between needs and availability and ensure that counties and municipalities have a reliable, steady source of funding to address water infrastructure needs. A dedicated Clean Water Trust fund would establish the equitable distribution of funds across the board, regardless of a community's size or location.

Restore the Hudson estuary and its shore lands. The NYS Hudson river Estuary Program has engaged more than 500 partners to restore and manage critical habitats and systems in our watershed, yet federal funding for our nationally significant estuary is virtually non-existent. Governor Paterson and NYC Mayor Bloomberg have issued a request for \$52 million in funds for the NY.NJ Harbor Estuary Program and NYS Hudson River Estuary Program from the national Estuary Program to save what may be the last eastern river to have viable spawning stocks of ocean-going fish. This investment will sustain the Hudson river as a vital natural resource that is appreciated by the 1 in 12 Americans who live within an hour's drive of its shores.

One tool that helps work of conserving landscapes is additional planning money from feds and state, but think that fed interest could provide incentives for smart growth. New EPA initiative is "sustainable communities" - would like to see that tracked and success of that understood and expanded to other fed agencies that could be more involved in smart growth. Currently Hudson River Valley doesn't qualify as region because program is based on small urban areas, but please look into allowing National Heritage Corridors to apply. Heritage areas might be good to manage mega-regions on behalf of numerous small communities. National Heritage Areas always struggle for funding each year and would like NPS to fund always.

Every year, every NGO and local agency worries about where money is going to come - anxiety, lobbying, time and resources spent on this. Feds should make financial commitments to fund air, land, water, systems that is reliable, not year to year. Shouldn't be difficult to provide for these systems.

FRPP is needed. Dramatic increase in farmland protection funds. Would be helpful if land trusts could apply for funds directly.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

There are great partnerships with EPA and NRCS. Specifically for NRCS in this region, an investment in urban conservation issues is needed because these are complicated. Technical assistance needs to return to support locals. Feds could also help in ag environmental management— in NY there is great Ag Environmental Management Program – but what happens is that when fed programs get delivered to state, the state has to override/adjust them instead of working cooperatively because feds don't look at what state/local programs already exist. Feds could look closer at effective state programs and invest in them so fed goals are being accomplished. It takes lots of trouble to get funds for successful programs. EPA in particular looks for “next magic bullet” and thinks there are no successes in this valley and this state. Maybe not so important to find this “bullet”.

Thanks for growing the food upstate and providing water. We want more people to ship upstate ag goods downstate by water and not by road to reduce oil usage and traffic. We need docks and piers. Youth need to be involved and work on ships to develop a sense of community and love for the river.

The Hudson River watershed is a community with many different local governments. What doesn't work is a lot of different parks that charge their own admission and you can get one pass for all the non-state parks for each park in different towns. This discourages recreation. There are great parks, but they Bay way is identifying wonderful spots to kayak and routes. Resources are not available or known to people. Wants a pass that is good for lots of parks.

\_\_\_\_\_ agrees with other commentators, especially regarding the lack of funding for DEC. She is concerned with the impact of untreated sewage on streams (combined sewer overflows). There needs to be more funding for infrastructure. NYS has within its jurisdiction ways for fine money to go back into the community and that should be done. Municipalities need to be fined if there is water quality violations and have that money go back into the community.

\_\_\_\_\_ grew up in the Bronx 30 years ago and had lots of outdoor recreational opportunities. Indian Point used to be a park. There are less areas for recreation in cities currently. We have to change the political discourse so that the public language has to be more inclusive. Everyone needs to pull together with people working together regardless of political affiliation. Sea level rise is a national security issue. He would like to see an increase in EPA and NOAA budgets.

Need more real time monitoring (Beacon Institution is doing some of that). Would like to see a model of what is happening on the river. More funding is needed for real time monitoring. Science education is needed and training for teachers on how to teach kids to learn science hands on.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Poughkeepsie, NY*

*(cont.)*

\_\_\_ wants to commend the federal groups for holding this session. Kids need to know how to swim. 69% of African American teens can't swim. 42% of white teens can't swim. We need to do a lot more to teach young people to swim. The CCC provided infrastructure in the 1930s that is still used today. NYS closed parks and the Feds stepped in requiring state to keep open fed. funded parks. Please build in accountability in federal grants. Write in assurance that parks using fed money require that they remain open. Build in enforcement that money is spent in compliance.

AGO is also in our back yards and ecosystem services should be a top priority. Funding and research on new education initiatives, and infrastructure.

Would like to get federal money to improve outdoor access. Dairy farms need to be able to make more money. Implement tax credits or raise milk prices so dairy farms can stay in business.

All river and estuary programs-make all of them one program and give them elevated status. Combine federal designations to work better together. Make them all eligible for federal money. Better coordination and resources among federal agencies. If you want to connect people with nature put nature where people are. It has to be accessible to people in urban population centers. Federal money needs to go to urban center parks. Concentrate and prioritize on national estuaries.

Reconnect people with landscapes and connect landscapes with each other from headwaters and tributies to main stem. Provide additional funding to remove dams. Support legislation to increase F&W service programs. Find ways to provide federal incentives so farmers don't have to sign natural gas drilling leases.

The Hudson River estuarine research reserve is part of a little known partnership program. They have something to contribute. Use science based management practices. Get people to connect with the resources from youth to policy makers and how to plug for the program. Please fund and connect to other initiatives. We have to keep climate change and sea level rise front and center. Relates to public access, wonderful array of public access site, a lot of those will be under water with sea level rise. Keen interest in seeing energy conservation.

Wildlife Conservation Society educates Kids about the river in the Bronx, has had success. Don't forget the urban population! Need to have outdoor experiences in urban centers. So important to inner city youth. CSOs are the biggest threat to the Bronx River and stormwater runoff.

Would like people to have access to water quality information. Infrastructure investment is desperately needed. We need a water quality (sewage system) infrastructure! Needs enforcement of laws. EPA has a role. Waste-water treatment budget has plummeted in EPA. Need to have a robust prescence so permits are more strict. Wants fed government to invest in infrastructure and enforcement. Hydrofracing what is EPA's jurisdiction? Leaves drinking water supplies contaminated. EPA needs to get involved otherwise the states will have conflict. EPA needs to make sure NYDEP works on infrastructure investment and economic opportunity. Send more EPA staff to more public meetings.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Poughkeepsie, NY***

***(cont.)***

It is worth reminding ourselves that we have globally rare freshwater wetlands in the Hudson Valley, we need to conserve the ecosystem, need big picture plan of attack (this is work here-Greenway program). This would be a great test case. We have the resources, plan and people. We are all invested in this plan and would love a federal partner. Expand NY & NJ harbor Estuary program should expand up the river. \$52 million dollars requested to President to expand funding for EPA. Combine 2 programs to combine the harbor program with the DEC program. Sea level rise will travel up the Hudson. A green ribbon of protected space along rivers is a great idea. Federal government needs to provide more science on sea level rise and more interpretation and outreach about that data.

Use non-profits to bring kids to the outdoors. [www.liwatersentinel.org](http://www.liwatersentinel.org) Does water testing with volunteers. Families participate

## Discussion Question 4

### *Salt Lake City, UT*

LWCF has done so much for outdoor recreation. Need continued funding.

If Fed gov't has as many acres, definitely need further staff to monitor the large number of acres. Need education and interpretation as well as law enforcement. Need funding for this.

Need gov't to expand conservation programs, wetlands conservation, and farm bill. Financial incentives to private landowners to preserve land. Need ceiling on # of acres to increase. Keep programs with financial incentives at state levels to conserve land

Matching \$ from Fed programs. National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundations, we match to do conservation work out on the land. Uses a relatively small amount, gets huge results.

One of the tools -- we need to look at areas that are open to OHV use. Work w/State Parks and Feds to have places for people to go and easier to enforce. Balancing act.

Hotline for grant writing -- a real person to explain the project to and answer questions as you go and tell you whether it's work pursuing.

Growing up in Utah, my father was outdoors oriented. Many children don't have that. Use the Jefferson County Colorado public schools to create interest in public lands and conduct field trips. OUTDOOR LABS FOR KIDS to spend a week during school year.

President could recognize these programs at the local programs like Outdoor Lab. Find a way to celebrate.

President's physical fitness award from the Kennedy years -- use something like this.

Getting people to volunteer at Fed level. Pays off for States and locals. Community service in public schools. Required as part of graduation.

Presidents have huge influence -- just to see him out on the public lands make a huge difference.

Improve community green areas thru block grants as small entities don't have resources to complete processes.

Initiatives from Fed gov't for private businesses to volunteer for community service.

Focus public transportation to outdoor areas on public land.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Salt Lake City, UT***

***(cont.)***

Clear agenda -- ATV users are going to dictate what happens on ATV trails. If agencies say, we do believe in climate change and this is our agenda. We want to work with you.

Utilize alternative energy at public facilities to show public what can be done.

Tools needed are money and funding. If there is not enough money to monitor then management will not occur effectively. For example pine beetle infestation.

Effective tool is how local communities treat their public lands. In bluff much of the education and direction to good land use behavior comes from the local businesses. They want to encourage the local business. We need to foster the private sector to be

Make maps accessible.

Having people to go outside with and make easy options for access to outdoors.

Better communication and have people let feds do their job and better signs are needed.

Having good partnerships with groups. A better process for forming those partnerships. Need dollars and talent in partnerships.

Rural commissioners are very busy so having a forum for input- such as the public lands council. Will help agencies and the public.

Get young people involved and have fed. Groups use Facebook, you-tube etc. Social media tools would work well.

She agrees that Facebook would really help with engaging youth for sure.

Social media will eventually replace the need for signage.

More sessions like this to learn and find out opportunities and to listen to others.

Cooperation - create process to enforce them. Encourage other to talk and come out with ideas. Facilitate coordination up front instead of at end.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Salt Lake City, UT*

*(cont.)*

Gathering like this on an annual basis - facilitate more partnerships. Bring other groups in.

Community collaboration - look at communities that are working to get ideas to bring others together to work out details.

Advertising through media. Spending on campaign - could put public air time regarding our great outdoors. Gain support for efforts and educate on different aspects. Media campaign about importance of our outdoors. More watch screen instead of green.

Training program for leaders of young people (Boy Scouts of America).

Mangers who work with hunters and conservationists.

Tools we use are antiquated (like the RMP) Maps have different scales with no reference information that you can't overlay. Use modern technology like Google earth to offer info. It would facilitate more info from public. The Resource Advisory Council (RA

Encourage groups that have resources to take youth into back country

Put info on the web (printable maps, where to go, etc.)

Information about where lands are used for different purposes.

Taking advantage of innovative science at local level

Volunteers: difficult to get them to do on the ground work; but with the economy, it is a greater opportunity in these times to get people to fall in love with the outdoors. Other tools: Resource Plans need to be more understandable, non-legalese document

Is 1 BLM ranger for every Million acres adequate to the task? Need more staffing for land/water/agencies because it is inadequate.

Land is degraded, many invasive species and large scale problems. We need to step up and take a kid by the hand and make those connections again. What I heard is: we are all in love with the out of doors and want to pass on a legacy to our kids and grandk

Is 1 BLM ranger for every Million acres adequate to the task? Need more staffing for land/water/agencies because it is inadequate.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Salt Lake City, UT***

***(cont.)***

The government could work with local communities--funding, expertise to revitalize local rivers. Could create many new things--clean drinking water, real estate, jobs. Different programs are available. Local communities don't have tools to do this. The Go

Summary. Obstacles--money, sustained funding in public schools, user fees--increased, adjustments in fees. Language--be careful--use better techniques to communicate. Don't use words that divide us. What works. The overriding thing is being proactive. Mor

One tool that needs to be used. Create a mapping system--Google Earth. Need datasets that can be used by teachers for schools should be created by agencies.

National recreational trails program. To be used for trail maintenance, law enforcement, etc. There is a grant process that is available every year that is not being utilized.

The government could work with local communities--funding, expertise to revitalize local rivers. Could create many new things--clean drinking water, real estate, jobs. Different programs are available. Local communities don't have tools to do this. The Go

One tool that needs to be used. Create a mapping system--Google Earth. Need datasets that can be used by teachers for schools should be created by agencies.

Urge continued funding from the federal government to serve the wild wetland areas in Utah for funding.

Need to personal the outdoors with student. They need to take ownership and feel like they are part of the outdoors. A different organization is utilized every time they go outside at SUU in her class. These things are easily implemented.

Outdoor classrooms.

User fees. Getting young people and diverse groups in national parks. Cost is an issue. The government can put out the welcome mat and give them reasonable access fees/no fees. Avoid trails with fees. Youth pass. Role of user fees and rec fees.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Seattle, WA*

Provide information like GPS coordinates in centralized location for all fed agencies. One stop shopping.

Education is the best communication tool.

Center for Wooden Boats. Provide technical assistance to governments that have a park but can't afford to run it and want to partner with private non-profit. Could provide sample agreements and examples of other successful techniques. Opportunities for volunteers, etc.

How to get kids from schools to outdoors – how to fund transportation. Could money come from mitigation on transportation projects? Would there be cost efficiencies if there are multiple school districts or broader jurisdictions coordinating transportation.

Singage for wilderness. Where is it? Many people don't know where it is.

Feds can encourage collaboration

Sunset Stone-helps kids learn directions. Kids need to learn mapping/geography-how to establish directions and locations.

process represents local interests but leave out people who live further away. Collaborative process has gone a little too far. Need to be careful about how process is applied as it might take away rights of citizens who live elsewhere in country.

extend YCC, or recreate CCC

ownership of programs and initiatives. Challenge is how to marry idea of local ownership while broadening participation. Find common ground and themes that could provide framework without mandating specific actions.

as a small business owner, this is a perfect opportunity for showing the values of small business

can the army corps be re-tasked from building dams to undoing some of the work?

full funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy land; get there quicker and more permanently

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Feds should loosen up on permitting restrictions so every group can get in to take care of their public lands. Tons of people/organizations come in anyway to do maintenance and stewardship of public lands. Baffled by how easy it would be to do this.

Needs tools to deal with all user groups to come to collaboration

Provide clear wording in legislation that allows for new trail construction, not just maintenance to provide additional rec opportunities.

Reduce bureaucracy to allow for progress.

Used to be more programs for educators and others (challenge grants). Need to be more challenge grant opportunities.

journalism moves our American system; writers influence public opinion and is a tool for govt agencies to communicate science

incorporate outdoor education using current technologies to connect youth; need for best practices in farming

use the Antiquities Act and est. national monuments; Terra Mesa NM, Northern Prairies, San Juans; think about a legacy

need to look for ways to spread people around; how can we do a better job of providing real time information on the internet that would help people know which areas are busy, and which are not...so people could make informed choices about where they go.

buy forest lands by use of Community Forest Bonds legislation. Currently do not have this ability

Real future in coordination of different group efforts. Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement brings together 22 groups to meet on common

Connect prisoners including youth with the natural environment through outdoor work to allow them to do something pos

pay minimum wage to those who work in our forests rather than simply volunteering. This would provide a greater interest and incentive

consistent information online about directions and trail conditions would be very helpful; inconsistent quality now.

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

continue making funding and grant opportunities easier to learn about and apply for; don't want pots of money to sit without people using them; hard to access and know across all the different agencies

new venture directed at getting kids outdoors – bringing horses into the city to the kids;

question about next steps

Specific signage at heavily impacted areas. Great if there was map showing where destinations and sites are at. Current and up to date information for recreation users.

recognize and honor difference between organized users and non-organized users. Organized ORV users do not condone illegal and/or unethical activities. If fed govt can offer program such as deputizing volunteers to help steward the resources.

forestry permit restrictions difficult for NGOs to navigate

overseers working to get more collaboration and input from all stakeholders (rather than just listening to one side)

when private lands are given up, we would like to see procedure to have those lands protected so that they do not go into development

Section 6 grant program extremely important to support conservation programs and needs to be expanded

USFS....problem in actually finding the information needed on their web sites...use key words so it can be found in a search; new sports need to be embraced, because they are usually the ones that young people want to do...don't just say no, which is the wrong thing to do.

tax incentives

When government is upfront and open in process the results are good. When collaboration is not encouraged people are disenfranchised. Would be fun to have some developers in the room – might find some creative ways to get desired outcome. Committing to collaborative process is key.

access restrictions on public lands are limiting opportunities to connect youth; eliminate them

idea of having “wilderness light” that would allow more access for bicycles and other currently prohibited uses;

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Regard wilderness areas as sites of valuable ecosystem function in face of climate change

better coordination among federal land managers between various federal agencies to provide a more unified, clear message to people

Transportation

Expand funding for YCC. CCC reinstated.

Marketing – letting people know where these places are, what’s there.

Restoration program support. Education program support

Food for volunteers (change rule). Borrow money at debt free level w/requirement of enviro work.

Programs where you can borrow money and pay it back in resource/envir/other ways.

Connecting schools thru outdoor activities like sports programs do.

Revamp tax laws – conservation is not considered highest and best use. Look at Williamson Act – property tax relief on open space lands or other positive opportunities to expand to other states.

Aligning w/state educ standards to integrate

National Service concept needs to evolve to next level. Americorps has more to learn to align.

Have a president’s award for student related to natural resource project getting outdoors.

Need to get young kids to care about outdoors; use school system

Public service announcements on TV and thru video games to get kids to care and get outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

“This is your brain w/out nature.”

agencies should reward collaborative efforts.

Consolidate planning across agencies for dealing with climate change impacts.

Example of programs that have been cancelled due to lack of funding to transport users to the program site. Its not that expensive.

Encourage legislators to get to the outdoors themselves. Showing them wilderness, national and state parks, etc will help them support funding and programs.

Legacy --sense of passing something on to future generations

- Stewardship – each and every one of us has responsibility to follow on this legacy

Support passage of Community Forestry Bond. H.R. 3302 and Senate bill 1501

wants to see vol coordinators at every level to be able to better use volunteers

Fed need to serve as mediator to help provide more tolerance and collaboration among disparate groups.

Sec. Salazar created Task Force with a Youth emphasis which brought together many groups to learn from each other and share ideas. It was a revelation and successful.

Feds give back some lands back to states so change can be made through state legislatures—more efficient and easier. Then local populations would have more power over their lands.

Funding needs to be sustainable, predictable and diverse—this would enable collaboration by not having groups compete with each other.

What kind of budget does America’s Great Outdoors have? Needed stronger budget to at least publicize this meeting.

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Let the Army Corps know it's okay to grow trees on levees; one municipality example;

engaging different communities...acknowledge the programs and work that MBSNF is doing with the Seattle area; need for hands on experiences; continue the programs that are working to get young people out, but also their parents and elders.

Increased funding for Farm Bill program; fully fund LWCF; use funds for direct acquisition of lands by land trusts

Reinstate US Coast Guard 200 T Ocean Master (license). Requirements are too onerous

Support better data on value ecosystem functions and visitation figures on public land

Limiting the growth of National Park territory that is wilderness and protecting farmlands, in particular non-large scale use farmlands

Fully fund public schools to help them get kids outdoors

Support small farmers by creation of small meat processing facilities; needs to be supported by USDA

Give all agencies access to social media sites to reach youth

Bioengineered products like corn need to be better evaluated and regulated

Ecosystem services needs to be considered in the land management evaluation process

Look for ways for leveraging volunteer opportunities to help maintain trails and facilities

Look for ways to provide more sustainable transportation to natural areas. More public transit options are needed to reduce environmental footprint and provide more equity

Active federal support needed for citizen science programs. It involves urban youth more effectively

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

A greater diversity of levels of access is needed to federal lands, more than just wilderness status. Greater access will encourage involvement by young people and others

Web based, searchable collection of education resources at one federal site is needed, geared by grade level and made available to all

Accommodate the cities and counties more rather than federal agendas such as in the sustainability movement, which densifies areas in TOD to allow more open space that communities want and that poor populations can access the outdoors and nature

Education – people want to know more but are limited (funding)

Engage the youth and ask them what they want and what inspires them to get outside, listen to them

More scholarships & youth participation for youth at conferences and events related to youth initiatives

Inter-generational events & summits around the country

Starting education at younger age

Obama has forced government to embrace technology – continue to use and expand the digital technology to engage the youth

Reaching out to the public – showing volunteer programs & results, help with grant writing

Providing tools/workshops or funding for workshops on collaboration

Challenge traditional ways of response – youth expect fast response

Use Twitter, Facebook, etc. to publicize grants and other opportunities

Everything data-oriented should be online – trailhead registration, provides more statistical analysis & information to the public

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Clearinghouse for public lands information – GIS, etc.

Using outdoor conservation, service learning, etc. with juvenile delinquents, work against gang activity & drug/alcohol abuse through outdoor education

Wilderness permits – easier permit system for larger groups of kids (nonprofits, etc.) in areas where headcount is limited to get more youth into Wilderness areas

Solicit input via internet - to adults and youth

Reinforce behavior by making people/youth/techies feel like they are contributing – they take ownership/pride and learn how to be active citizens

Funding – make sure an initiative like AGO includes funding to achieve the goals

Pooling data between government & nonprofits & corporate (i.e. partner with Google, etc.)

Access to information empowers people to solve their own problems

Encouraging more corporate involvement in community efforts, education and stewardship

Corporate partnerships with government

Limit liability to getting kids outside

Encourage youth/parents to include unstructured activity as youth recreation (beach, hike, etc.)

Alternative energy – government incentives overpowering pristine wilderness in local rural communities where there are too few people with voices

Teach kids about the process of getting adults & kids outdoors, hiking, access (local and national), etc.

Listserv – updates on initiatives like AGO and the process

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

We are talking about all of these activities being free. However, equipment and tools to accommodate activities for those that can not afford. Provide shared activities

Don't scale back funding for USFS recreational activities. USFS very different from parks, and all Americans can feel included

Active-Passive recreation. Propose reclaim this as active recreation

People are intimidated by "hiking" but they will sign up for "nature walk". Use language that is inclusive

Provide signs in Multiple languages

Collaboration – tools to create better collaboration – 70% of families are single parents, a lot of mentoring with shared materials. Tools and resources

We need bike lanes

Diversity – cluster group areas that allow people to recreate together

Geo-caching – treasure hunting with a GPS – there are opportunities to use technology and engage young people in the outdoors

Wilderness designation can be too restrictive for use

NIH studies – what are the benefits of parks? Study looked at the use of parks and reduction of crime. Encourage additional studies

Rails to Trails provides corridors for wildlife and people. Inter-connected. Good opportunities. We can run the length of the Puget Sound Region with assistance from Fed funding

Unstructured play opportunities. Allow kids to manipulate the land that they are playing in such as build dams, play unstructured

Seattle play garden – develop gardens that are accessible to all. Introduced chickens and rabbits. Diverse cultures – families interact. Connection. Provides good conservation educational opportunity about where food comes from

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Inspiration found in natural resources – but how do all of these values relate to the economy – address this because it will relate to part of the population that we are not reaching. Capture economic value of clean air, protected clean water, clean air, ecosystem services, and ability to share these with others. If everyone understands this, it is our future. Value is not standardized, although we all agree on the value of natural resources

Standardize ecosystem service values so that they can be used to talk about the benefits of conservation and promote it

How much clean air does one human being need? Water? Etc? none of these have been quantified

Establish standards

Advertise successful programs and share the value of programs such as Seattle program. Market values

More organizations that take kids out

More teenage clubs (e.g. an outdoor club for socializing)

Find funding for activities

Make jobs or internships (summer jobs)

Greater awareness of organized activities to teach skills and get kids out in nature

Outreach to expand information

Outdoor field trips'

More programs for younger kids (start earlier)

Opportunities in your own neighborhood

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Make outdoor activities accessible (more roads, more ways to get places)

Outdoor activity classes

Incentives to recycle

Funding for the parks

Outdoor swimming pools

Promote/encourage/support/sustain/love more outdoor programs

Build more outdoor playgrounds

Increase volunteer opportunities

Environmental policy

Cleaning up polluted areas/ground spaces/urban areas

Preserve national parks

Preserve natural areas/zoning laws

PR events at National Parks

Follow through with utilizing comments and public input.

Link health initiatives to outdoor recreation, especially at the agency level. Second comment emphasized this.

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Get funding through climate bills; carbon stores, biofuels. Linking funding to climate bill can get additional funding opportunities

Use the media to get people outside.

Openness in government. Continue effort to engage public comment in all public processes. Perhaps use social media

Focus on inner-city development to reduce work commutes. Leads to healthier lifestyles.

Improve public transit, such as shuttle services within parks. Improve access.

Properly utilize volunteers, and red tape often prevents accomplishing work.

CCC actually still exists and there should be more awareness about this program. It is funded through Americorps.

bring back the CCC! There are many that are looking for work. Many folks would enjoy contributing their time for publicly funded conservation projects.

bring back the CCC, recently worked on an old CCC trail with WTA as the only employed member of the crew.

More people working together, (ex. WTA and WA state snowmobile association – motorized and non-motorized working together). Northwest Avalanche Center is an example of where the federal gov't dropped the ball.

Bring back the CCC. My father 991/2 was a CCC leader.

Communication forums that incorporates all stakeholders, local and beyond. Working towards agreements more collaboration.

Federal employees that can listen and bring people together, mini-grants to individuals

Fully Fund LWCF, National Recreation Trails Program, NOVA (WA state program). Land managers need to seek out non-profit partners to leverage volunteers to accomplish work on public lands. Make working with key partners to accomplish work on their lands a national priority for land managers in Interior and USDA.

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

People care about the environment but don't want to lead the way. More leadership is needed in conservation efforts.

Different funding stream for the DEQ -= not to be funded by the polluters, for example – through permits

Use the old tools like phones and US mail. Don't assume that everyone is connected online.

Online communities and new electronic tools.

Forest conservation bonds, forest tax credits can help.

National Heritage Areas, public private partnerships that encourage preservation. Tax incentives to support preservation of cultural heritage. Use public development authorities to redevelop properties.

Conservation advertising media campaigns to educate the public about the agencies, the natural resources and what people can do, and address myths about being outdoors.

Sustainable Agriculture, creating local processing facilities for local farmers, ranchers, etc.

Washington State E3 project has engaged over 8,000 to solve issues. Federal agencies could adopt the approach.

In Oregon State many industry groups dominate the political landscape and prevent conservation efforts.

Environmental Sustainability Certification on a national level would ensure more teachers have the skills to teach environmental science

Build awareness to protect cultural resources as well as natural resources

Cultural resource budgets are too often the first to be cut.

Encourage the public to volunteer. Parks don't have enough maintenance. Create conservation corps again

## Discussion Question 4

***Seattle, WA***

***(cont.)***

Students don't learn enough about local cultural history.

DOI and Ag. Dept. should use Service for America, other organizations [written statement submitted]

Grants that require local match underserve low income communities, need to look at alternatives

Forest Carbon Trust should be established by the federal government

Farm Bill should not distinguish between commodities and food

Full funding of the NPS

Military sites restoration needs more community involvement

Planning watershed-wide, connectivity between uplands/highlands and shoreline

Citizen participation in Health Headwaters program (National Forest Foundation) – needs government support

Database of all conservation/recreation programs, so that you could look at a targeted area and know what is being spent there, to spend more efficiently and avoid duplication

More funding support and regulation revisions to get K-12 students outdoors more

Youth Advisory Group for each national park

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

Put rangers in urban areas to form a connection

Boys and Girls Club of America would officer its clubs and members across the country for focus groups/town hall meetings to discuss issues introduced at the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors

1) create a treasured landscapes fund, setting aside a portion of funding for strategic land acquisitions-particularly in the Chesapeake Bay watershed-where population density is high. 2) Enact the No Child Left Inside Act to ensure that every student is environmentally literate and has the opportunity to learn in the outdoors before they graduate from high school. 3) create a new national park in Chesapeake Bay- a 21st century "string of pearls" park with strategic acquisitions of landscapes to promote public aces and conservation of the Bay's remarkable natural resources. 4) enact legislation to promote public access to rivers along Federal Aid highways and bridges. these are public rights of way which, over time, public access has been first by construction of roads and bridges. 5) create a new national forest in Maryland and Delaware which are 2 states that don't have national forests. 6) create a safe route to parks program's similar to the safe routes to schools initiative. This would link schools of our national public lands.

Great day. One major missing concept today was little or no emphasis on connecting the youngest of children with nature in their daily lives - at home, neighborhoods, schools, and nearby parks. That connection is fundamental to their healthy development - and to the health of the earth itself over the long term.

You have my gratitude. As the board chair of two orgs representing more Ethan 2000 companies worldwide that care and fund conservation and global climate change efforts please reach out and let me help!

1) "burrow in" long term, many administration leaders with stable funding 2) fully fund the land and water conservation fund 3) closely study the mono like program and program of tree people in LA 4) permanent protection for the article national wildlife refuge

The public is uninformed about the existence of our public lands system and therefore are not enjoying benefits of recreation or stewardship. Enjoying benefits of recreation or stewardship. In 2008, African American and Latinos said "lack of information" is the top reason they don't visit!!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

There is a fundamental need for a conservation bank, a system, to fund everything from easements to facilitating trades of environmental services. The distribution of NRCS \$'s for conservation easements should be targeted to need. In Wyoming, for example, FRIP is in need of funds, WRP funds are not utilized. Fish and Wildlife Partners program should significantly increase both in funding and mission. They are the logical delivery system based on 20 years of trust building with private land owners. In a world where endangered species issues have so polarized rural America the Partners philosophy of solving problems is uniquely successful. Reclamation of lands impacted by energy development is wastefully inadequate. An EIS cannot say, "after development there will be no wildlife or livestock" Conservation must be balanced by a thorough understanding of national and international food production needs.

Please continue to have active forums in which we can engage and collaborate with one another. We need to be a support system for each other. Please include Gullah/Geechees as "tribal leaders" and a resource for traditional knowledge. We are willing to work on interpretive pieces that will help "bring to life" the areas we are here to protect and conserve.

in your outreach efforts, I would encourage you to use technology tools like Face book and Twitter. Education of federal employee of federal resources in this area. Incentive-based programs for changes needed on working, private lands. Involve private foundations, family or regional foundations too.

We are interested in helping you to serve as spokesperson/champions in your initiatives as well as the other administration agency initiatives to build healthier communities.

A new model for educating the next generation of environmental/conservation leaders. We need to educate a generation of leaders who understand the scientific as well as the political aspects of issues and who can think broadly enough to bring together diverse stakeholders to create a shared vision for a sustainable future. We need to support programs that provide these leaders with conflict resolution, marketing, facilitation, and public speaking skills in addition to science and policy.

Providing CC type jobs to put people to work, buying rural and public spaces which can in turn support these communities. Level the playing field

Engagement with youth and people of color, especially African Americans in ways that are culturally and socially relevant. Social media is an overlooked tool.

make sure that people of color and youth are trained are exposed to pathways of true leadership and sustainability. Social media is one way to build community and reach audiences of scale and relative ease

Great conference - where are the regional listening sessions?

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

1. Connecting large urban populations to our parks and forests 2. Preserving sufficient buffer areas around our existing parks 3. Stewardship education

create awareness of incentives and what's needed for better land use provide access and opportunity to correct people to the land and water resources.

1) Partner with NGO's and others to convene the listening sessions to maximize trust, constructive dialogue, and the modeling of collaborative work at national level. 2) make your grant and technical assistance programs more flexible, but improve to performance measures targets you use to evaluate how to reach your conservation or restoration objectives. 3) support more cross agency positions like creating rural Community Conservation Coordinator that is 50% economic development (rural development) and 50% restoration conservation 4) Remember the FS is the largest "business" entity in the west. Change your business practices to support rural enterprises involved in conservation activities.

D-Getting information out about jobs in the outdoors - social media. Have all sorts of groups work together (health industry etc.) radio to inform, high school programs.

A-Create an educational resource and on-line funding database for grant funding for outdoor educators and entrepreneurs. To use technology like APP alerts when new money is available.

G-Having the media promote healthy role models, athletes, real life people. Have these role models speak to youth about Outdoors and being healthy.

B-Advertisements that promote the outdoors: newspaper articles, TV commercials, bill boards, in busses and trains, social networking (Facebook), in order to have people interested in getting outdoors.

D-Create a call to action to get into the outdoors with media by showing real time activities and events to inspire action. : TV, radio, newspapers, Facebook, and text messages should broadcast events and causes created by the young generations to get people inspired to go outside.

K-Teach detailed nutritional education in schools.

G-Partner with universities to provide internship credits for students who help educate, provide recreation experiences, and mentor the youth on outdoor issues.

C-Create an outdoor ambassador internship that provides training and encourages teachers to incorporate the outdoors into the curriculum within their school.

A-Create and promote an outdoor Yelp! or Green Map" with interactive features to promote local outdoor opportunities. (Planet Explore - by the North Face) "

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

D-Giving kids tools in all schools, resources - free or discounted gear as incentive & programs to get kids outdoors.

H-Combine mandatory classes for K-12 that bring students into the outdoors with mandatory outdoor service learning hours.

F-Website and cell phone initiatives. Outdoor Volunteer website paired with non profits. Phone - take cell phone pictures of areas that can use a project and send it to local agency that supports the above website.

I-Financial aid programs as incentives to get outdoors.

Environmental Education - Priority on schools, pass legislation for environmental education (this is a current bill in Congress), pass environmental literacy plan, have environmental service learning - for credit, early environmental education, scholarships for environmental education.

Prioritize and fund outdoor service learning opportunities in schools followed by opportunities for youth training programs after graduation that offer EQUAL scholarship opportunities similar to the military GI bill.

Having the media promote healthy role models, athletes, real life people. Have these role models speak to youth about Outdoors and being healthy.

Create natural play areas in structured environments such as schools.

Designate money within Parks & Recreation Agencies to allow for jobs that concentrate on the diverse marketing and promotion of outdoor initiatives and activities

Create an outdoor ambassador internship that provides training and encourages teachers to incorporate the outdoors into the curriculum within their school.

Create connections and partnerships with local government departments to use the resources readily available to provide outdoor opportunities. (ie: partnerships between schools and park and recreation departments).

Advocate with dept of education & bigger organizations to get funding for Environmental and Outdoor Education programs in schools/classes and provide scholarships to get people involved in the programs. (ie: afterschool programs).

Create safe, green spaces for kids and families to exercise and grow their own food within their communities by inspiring and supporting local outdoor leaders and sustaining those positions by offering internships/jobs/money/support.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The National Agricultural Land Study was a very important study -- another study is needed

Need a master calendar to allow everyone to build together

Private lands need tax exempt revenue bonds, estate tax provisions, build partner capacity

Good science comes first and then resolve social conflict

LWCF criteria should recognize projects that have partnership components

Co-experience -- strength of relationships between executive directors in senior organizations; personal relationships of what should be competitors override competitive nature and allow groups to coordinate and cooperate

Dedicated Funding. Stable and significant funding for land conservation, outdoor recreation, and connecting people to the outdoors. See responses to previous questions as well.

At the same time, the Hudson Valley would benefit from the creation of a “farm incubator” where new farmers with basic experience could try their hand at various kinds of production under the supervision of an experienced farmer, then learn how to develop a business plan for their operation and be assisted through the transition to a new farm (at least new to them) while still being able to call upon a farmer mentor or others who could provide assistance when they are first out on their own.

This type of program would benefit from multiple partnerships, with input and assistance provided by people from various organizations and agencies who have relevant expertise or resources

By developing a corps of new farmers, with some solid experience, a business plan and access to mentoring, we could leverage the investment that the landowners, land trusts and municipalities have already made in protecting farmland while providing new jobs and economic activity

Revamping the Ag Census – or adding additional questions that would more clearly pertain to the type of farmers that are important to this region – would generate data that would be extremely helpful.

Farmers should also be encouraged to know that the Census information is used on their behalf, and their contributions through the Census surveys are critical for those of us who wish to support their efforts

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The need for “scale appropriateness” is also critical with regard to regulations that apply to the smaller scale processing and distribution infrastructure that this region’s farmers need. For example, significant concern has been expressed about how new food safety regulations, such as the proposed HACCP Systems Validation may impact the smaller processors needed by producers in this – and other similar - regions.

the Ag Census data has some limitations. Agriculture is the “invisible economy” – the money farmers spend on locally available services and supplies can have a major impact on the local community. One informal survey that we conducted in the Hudson Valley showed that \$1.25 million of the local farmers’ expenses was spent right there in that community. It was an eye-opening discovery. How about asking them where they spent it? Even a general percentage of dollars spent within the region would give us a powerful sense of the strong role that farmers play in our local economies.

The Census uses industrial classification codes to categorize farms according to their principal production. However, many of our farmers in the Hudson Valley practice diversified agriculture – meaning, a combination of things at once. This may provide a way to diversify income, spread risk and/or try to develop new products. But if a farm has sales split across a few different sectors (vegetables, poultry, and goats for example) they are classified in the catchall “Other” categories. We suggest that the USDA consider adding some greater specificity so that the Census could better illustrate the vital role of diversified agriculture.

The USDA could do more to show farmers that the Census data is used on their behalf, and that their contributions through the Census surveys are critical for those of us who wish to see farming persist.

4. Maintaining and managing working forests in the face of climate change.
  - a. This is a generational problem and while we should be aware of the ramification of climate change it would be prudent to respond only to concrete scientific proof of climate changes before rushing into new forest management paradigms.

At a time when our natural resources are disappearing at an astonishing rate, the government has an obligation to promote sustainability, biodiversity, and conservation in any way possible: education, regulation, provision for quiet recreation (hiking, biking, fishing, enjoying animals and birds, etc.), discouragement of destructive practices such as off road vehicle use and destructive extraction processes.

Recently there were communications that indicated that the administration was pursuing a sizable locking of lands under Executive Order special designations and private land acquisitions. Those communications were associated with the America's Great Outdoors initiative. First and foremost, landowners and permittees are unequivocally opposed to this approach and request that the administration leave no doubt in landowners' minds that the America's Great Outdoors initiative and the Land and Water Conservation Fund will not be used in this fashion.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Private landowners and federal land grazing permittees are logical partners in achieving the conservation goals outlined in the administration's America's Great Outdoors initiative. New and innovative tools should be pursued such as ecosystem markets and term management agreements. Of equal importance, is the further investment in conservation programs that are proven successes with conservationists and landowners alike, such as FRPP, EQIP, and GRP.

Repeal of the Federal Estate Tax for ranching and farming families

Make the Enhanced Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement donations permanent

When one views a "state's landscape", there are hundreds of agencies and organizations involved in resource conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors (i.e., public, private, ngo, districts, communities, trusts, counties, state and federal). The problem is not the number of players, programs, resources, personnel, competency, energy, or other assets. The problem is our human nature to confine ourselves and operate within our "institutional walls" --- we have hundreds of disconnected agencies and organizations spread across the landscape of any state, akin to farm silos and oil derricks across the Colorado landscape. We need a bridge and conduit that will connect the hundreds of agencies and organizations within a state or region within. We need a forum and state to build a shared local and community-centered vision. We need a process that will facilitate communication, coordination and collaboration, and one that will build partnerships. We need a statewide plan that will help to build a system of resources from a desperate collection of resources, that will identify the voids and gaps within, and one that will enhance effective and efficiency at all levels of government. Ironically, we have had the mechanism in place to do just this for almost 50 years.

SCORP planning and plans---the planning process, plan and their implementation---should be "resuscitated" and repositioned as the primary central tool to develop a vision for conservation, recreation and the reconnecting of people to the outdoors in each state, or region within.

The NPS should respond in providing the necessary leadership, guidance, staff and operating resources to serve as a resource/support center for state SCORP efforts. (Note: Some of us believe this responsibility should be elevated from the NPS to Interior similar to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination with a small staff and line-item budget.)

SCORP planning should be a separate line-item in the stateside LWCF budget to ensure adequate monies for this planning activity, and to ensure SCORP monies when received by the states are not in competition with land acquisition, facility development and other priorities. There is a precedence for a line-item budget on the federal-side given the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants program budgeted at 12.6 million across 28 projects in 2010.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Federal resource agencies, including agencies not often viewed as recreation providers (e.g., Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Coast Guard), can and should significantly benefit and find utility from a SCORP planning effort and plan. As such, SCORP planning efforts should be funded with both federal and stateside LWCF monies.

1. Encourage organized users of public lands to participate in the making of and implementation of local policies of land management.

2. Every user type should have an equal voice. Quit the "dismissal of motorized users" attitude... and yes, it does exist! We are a legitimate use of public lands and should not be treated like a pariah in meetings and offices. We've heard the comments made after meetings with land management personnel and do not appreciate the prevalent attitude of the majority of Public land management personnel. If we had "Our way", many of you would not be welcome in the office either.

3. Have maps with current information available for the public a. These maps would not have to be re-printed after each policy change if a coherent road/ trail name and/or numbering system was implemented B. With this kind of a system in place, any changes of policy could be implemented with public notification of the change specifying the specific road or trail number or name c. These notifications could be made by way of posting the changes on a website, in local news, and in local offices d. By identifying routes by name or number, there can be little doubt both the public and management are in agreement when discussing individual entities.

4. As the vast majority of users are of the "Motorized" persuasion, have USFS and BLM personnel attend meetings of organized "motorized" clubs and associations. If it is possible, encourage these meetings to be held in the government entities office so resources are readily available. This way there can be a relationship built between the user and management. Each will have intimate knowledge of the other's needs, wants, and limitations.

6. Create and implement a system whereby the Users can assist management in policing the public lands. We definitely need to catch abusers in the act and prosecute them. Fines should be heavy and include physical labor (if appropriate) to repair damages done.

7. An accurate system of logging user maintenance hours on specific trails, roads, and areas should be maintained. This maintenance should be weighed heavily when any discussion of future closures is done.

Bottom line, these programs can be a very helpful tool to family forest owners who want to practice sustainable management, but some tweaks need to be made to make the work better for family forest owners.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Trainings and capacity building for organizational management and programs, as well as "care and feeding" of volunteers is essential to engaging the youth and general public - allowing these organizations to guide the public through a process that builds awareness, appreciation, participation and ultimately stewardship. Lakes to Locks Passage has developed a management strategy that strives to build volunteerism and community pride, the fundamental ingredient for sustainable community revitalization and environmental conservation, serving as the basis for an authentic tourism experience, delivered to the public by real people in real places.

I believe these efforts, taken as a package, could provide a new model for the management of natural resources in an urban setting. This model brings together federal agencies, specifically NPS, ACOE, and EPA, around a common set of objectives. Implementation by federal agencies and local partners creates jobs for local residents and lasting economic value in urban communities. The end result is federal land providing outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for young people and increased resilience to sea level rise and coastal storms.

The National Park Service should endeavor to identify and remove obstacles in the evaluation process for potential new designations, so that recommendations can be made to Congress and acted on in a timely manner.

I am very interested in becoming involved in this initiative on a professional level. Are you able to connect me to the proper contact person in the proper department(s) that are engaged in this? Or at least point me to who can? When the opportunity presents, I am able to offer a resume detailing my qualifications and experience in the field. Thank you for your assistance. I hop to be able to contribute to this initiative in a substantial way.

There are many tools available for this purpose, including partnership agreements, various forms of leases, volunteer arrangements, memoranda of understanding, and other approaches. We strongly urge the federal agencies charged with carrying out the Initiative to explore the opportunities for such arrangements to the fullest extent and to carry them out wherever possible. The AIHPC would be pleased to provide further information on these comments and recommendations.

Until recently, LandCare has been a relatively small effort of the New River Land Trust supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. With the amazing response of the people of Grayson County, Virginia Tech and more recently of the US Department of Agriculture, Grayson LandCare has grown in statue and influence both nationally and internationally. Virginia Tech has created the LandCare Center to provide Grayson LandCare with the necessary research and development tools so that decisions can be made on the best possible information. Many USDA agencies are poised to assist.

Goal 3: Use science-based management practice to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations: DNR examples: Setting conservation priorities: to meet natural resource challenges, DNR integrates core natural resource data from forest inventories, water assessments, the Minnesota county biological survey, and other prioritization efforts to allocated limit resources more efficiently.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Sustaining Lakes in a Changing Environment (SLICE): DNR is leading a collaborative four-year pilot project to monitor biological chemical changes that occur in two dozen sentinel lakes across the state that represent the diverse range of Minnesota lake types. Data collected will help researchers better understand the monitor basic interaction among climate, watersheds, lake habitats, and fish populations and quickly direct impacts from climate change, watershed development, and invasive species. This will facilitate timely responses by managers and policy makers to mitigate or minimize the effects caused by these stressors.

I welcome the opportunity for a continuing dialogue with your respective agencies regarding New York programs that foster conservation and enjoyment of the great outdoors. We appreciate the support from our federal partners and hope to identify areas where additional federal assistance -- including enhanced funding -- would extend the benefits of these successful models. While most of the examples I have provided in the full statement (enclosed) are relevant statewide. I have included Hudson Valley examples to complement your recent visit to Poughkeepsie, a visit that I hope you found valuable. The Hudson Valley has a unique place in American history and will continue to serve as an incubator of conservation innovation and environmental stewardship for all of New York and for the nation.

Going forward, Federal land conservation initiatives need to recognize, celebrate and enable solutions that match these interrelated values. Tools that are flexible and not limited to one objective are more likely to benefit the conservation opportunities in this region. A typical property in the Mid-Atlantic, and particularly in Virginia, includes land which is visible from a state designated Scenic Byway, soils which can produce food for the region, streams which supply water for both local drinking water systems as well as the Chesapeake Bay, and forests which help clean our air and water. All of these interrelated resources are valued by the community which sees the property on a daily basis, drinks the water which flows through the streams and is cleaned by the forests, and eats the food which comes from the property's farmland. Moving into the future, it is critical for federal programs to acknowledge and celebrate these multiple layers of conservation benefit.

President Obama's family didn't wait for a government program or some non-profit to take him to the mountains. They just did it because they saw value in it for themselves and their grandson! We are here to promote increasing outreach to pre-existing infrastructure/partnerships everywhere that are capable of creating an expanded way to exponentially increase outdoor world experiences for kids and families. I'm talking about outreach to faith based groups, community associations, boy scouts and girl scouts, teachers and most important of all- ordinary families- like my own father and Barack Obama's family who didn't wait for some government program to take them to enjoy the majesty of our national parks. They just did it and empowering these families to take individual responsibility is much like teaching a man to fish as opposed to just feeding him.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

We have 750 environmental education teachers -organized under the banner of CAEE (Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education) - who are located throughout the State of Colorado and who could exponentially expand natural world experiences for kids tomorrow through a mini grants system- consider the fact that these teachers are already in the classrooms, have a demonstrated passion for the work, are in touch with kids, active in their communities and can bring economies of scale to creating the experiences! And let me emphasize direct grants to teachers- don't set yourself up to have substantial amounts of your grant dollars lost by filtering through administratively overburdened and expensive school districts or city or state governments. Go directly to the trenches!

Tap into the technology that kids use to get them outside (social media, computers, video, etc.)

LA County Fair youtube videos showing silly LA County behaviors illustrate that urban folks don't have great outdoor connections. Or iphone apps.

Tap into the technology that kids use to get them outside (social media, computers, video, etc.)

Grants for youth outdoor programs

Virtual trail tours

Facilitate putting tools in the hands of would be service-project-workers

Using outdoor rewards to motivate students. For example, if you do well we will do a hiking field trip.

The USFS needs more human resources. They need to hire someone to coordinate outreach activities, not unlike the current military structure.

Poor tools prevent going outdoors; e.g., inadequate maps or ability to use them make it hard for people to do the right thing and enjoy themselves.

Lack of understanding that private landowners can be good land stewards. Federal agencies are too recreation focused at the expense of landowners (e.g. ranchers).

We lack a central clearinghouse for program access, rules for various types of access. Need a one-stop shop for all of the information; better outreach and resource sharing rather than each land agency reinventing the wheel.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Use challenge or “edginess” as a useful hook to attract youth; iPhone applications to connect people to outdoor opportunities.

Access to gear takes the edge away from getting outdoors; create funding programs geared toward providing gear to schools and community organizations).

Fund what works. Discover what agencies and programs are the most successful, and fully fund these and similar efforts. Rather than create new programs, fund agency's current recreation needs.

Take advantage of new media and new advertising methods to better engage people in conservation. Ensure that good programs are not limited by poor awareness or messaging. Help people to understand broad and interconnected conservation goals.

Make conservation and recreation synonymous. All recreational and conservation programs should acknowledge the connection, and encourage people to take the step from recreating in a place, and working to conserve it. Recreation ought to instill respect and responsibility.

Work to combat the culture of fear. From the federal level, work to make it easier for mentors and teachers to take kids outside, with less liability fears. ACTION: Initiate a program where mentors and teachers are granted Good Samaritan status when they take kids outside.

Build capacity to work with diverse volunteer groups. There is no excuse for turning away motivated groups due to lack of agency resources.

Start with schools. Evaluate opportunities to get kids outside to learn early on.

Keep better track of roads and websites so people can easily locate information about trails and conditions by user forums and websites.

Interpretive signs to explain what people are seeing.

Share and cross reference between agencies.

Merge resources between outdoor communities and federal land managers.

We are going backwards with funding, our priorities are sideways.

Non game fund is important for wildlife management.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Get kids outside. We don't need to create more outdoor spaces, if we don't have the outdoor education for kids and know that it will not be used for future generations.

Funding for volunteer coordinator positions and AmeriCorps.

Recognize the societal value of public lands.

Better policy around having fed land manager jobs/forest managers in one place for a longer time.

People that are in key positions are so far removed from the lands that they manage. They need to be in touch with the resources.

Applaud the President for making an effort in the collaborative process.

Keep fee waiver days (Free fishing day, public lands day, etc.).

National Recreation and Conservation Corps (a system of mentors similar to the Peace Corps model).

President Council on Outdoor Recreation

Incorporate technology--play on youth love for gaming and competition online. Aim for an "augmented reality."

Transportation from cities to outlying recreation infrastructure (national parks, state parks, etc.).

Make getting information easier (fees, directions, differences in land, etc.) through consolidated information warehouses.

Tax incentives from feds to encourage private land conservation and access.

Alternative designations to wilderness but Wilderness Act remains for qualifying lands.

Funding for recreation within agencies.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

"Wilderness" for marine areas.

More public input. Online (and other) discourse about access and resources, communication about what's happening regionally, and how best to get involved.

Better collaboration and funding. Potential partnerships between grassroots groups, NGO's small businesses, and larger corporations, need to be established. Funding for the coordination and creation of these partnerships will be needed via grants and collective pooling of resources.

Better education. Mandate state-wide curricula (for inclusion of standardized testing) for classroom education about the outdoors, conservation, and recreation. Public education need also be geared toward those no longer in schools. First-time exposure and community programs (e.g. urban farm tours and "eat local week") need to be better incentivized.

Access. Better access to new and existing lands, including better incentives for private-land owners to open up their lands for recreation.

Fund more conservation easements. This is a proven and effective means of conservation.

Better communication and partnerships between grassroots groups.

Money for local programs and collaboration between organization.

Fostering better awareness.

More public input (online discourse), more access and resources.

Mandate classroom education about the outdoors, conservation and recreation.

Program funding (collective pooling or resources).

Urban farm tours for local purchasing and in conjunction with "eat local week" --generate first-time exposure with incentives.

Would be wonderful to have property provided.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Access.

Help managing liability.

Internships.

Communication about what's going on, how to get involved.

Encourage people to start small.

Fund conservation easements and recreation easements.

Incentivize private parties to open their lands.

Communication--communicate/educate health benefits of being outdoors (include the department of health and human services in this process).

Use universities--ease permitting process for them which will open doors.

Access--need better access in existing spaces AND access to more spaces.

Create more urban outdoor spaces.

Improve transportation to outdoor spaces.

Education--rebrand outdoors as a safe and 'cool' place to be!

Grants.

Involvement of large corporations.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Public education--this goes beyond schools to the education of all citizens.

Focusing on capitol towns and schools to establish state-wide outdoor education curricula.

Incorporate outdoor recreation/environmental education into standardized testing.

Provide tools and a forum to enhance communication among those working to engage the public in the outdoors. Develop online tools to connect volunteers, educators, guides, community members, and local businesses. Host workshops or more informal gatherings that bring these constituencies together. Those who have good ideas for innovative programs (e.g. those who may be skilled at connecting with and inspiring youth to get outdoors) may not have funding or resources to bring their programs to reality. Public land managers can help connect those with various resources.

Provide public transportation to the outdoors. Work with local transit providers to provide incentives for services that get the public outdoors.

Invest in volunteer program for trail hoses. Campground hosts could double as trail hosts. Many museums have docents and a similar program could be instituted for public lands and waters. Training opportunities for staff could also be made available to volunteers.

Provide support and tools for teachers. Teachers have an important role in connecting to youth. Providing effective tools and curriculum materials that teachers can use to support the linkage between youth and public lands.

Education outreach

Teacher support that is high quality and effective

Promoting awareness of biological process for maintaining a healthy climate for humans including impact of development on water resources

More research

Follow through with these suggestions to create an impact

Personnel that are allocated to help the public to do what they want to do. Staff that can facilitate different outdoor experiences.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Invest in intellectual and social capital of the communities that they're trying to reach. Better invest in the community.

If federal agencies are providing trainings for federal employees make them available to the public so they can benefit.

GIS - provide more mapping resources to the public. Allow people to better share their discoveries via social media and/or database. More accurate data.

Better signage and better visitor kiosks. Provide better warnings

Campground hosts that double as trail hosts

BLM needs better downloadable maps and resources for hiking. Great maps but they can't be downloaded.

Streamline information.

Make it easier for people to find where they are going.

Do a better job of advertising hiking/outdoor experiences

Use public land designations to protect more land, create more special places so more people can experience the outdoors.

National internships

National Database of funders and non-profits and private partners that connect organizations. Could utilize existing partners - "food hub" as an example

collaboration grants both regional and national

Online communication connection - to connect volunteers, educators, guides, community people, business people

Economic development and natural resources connection

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Federal Government 101 - how hikers, bikers, campers can more effectively work with federal agencies and understand process

Conflict mediation and skill development.

Communication and accessibility

Exposure

Partnerships with agencies and land owners

Support from federal government on data - federal backing to help others understand commitment

Outdoors is important

Help collect data that can be presented and leveraged for support

Strategy workshops - including non-traditional constituencies

Community -based surveys (what does outdoors and conservation mean to people?; where are we starting?)

Curriculum starting with kids, getting them engaged, creating lifelong habits

More federal efforts linked to community level (e.g. discussions like the ones that are part of America's Great Outdoors)

Business and government collaboration (e.g. zipcars with park passes and bike racks)

More effective marketing campaigns for outdoor recreation passes (e.g. as Christmas gifts!)

A government run outdoor campaign

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Marketing around free outdoors campaign - "you don't have to pay to have fun" - talk to the public where they are listening

Tap into community leaders to be messengers

Public awareness campaign

Public transport to outdoor spots

Make it someone's job to make outdoors accessible to wider constituencies

Good access - land and water trails

It costs more to administer fee programs than the revenue generated by users

Don't want more tools - need funding for partnerships. Want fewer federal tools and more funding and support for programs managed by non-profit organizations. Focus resources at the local level.

Connect public with first-hand experiences to recreation and conservation

Public money has real value for public lands. Buying the toys (e.g. boats, paddles) is what we see and don't understand the connection to public access locations.

Please use our information to actually improve our ability to get people outside. Help us use the information gained by creating promotional materials and/or information that can be used to support each other and get people outside.

Fund innovative and effective programs for more than one year at a time.

Preserve land for future generations. Manage lands for the greater good. The tough thing in this case is the right thing.

Our group is cynical about the political pressures that prevent action from following this process. Show us we're wrong.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Use the Antiquities Act to protect places. There are a lot of places that need protection. Don't be afraid to Tea Party.

Revamp the AmeriCorps program to include an environmental component that would build bridges in the communities to help educate/connect people that might not otherwise get outside in natural settings

Good luck brother. Make sure the stimulus money is going to the right place.

Good luck. Lead with a courageous heart. Focus on the kids. Forget Congress.

Play is an important human behavior that develops social skills and critical thinking.

Education awareness is important

We need more opportunities for safe and healthy play

Learn to play nicely together

Work toward consensus

Strive to achieve and sustain true bipartisanship

Presidential leadership on wilderness needed

Free flowing rivers responsibility of government and corporations

Make recreation and conservation of outdoor spaces a priority

Give conservation groups the tools to frame arguments that make sense politically and be inclusive in your efforts

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

On the one hand government not getting government not providing adequate funding for recreation. Businesses make money from recreation and from some of this revenue support non-profit organizations. Federal agencies are ineffective-supporting effective non-profit organizations is how we will get things done.

Non-profit organizations understand agencies but also have the place-based perspective

If we had to choose, non-profit organizations are getting better results with on the ground work

Important relationship between connecting young people with the outdoors, advocates preserving wild places, and business support for these things.

What federal government can do that would be helpful is fund and support outdoor education

Even with 45 participants from over 20 organizations, some common themes emerged about what works well in reconnecting people, especially youth, to the outdoors and in working together to protect the place we love. The group placed a high value on collaborations and good funding to create meaningful, local, accessible programming for youth, particularly urban youth. Successful programs rely on strong relationships between foundations, public agencies, non profits, and schools in various combinations to offer structured programs that are relevant to the needs of youth in terms of their emotional, spiritual, and professional development. Favored strategies would equip youth to enjoy the outdoors so they can take what they learn back home both for their own benefit and to educate and engage their parents and/or communities in the outdoors.

When thinking about what resources and tools best support AGO's mission, our participants emphasized the importance of connections. People need to connect with on another, with practical information, and with resources to put their ideas into action. Public lands need transportation connections to population centers to facilitate their enjoyment and protection. Organizations and agencies need to connect with one another to make the most of the unique and common expertise represented by the people who make them work.

communications

sharing info about what's out there

grassroots

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

support for family engagement

more money

people to raise awareness

national network of people and resources o local for jobs and opportunities o earth vision experiences (Youth Summit)

Ways to progress along path for jobs, education and outdoors experiences

Incentives for educators and others who work with youth and families - human services using outdoors as a development tool

Transportation systems, school buses, vehicles (supporting driver) o Free transportation for recreation

System for training leaders

Better sharing of best practices o To jump start folks o To improve programs

Change/enhance Fee Free

Money for more youth workers

Funnel funding into programs and agencies that could put the resources into the hands of youth and families who are most disconnected from the outdoors, through programs and curriculum, transportation, education and outdoor experiences.

Walk the Talk - Wear Your Boots. Be a role model. Fully Fund LWCF. Use the outdoors as a developmental tool for youth, adults, and families. Be a father to the youth and publicize your actions. Program more opportunities for urban kids to have more opportunities. Get out and do it with us.

Increase affordable access to active outdoor recreational opportunities. Also, enforce outdoor environmental education within schools, to promote health and environmental stewardship as a civic duty.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Take a hike with some at risk youths. Start young. Accessibility and affordability. Concentrate on our nations' people. Make prevention the biggest healthcare priority. Make connections of incarcerated youth outdoors with court mandated outdoor recreation. Make outdoor experience a strategy for at-risk youth. Properly fund the PMLA to do the work.

a. Additional, consistent flexible funding - 26%, 337

b. Land conservation incentives such as tax credits, easier grant applications, liability protection - 25%, 323

d. Expand RTCA - 24%, 310

3.) Have congress work together!

4.) Additional funding with an eye towards flexibility and creativity on match. Communication tools for sharing project ideas, expertise. Assistance in building informal networks.

5.) Consistent and stable funding. Develop networking process (coalition) - if we are consistent we can work towards meeting goals. Help us develop regional coalitions. Marketing tools - how do market the outdoors as a destination?

6.) RTCA. Funding, especially for personnel. Help on developing partnerships.

Land conservation incentives: tax credits, liability protection, easier federal grant forms. More educational tools. More money in programs like Land for Maine's Future. Environmental education in schools. Protect landowners with law enforcement access.

1.) Let Maine be the poster child for excellent conservation and recreation. We have the land and the ethic and the pride of place - we just need funding to support and seed it.

2.) Fully fund LWCF. With a little help Maine can get people into the outdoors easily.

3.) Maine has incredible natural reprocess, forest is nationally significant, larges unfragmented forest east of the Mississippi - Don't miss it. Maine has conservation of national significance - all conservation tools should be on the table.

4.) Maine has unique natural landscape and there are many challenges with changes in use and access without investment in conservation, due to the critical link between conservation, the economy and quality of life here.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

5.) Maine has the highest quality outdoors - it should be considered and funded at a national level. Maine should be prioritized (and potentially allowed more opportunities) through LWCF and Forest Legacy.

6.) Value of connection with the outdoors - address more than just the physical. Connection with the outdoors, recreation lifestyle is core to the American identity, need for real investment, take seriously.

Maine's economy is in trinsically tied to our natural recreational heritage - the brand of Maine! We need better infrastructure to protect our brand and our economic future.

Programs similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, where a mentor adopts a kid and takes them outside.

If there was more funding for public land agencies these three problems (money, access, time) would be alleviated

Fully fund land and water conservation programs

Eliminate the recreation access tax (i.e. fee demo programs)

Fund land management agencies so they do not have to implement user fees, which are an obstacle to some people.

Continued AGO focus- 25%, 323

Field trips, like going with fish and wildlife to track birds, can be amazing.

No child left behind is forcing teachers to find the most objective parts of education, and forcing them to teach to the test. Funding is tied to whether student know facts. It need to need to change. Students love to learn outside.

Communication between public lands folks and the public could be better, and many forms of communication should be used.

The system has rid itself of good teachers that would take them outside. Access to our youth is biggest and school system don't provide funding.

One strategy is getting more opportunities to get students out for an extended time, and access to affordable outdoor education.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Supporting all local groups that involve education of youth and of environmental science

Riverton and Lander have fishing ponds. Bring the activity closer to the community.

Wilderness classification is bad, and the Wilderness act is outdated. It's designed to keep folks out of the wilderness. It's protecting disease. The federal government should aid local communities to restore forest health.

There is a lack of resources and support for winter outdoor activities. People don't have the training or equipment necessary for winter recreation.

With folks migrating to urban setting and a flagging economy, more folks are heading outside when they take trips. We need to be doing more outdoor education within the public in the school system, but it should be slow, and not widespread.

There's not enough MONEY!

There's not enough access.

Educational priorities, i.e. curriculum and funding, are an obstacle to outdoor activities.

USFS needs adequate funding/personnel to support partnerships to the fullest extent possible. Volunteers are turned away because there is not enough staff to train and assist them.

There should be a proposal about these ideas that can be presented to the school board.

This information is not just for the federal government but also the local government and school boards.

The government could support trail associations, at the local level, and train to trail build.

The federal government should assist the public with its recreational needs, but stay out and leave the local people in charge.

The federal government should support local groups that manage local lands.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The government should support education and teachers who utilize the outdoors.

The government needs to provide sustainable funding for wildlife management, including non-game species and their habitats. This should be dedicated funding, not grants we reapply for each year. The state has a wildlife trust fund.

In addition to the boundary expansion, local Macon-area citizens, along with the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the National Parks Conservation Association are requesting that Congress designate a National Preserve to safeguard in perpetuity wildlife habitat and natural areas along the Ocmulgee River, from Bond Swamp south, incorporating the Oaky Woods and Ocmulgee state Wildlife Management Areas (see Appendix A).

Expedite the Use of Existing Tools for Creating New Park Units. There are many treasured landscapes and cultural sites in the southeastern United States that are worthy of National Park System designations. The lands surrounding the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers in Georgia are two such special places. In many cases, local advocates and community partners can help the National Park Service to identify these areas and thus expedite the process for the evaluation and designation of new units. The National Park Service should endeavor to identify and remove obstacles in the evaluation process for potential new designations, so that recommendations can be made to Congress and acted on in a timely manner.

Adopt and Implement the National Parks Second Century Commission Report. In 2010, as the nation looked back at the formation of the National Parks, through Ken Burns' PBS documentary (The National Parks: America's Best Idea), the independent National Parks Second Century Commission outlined a 21st century vision and a plan of action for decision makers to protect our national treasures for our children and grandchildren.

Among the Commission's most important outcomes were recommendations to the President to "map a national strategy for protecting America's natural and cultural heritage, and articulate the role of National parks in carrying out the nation's conservation and preservation strategy".

The Commission also urged Congress to protect critical habitats – especially freshwater and marine areas, and corridors connecting protected areas with broader wildlife ranges to ensure the ecological integrity and long term viability of National Park ecosystem. Further, Congress was asked to identify historic sites and cultural landscapes that broaden the diversity of the national narrative embedded in the Parks. The National Park Service, for its' part, was urged by the Commission to cultivate close relationships with Native American peoples, and convey appropriate Native understandings of National Park lands, waters, resources, and stories through educational materials and programming. One component of this larger vision and strategy would be to expand the Park system by creating new National Park sites to more fully represent the diversity of our natural and cultural heritage.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Thank you again for your leadership and your consideration of these thoughts. Having participated in this summer's listening session in Asheville, North Carolina I was grateful for the opportunity to see participatory democracy at work. I, like a great many Americans, look forward with expectation and hope to the final outcome of the President's AGO initiative.

Protecting our open spaces is a critical part of Mass Audubon's mission to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. With more than 100,000 members, Mass Audubon cares for 34,000 acres of conservation land and provides educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on tools for effective conservation.

I'm going to spend a few brief minutes this evening telling you about the Chicago region's great outdoors and how the conservation community has organized around it. We have done it through an idea called Chicago Wilderness. The idea is that rich diverse nature can and does thrive in the middle of our greatest metropolises. Chicago Wilderness is also an initiative, 15 years old now, to preserve, protect and restore the biological diversity of the Chicago region. Chicago Wilderness is the name we settled on and it was immediately termed an oxymoron by those unfamiliar with the biological riches of the region.

· Coordinated landscape-scale management decisions are needed to respond to threats like climate change. The only way to effect such management is by establishing and nurturing robust public-private partnerships for resource management. There are many successful models that can be built upon, Chicago Wilderness, for example, the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, and Illinois' Ecosystem Partnerships. The Department of Interior's new Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Climate Science Centers are a tremendous first step in providing landscape conservation science to natural resource partnerships. But now it is time for the federal government to take the next step in building natural resource management partnerships by empowering those partnerships to make decisions about their own futures.

Vast portions of the American agricultural landscape have had the hydrology substantially altered to efficiently move water from the land. This can significantly improve agricultural productivity and provide substantial environmental benefits, but can have unintended consequences to downstream water quality and quantity as it relates to volume and velocity. The application of drainage management tools and practices can be utilized to cost effectively manage surface and subsurface water in a manner that results in improved water quality, reduced flooding, added recreational opportunities, enhanced and expanded habitat conservation and, oftentimes, improve agricultural production.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

It is important that we work to establish an even greater symbiotic relationship between environmental health, habitat conservation and the continued viability and growth of our agricultural economy. Achievement of these goals requires enhanced partnerships between Federal, state local and tribal government entities, conservation, sportsmen and environmental organizations, agricultural organizations, private landowners and industry. The ADMC believes that the America's Great Outdoor Initiative has the potential to be a powerful mechanism for coalescing these diverse partnerships around common goals and we are committed to ensuring that occurs.

To that end, the ADMC proposes two actions we strongly believe will concurrently result in significant benefits to farms, watersheds, wildlife and outdoor recreation throughout the nation through expanded utilization of hydrology management practices. The practices and tools used to achieve these goals on the ground will: ? Provide the science and education needed to enrich conservation planning, implementation, management decisions, and environmental health. ? Measure, monitor, quantify and utilize project outcomes for the development and enhancement of market based approaches for achieving conservation and environmental goals on a watershed scale

The ADMC commends USDA for recently completing and issuing the "Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin," (CEAP.) While we have found CEAP to be a helpful and informative tool, we also believe the potential exists to broaden and expand upon its applications through a new USDA-NRCS led initiative. The initiative would include consist of collaboration between your departments and agencies, the conservation and sportsmen's community and the agricultural sector to identify and pursue opportunities to expand the capacity for actively managing our water resources to provide economic, environmental and societal benefits for generations to come.

**Drainage Water Management:** Field installed devices that regulate outflows and control surface or subsurface water tables. By managing water flow, major reductions in nitrogen can be achieved while reducing flooding, protecting and even increasing agricultural yield. See:

**Bioreactors:** Trenches filled with organic matter at the edge of fields to remove nitrates from subsurface drainage systems. These low cost systems can reduce nitrogen loss by as much as 80% without taking land out of production. See:

**Saturated Buffers:** Thousands of miles of buffers are bypassed by sub-surface tile lines. Tremendous environmental benefits can be achieved by providing for water from these conduits to be connected with buffers such as reduced nutrient loss, improved wildlife habitat, reduced water velocity and reduced flooding and increased biomass production. See:

**Wetlands:** Properly designed and operated wetlands can be extremely effective at reducing both nitrogen and phosphorous loss to waterways, provide flood storage, provide important wildlife habitat, reduce sediment loss and provide significant recreational potential. Managing the hydrology of a wetland can significantly improve its environmental performance. See:

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Progress in developing and testing ecosystem markets in the United States continues to lag. Selected pilot projects can help overcome some of the impediments to potential innovation. The ADMC recommends establishment of pilots in the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes and, subject to funding availability, additional watersheds. The purpose of the pilots would be to demonstrate on operating farms the potential for ecosystem service markets to advance cost effective conservation strategies. As a result, the pilots would provide real world experience to foster environmental improvement within the agricultural sector and between sectors such as point source industrial and municipal facilities and agriculture. Initial pilots could be targeted at the development of a pilot water quality and conservation credit trading. Tools and practices utilized to initiate development of the initial credits could include nitrogen removal, flood and water quality management through temporary restoration of landscape functions and the establishment of wetland and riparian habitat.

Future listening sessions should be announced well in advance so people can plan their calendars and so interested organizations can assist in spreading the word. The website needs to be kept upto-date. It also needs to be kept simple. I have heard some complaints from people who find it hard to navigate. And while I understand and support the need for registration to make comments and to vote, I think it is not a good idea to have one's votes linked to one's personal profile for all other users to see. (I have no problem with the comments themselves being linked, however.) Of course, AGOI does not exist in a vacuum, and there are other issues which affect it, but which were probably beyond the scope of the listening session. But without an examination of these other issues, AGOI cannot be totally successful. Most important is funding, although population (which was mentioned at UCD) needs to be taken into account as well.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Ducks Unlimited is especially interested in ensuring the protection of key Great Outdoors and national economic and conservation objectives. However, we are focusing on the Prairie Pothole Region in these remarks as an example of how to be effective in this most endangered habitat. All of these recommendations include programs and initiatives that are both beneficial to waterfowl and will promote, support, and sustain the goals of America's Great Outdoors. These recommendations are:

1. Designate the Prairie Pothole Region as a key part of the AGO initiative;
2. Focus key conservation programs in the Farm Bill on the Prairie Pothole Region;
3. Provide full funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act;
4. Increase the price of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp;
5. Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and
6. Create a market mechanism to sequester carbon in ranch lands.

habitats of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) in the North Central States. While we are interested in a number of key landscapes across the country, the Prairie Pothole Region is at the greatest risk of loss, and there is a need (and opportunities) for immediate action. The following recommendations relate to the overall policy goal of keeping the PPR's native grasslands and wetlands intact for the benefit of all Americans. Many of the programs and policies that are needed to accomplish this objective will benefit other aspects of America's We look forward to working with your Administration and its agencies on these programs, and offer our assistance and expertise as requested, particularly on waterfowl, wetland and grassland-related projects. Many of these efforts require Congress to take action and we are already working with them to shape and implement appropriate legislation. We hope the Administration will include these legislative efforts in its work with Congress.

Expedite the Use of Existing Tools for Creating New Park Units.

Adopt and implement the National Parks Second Century Commission Report.

In 2010, as the nation looked back at the formation of the National Parks, through Ken Burns' PBS documentary (The National Parks: America's Best Idea), the independent National Parks Second Century Commission outlined a 21st century vision and a plan of action for decision makers to protect our national treasures for our children and grandchildren.

Prairie Pothole region, really need to look at a way to look at conservation in the 21st century look at places at landscape scale and adopt a model of public/private partnerships. Like to see fed to use all existing tools/programs that are currently formula driven, to create a new pool of funds to really help certain areas. National Fish Conservation Act must be passed into law.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

To that end, the ADMC proposes two actions we strongly believe will concurrently result in significant benefits to farms, watersheds, wildlife and outdoor recreation throughout the nation through expanded utilization of hydrology management practices. The practices and tools used to achieve these goals on the ground will 1) Provide the science and education needed to enrich conservation planning, implementation, management decisions, and environmental health; and 2) Measure, monitor, quantify and utilize project outcomes for the development and enhancement of market based approaches for achieving conservation and environmental goals on a watershed scale.

Enact Full and Dedicated Funding Legislation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Established in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund serves the national interest as the primary source of funding for federal land conservation efforts

Through this fund, states throughout the country have preserved critically important lands including national forests, wilderness areas, historic and cultural sites, significant battlefields, trails and recreation areas.

In addition, the stateside portion of this program accounts for the creation of thousands of local recreation projects such as ball fields and community parks

Our protected federal lands and waterways provide an opportunity to address the unprecedented challenges that climate change poses to our forests, fish and wildlife, and riparian resources.

There have been several pieces of legislation introduced during this Congress to fully fund and dedicate \$900 million annually to LWCF, including provisions within the House passed oil spill legislation (HR 3534, the CLEAR Act), and S.2747, the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009.

At AGO listening sessions through the Eastern Forest region, the need for full, dedicated funding of LWCF to meet pressing needs in eastern national forests, parks and wildlife refuges was raised repeatedly.

The investments also leverage significant state and local funds for land conservation, parks and recreation.

We urge the Administration to support the enactment of legislation for full, dedicated funding of LWCF as part of your AGO recommendations.

Increase and Provide Consistent Federal Funding for the Following Programs that are Critical to the Conservation of Eastern Forests

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Established in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program has yet to receive adequate funding from Congress to administer this program targeted at protecting and preserving forests and open space vital to local communities. In the East we have identified potential projects in Vermont, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

We urge the Administration to fund the Community Forest Program at \$10 million in FY 12.

With renewed interest in our eastern national forests generated by the celebration of the Weeks Act, we believe there will be an opportunity to identify critical private land-holdings in eastern national forests that should be acquired using LWCF funds to fulfill the vision and goals of the Weeks Act.

As you seek conservation solutions for the 21st Century, we urge you to look to and build upon the success of the Weeks Act in transforming the eastern forests into the asset they are today.

Private forest landowners also need to have somewhere to turn when they have questions about their forests and their wise use and stewardship. That is where state agencies play such an important role. One of the best programs is the US Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program. This program helps conserve working forests by connecting those landowners with the resource professional that can assist them. It also leads to forest stewardship planning for the property, and is often the first step in the eventual protection through a working forest conservation easement. Continued support and funding of this program is vital to reach out to the tens of thousands of private landowners we have in our state.

Yet another wonderful USDA program that helps conserve working forests is the Forest Legacy Program. Here in New Hampshire this program has been extremely successful, with over 200,000 acres protected. In New Hampshire, we require conservation easements purchased with Forest Legacy funding to have provisions for both continued timber management as well as public recreation access.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

The NJ Pinelands National Reserve (The Pine Barrens) was recognized as a federal and state treasure back in 1978 by the United States Congress. In 1979 New Jersey passed the Pinelands Protection Act and established the Pinelands Commission in 1980 to monitor the areas growth and protect 1.1 million acres of Pinelands in South New Jersey. After 30 years development has been monitored but nearly nothing has been done to protect the area from people who want to deposit their refuse in it or tramp over it in their off road vehicles. The area is not one bit user friendly. The citizens of NJ have very limited access and almost no facilities for recreation such as hiking and exploring. Few of the roads are usable or marked and there are few access/information points available. People who want to explore and get out into nature are pretty much left to their own devices. The State of New Jersey invest little money or time into this ecological gem. By making a large part of it into a National Park it would insure that it is kept safe from those who want to use it for their own personal dumping and playground and open it up to the citizens of NJ and the United States. Such a designation would also help to further insure that the flora and fauna, some of which are endangered and rare, are more readily protected.

\$1000 per barrel of oil and \$1000 per ton of coal should be added to the lease price of any public land oil or coal lease to cover the cost of health care for millions of people whose lungs are damaged by burned fossil fuel, for the cleanup of environmental pollution and for the ongoing damage to the whole globe by global warming.

Some public lands that are presently managed by the USFS and BLM possess outstanding scenic, cultural and wildlife values and should be transferred to the National Park system so that they can be protected in a way that will preserve the outstanding values for future generations. These new national parks need to include whole ecosystems, not just fragments. If not enough public land is available to preserve this whole ecosystem, then private land should be acquired adjacent to the public land.

The lower 48 United States needs a wild area like no other, where even the biggest imagination can run wild and the bravest of us are afraid to venture. We need a national park where real wilderness can flourish, unfettered, much bigger than Yellowstone, with herds of beasts rivaling what there has been in Africa. This would have to be an area where wilderness qualities are restored, as there is no space for this in our country as it exists right now. Fences would have to come down, roads would need to be dismantled, wildlife would have to be regrown, plants replanted. Grizzlies, 1,000,000 Buffalo, Elk, not just the look of something wild, but the real thing, too dangerous for the average person, a tribute to our greatest explorers.

The new national parks should be huge and not necessarily be for people. Wildlife should be the factor that dictates what new parks are established and where they should be. The new parks will not be "land grabs" but will be just a change of use of already government owned land. As far as I'm concerned, there is no backlog of maintenance that needs to be done in National Parks. If the parks can't accommodate visitors in ways that certain visitors expect, maybe those people should go to Vegas or Disneyworld for their vacations.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

There are tax incentives for restoring destroyed land whereby a rancher who cuts all the trees and grazes cows in a river can get money for fencing or a clearcutter can get money to plant tiny trees. Why doesn't the government pursue conservation tax credits so non destructive owners of the land can pay some of their expenses to keep wild land in tact.

This is the opposite of what most government does right now and flies in the face of most people's thinking (because they haven't thought about it), however, this is a concept that deserves a hard look. Just like the fish and wildlife departments try to increase the production of animals and fish that people think are important, oxygen production is something that we need much more of and that could be produced with a large government effort. I think this is a great idea, an idea that would create work for many people and help out tremendously with a problem that is becoming serious in our oxygen depleting society.

How can they claim "protection" by stopping our nation entering our national public land, and under the table allowing greedy developers to devastate thousands and maybe millions of acres by building new subdivisions and commercial parks? People need to start waking up and stop being ignorant to what happens, stop bending over for every crook, pro-eco idiot and marriage of greedy developer and just as greedy local government official. California earlier, then Arizona are the examples how public lands first have been closed to public, next sold to developers. Or maybe we should close the land for ourselves and welcome our friendly drug dealers from south of the border to exploit our land, grow dope and sell it to our kids? Shall we do that????- well, that's why you should think twice before bluntly supporting all these gestapo style closure actions, think before we turn our country into jail wrapped around with barb wires and chain links. What is it about human nature that we need to revoke each other freedoms, step onto others rights. As a result we all lose. We lose freedoms, and nothing left what United States of America used to stand for anymore.

ELK is not only a great program that promotes conservation, it is also an educational enrichment programs for youth, many who are at risk, and a vital tool that connects them to nature!!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Many people claim that federal land use planning for public lands (such as national forests or lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management) is broken. These land use plans cost millions of dollars to develop, routinely take 2-4 years to develop, and are instantaneously out of date as soon as they are finished. They are cumbersome paper documents that can only reliably be found in the offices of the federal agencies. We need an interdisciplinary task force, perhaps even a Congressional Commission made up of the finest planning, scientific and technological minds that will look forward to the next decade and figure out a methodology and technology that would allow the agencies to plan in a completely different way. One that:

- Creates an “open source” web-based planning tool that everyone could access
- Builds off of Google Earth type of platform
- Allows the agency to set the data standards but allows more than agency data to be considered
- Allows for natural values (ecosystem services) to be mapped
- Allows nimble, fast, transparent, predictive landscape analysis of various alternatives and of cumulative impacts
- Allows for adaptive management scenarios to be identified and analyzed up front and then tracked on the back end
- Allows a translation from a proposal in the plan to the budget that would be required to carry it out
- Allows the agency to update final plans as agency decisions and actions are made (i.e. an area is thinned for fire protection or an area is leased for oil and gas or a new trail is constructed) or for changing conditions (an area is burned in a fire or affected by another disturbance) so that the plan is always up to date with current conditions
- Tracks promised mitigation measures with actual mitigation and monitoring requirements
- Allows a comparison of cumulative impacts assumed during planning with what monitoring is actually showing
- Encourages cross-jurisdictional, cross agency and landscape level planning

• In essence, create a transparent planning process and a living document once approved. The advantage of having a Congressional Commission is that Congress would be invested in the outcome. In addition, Congress could invite key people from organizations such as Google, ESRI, Microsoft, Apple, National Geographic, Universities, and land use planning consultants and experts to work alongside some of the most creative agency planning staff. It is time to move federal resource planning and management into the 21st century.

Although I wasn't really inspired by this idea when I first read the title, it really might be a very good idea. I bet there are already i-phone apps for birders that allow you to search for birds to help ID species while you are out birding. I think the self-guided trail thing is a good idea

You need to re-read this suggestion. It is all about getting people outside. It is just suggesting using an i-phone to view maps and trail guides. I, for one, sure could have used a map on my phone on more than one occasion when I got lost in the woods.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I don't see why we can't dedicate an area for motorized use just like they do for Wilderness Areas? Call it a Recreation Area and it can never be changed to anything else just like a Wilderness Area. I also like to backpack, hike so I am a bit of an environmentalist to the fact that I think we ALL need to respect the land. I also love to snowmobile which when not ridden on low snow you don't see any signs but still we get kicked out for BS reasons. It's time to fight fire with fire and dedicate land just for us OHV users just like the tree huggers do for their hiking or skiing which gets labeled a Wilderness Area. Reality is Wilderness Areas just kick out the average American who is not able to hike 10 miles in the high country. Also I noticed a comment that a guy that likes to ride his motorcycle but wants to help protect the earth donates to protection groups. I hope you realize ALL those groups are trying to get you and your bike kicked off ALL public land. I don't care what group it is, they ALL hate motorized users and you should stop donating money to them....their priorities have changed and actually protect squat these days.

I think it is unpopular because people don't understand it. Some people see all electronic devices as anti-nature when in fact, this idea would help get the electronic generation more interested in nature. I wish I could vote again for it.

The same environmentalists who lobbied government to mandate Solar and Wind Energy are now crying out that paving our deserts and other natural areas with solar panels and wind generators should be stopped. Regardless Solar and Wind cannot reasonably provide for our energy needs and now we are seeing the downside of the land they require. However modern safe nuclear energy plants that use 98% of the radioactive material could provide ALL OUR ENERGY NEEDS FOR 700 YEARS. We have already mined the uranium needed and best of all these new plants would use the waste uranium from old plants. Each radioactive rod would be encapsulated in ceramic material that does not melt even during a radioactive meltdown, so the risk of a nuclear disaster is extremely remote. The final low level waste uranium would be suitable for medical uses. We do not want to see America's Great Outdoors covered with Solar Panels and Wind Generators. The President should shift National Energy Policy to nuclear energy which is the only current true Alternative Energy. He needs to act quickly before we lose the experts in nuclear fields.

Use federal authority in "Service First" MOU to create a combined NPS/RTCA and USDA/State and Private Forestry Rural Community Assistance Program combination and reassign Community Facility grants, DOT byways, DOT RTP grants, FTA TRIP grants and other related Rural Development grants, including Heritage PreserveAmerica programs as one office of technical planning services for gateway communities surrounded by, or in close proximity to federal public lands. Focus on increased access to public open spaces through community visioning for new trails, transit, bikeways, and green space corridors connections and portential developed outdoor classrooms for school districts. Refocus existing grants programs in USDA, DOI and DOT to focus on enhanced facilities/transportation servcies for more livable gateway communities around all federal and tribal lands. Utilize existing ideas of the RTCA and Americas Byways Resource Center and TRIPTAC.org as models for building this service. Fund this as a multi-line budget item "Service First" MOU Office for Public Lands Community Connections for Health, Recreation and Sustainable Tourism.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The Federal Highway Administration already diverts vast some of gas tax revenue away from highway upkeep to bicycle pathway programs. Bicyclists are hostile and arrogant to motorists also. I have seen them takeover 4 lane highways as they peddle 8 or 10 abreast through an area with total disregard for anyone but themselves. Possibly bicyclists should begin paying for the infrastructure they demand. License tags for bicycles to pay for their infrastructure is long overdue. That might slow down their outrageous requests. Believe it or not \$28,000,000 dollars was spent to pave the top of the flood control dike that encircles Lake Okeechobee in Florida for a handful of these folks who do not contribute a nickel as far as I know. This is one example of many that should not be allowed.

Sounds a little crazy at first, but think about it. We have the ability to control the amount of oxygen we produce, and the amount of moisture that we release into the atmosphere. How do we do it? By increasing on a massive scale the biomass (trees, etc.) that we plant. Trees create oxygen and atmosphere. Planting more biomass creates microclimates. Many microclimates create macroclimates. Microclimates can have positive benefits for reducing greenhouse gases and positively impacting moisture levels and climatic change. Don't Conservation agencies already do that? Yes, but not on a large enough scale. We need a new agency whose single mission focus is on atmospheric production, not lumber production. An agency who will research and focus on the most effective means of restoring our oxygen and climatic balance. A great deal of effort has been directed toward carbon dioxide reductions, while little attention has been given to increasing oxygen production. What are the benefits? JOBS -Besides the benefits already mentioned, this could be a massive jobs program all across the U.S. Just as the Civilian Conservation Corps. was established in post-Depression America, an agency for atmospheric production could employ 100's of thousands workers in a productive meaningful way. WATER - This program will preserve and increase our shrinking supply and growing drought of precious clean water. ATMOSPHERIC - Trees and biomass not only produce oxygen and water, but they consume carbon-dioxide, conserve evaporation and regulate temperatures in the process. How do we get started? Legislatively - Establish an agency for this purpose. Partner - Partner with the many federal and private organizations already in existence that serve a conservation role. Physically - One only needs to look at aerial views to see that there are millions of acres that can be planted, both public and private. You'll find many of those in your own backyard, from urban areas to remote regions. Begin with buffers along EVERY creek, stream and river to preserve our scarce supply of pure water. There are literally millions of places where trees don't currently exist where they could be planted. Through succession planting dry arroyos devoid of water could be converted to flowing streams. Microclimates are created that would allow, over time, the expansion of these buffer areas. SUMMARY: We have millions and millions of acres that could become oxygen-producing, water-producing, carbon-dioxide cleansing factories that would moderate our growing climatic changes while creating thousands of jobs. CALL TO ACTION: Don't just vote on this idea. Write a letter....to your newspaper...to your Congressman...to the President...to anyone that will listen and can move this forward from "just an idea" to a real goal that we can achieve for the betterment of our environment and America's Great Outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Becoming a member of The Nature Conservancy and one or more of the local land trusts in your state is something that every conservationist should consider doing. (I belong to a dozen land trusts in my own state and have served on the boards of three of them.) From the Land Trust Alliance's homepage in idea, you can click on "Find a Land Trust" and then on your own state. Depending on where you live, you may find scores of land trust organizations (see Massachusetts and California, for example) or very few (like in the plains states).

You are certainly right about this... "The same environmentalists who lobbied government to mandate Solar and Wind Energy are now crying out that paving our deserts and other natural areas with solar panels and wind generators should be stopped." That kind of action will accomplish nothing! Nuclear is the way to go. It is much safer than people think! Citing Chernobyl is a prime example of how little people know about current nuclear technology. The public knows so little about it and therefore fears it.

Require that, in order to be graduated from high school, students show mastery in why it is important to understand how everything on this planet is connected. What one person/company/corporation does in one place affects all of this - whether this be fishing, how we use water, what goes in the air, bushmeat trade in endangered species (do we really need to kill and eat chimpanzees?) or how we take care of trails near our homes. This would be holistic education and is desperately needed.

As we have seen with the Gulf Oil Disaster, offshore drilling poses enormous risks to the health of our public and private coastlines, not to mention the aquatic environment. Even though oil companies may take many environmental safety measures, we can never be 100% safe from a catastrophic oil spill that will devastate the environment, wildlife, the economic livelihood of fishermen, and the tourism industry. Let's move toward focusing all of our efforts on finding clean, renewable energy-- investing tenfold in solar, wind and other renewable energy sources as well as starting to take energy conservation seriously. Let's make a decision today to stop harming our lands and waters forever!

I agree and believe that hope for rural communities that used to base their economies on mining, logging, etc. and now frequently suffer from economic hardship have a great potential to change their local economies to focus on eco-tourism and outdoor recreation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

There is a strong link between the way we develop our cities, towns and other urban areas and the preservation of open lands-- both private and public. Suburban sprawl puts enormous pressure on private land owners to develop green space. We need to look at the problem from a wider angle, and reduce the development pressure by focusing development within existing urban areas. The EPA is already involved in promoting Smart Growth, the philosophy of densifying development in urban cores, making development mixed use (residential and commercial), thus making walking, biking, and public transportation a real option. This in turn reduces the need to drive everywhere, relieves development pressure, and reduces pollution. But the federal government can do more to promote this! 1.) First of all, the EPA can take on a strong role in creating a pro-Smart growth policy and then using that platform to educate the public, the states and the local governments about the negative effects of urban sprawl. We first have to identify urban sprawl as a problem and present Smart Growth as the solution. The federal government, through its agencies, can put pressure on cities and towns to follow the smart growth model of development. I envision a major PR campaign. 2.) The federal government hugely influences our nation's transportation infrastructure, policy, and planning. Transportation is intimately connected with land use planning. We need to do everything possible to promote public transportation options and development that supports those modes. 3.) Open space preservation -- preserving existing green space through public and private land conservation through support to federal and state land management agencies, as well as and private land trusts 4.) Promote greater regionalism in terms of land use planning. Currently most planning is done at the county level. We need to promote regional and state-level planning, and coordinate that with conservation planning. 5.) Provide state, regional, and local governments incentives for smart growth and comprehensive planning. Perhaps a national land use policy could act as a guide to state and regional governments...? 6.) Revitalize urban areas and make changes in housing policy and other tax-related policy to encourage this.

100 Stories of Youth in the Great Outdoors I see that the fewest contributions thus far are in the area of 'Tools' and that there are very few suggestions that focus on fostering the engagement of youth in the Great Outdoors. Perhaps the expression of the most precious experiences we have had in natural settings can be found in those indelible, unforgettable and absolutely one-of-kind happenings that sometimes occur when a mother or father, grandparent, aunt or uncle or an adult friend takes us out, when we are young, into wild waters and landscapes in a boat, on an ATV, on foot or horseback or bike, and something wonderful, awe-inspiring or amazing touches our hearts in ways that connect us forever afterwards to that place and activity. How we are captivated and captured by such outdoor experiences that are brought to us by a special person who cares for us and for whom we deeply care when we are young are conveyed in the stories we share with one another over a campfire on future journeys with our dearest friends and family in later years. Let us gather together and select 100 stories submitted from youth 8-18, one each from a boy and girl in each of the 50 states, who have had the gift of a special experience in a national park or state natural area with an adult family member or friend, and publish a book with a picture of the place and person accompanying each story, for other youth to read and see what possible and precious gifts might await them if they explore the wild treasures available to each of them across our nation wherever they might live.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Cyrus John Waggoner Park Dedication: Of My Grandfather      We protect the earth, water and air so that the life that has lived in a particular place in the past may continue to do so. We preserve the past that still lives. We suppress fire and then we use fire to re-create more room, in order to renew and refresh current relationships among many forms of life, from bluegills to blueberries and bears. We restore the present. We save, secure and sustain a landscape, an entire ecology, in order that these gifts may be shared by many forms of life, by all of our relations. We conserve the future. So did Cyrus John Waggoner (it seems so long ago and yet also not so long ago) model for us how to preserve, restore and conserve that life upon which and with which we live. So do we now gather together, from near and far across the land, in order to celebrate and consecrate his laughter, his loving, his manner of living ... and his legacy ... in this particular place which he helped to create and maintain, to dedicate its use for future generations and to devote ourselves to continuing this legacy in our lives and in the lives of our children and grandchildren.      How do we know a man; how might we know John Waggoner? Among us and in the papers that are kept, we might review the words, works and witnesses of a man, of this man. Much has been said in honor of his living, about being a ranger, a warden, a fisherman and hunter, a man honored in his community for his many contributions. For me, however, the measure of a man, of any man, is to be heard and seen and felt in the word he keeps to his family and friends, the nature of the woman he marries, and in the character and quality of the lives of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and, eventually, how well they are able to pass along the legacy of these essential aspects of him.      Of integrity, we know John Waggoner's actions were congruent with what he said he would do. He was utterly reliable and responsible ... he was true to his word. Of intimacy, we know the woman he married and cherished. Alice was brave and beautiful, of sensitive and generous heart; he chose well and loved her steadfastly ... he was a loving companion. Of identity, we know he was thoroughly a family man -- procreating, nurturing and sending 15 children out into the world. Here, gathered together are the generations that have come of his strength in providing a safe and secure place for their growing... he was a capable and caring father who produced many children who have become, in their turn, gifts to their own communities.      So here it is -- and listen very carefully you little ones, for this is especially for you -- preserve and protect the past, restore good relationships in the present, conserve a place for others into the future, and gather together regularly in such places as this to celebrate and consecrate the laughter, love, living and legacy of one man who embodied in his life how we indeed preserve beauty, restore love, conserve truth and devote ourselves, consecrate our heads and hearts and hands in a community of caring souls, to ensure a rich legacy of such sacred things so that they are available plentifully, in perpetuity.      Because of the man he was and because my grandfather died upon my 18th birthday, just days before I was to graduate and embark upon the adventure of life -- life, death and rebirth -- beginnings, endings and renewals -- will be forever be bound up together in my heart. So too, let us now, all of us together, re-commit and devote ourselves to preserving beauty, to restoring love, and to conserving the truth in our lives. And let us preserve, restore and conserve ... consecrate ... the natural places where it is so beautifully natural to do and be the sort of men and women C. John Waggoner showed us how to be.      (Dedication at the Minong Ranger Station - July 5, 2009)

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Reducing Adversarial Groups (RAGS) by Pairing Opposing Participants (POPS) Resolving conflict between groups with polarized opposing positions is often done using old, outdated, inefficient and costly methods. Whether it has to do with local land use decisions by a county zoning board or state/national policy determinations regarding water rights, opponents will gather into groups and try to overwhelm 'the other side' with larger numbers, greater resources or more potent tactics (positive and negative). This extremely antagonistic process invariably polarizes, deepening differences and resentments. (I teasingly call such common group combativeness and aggressions the GKHA – Ghengis Kahn Horde Approach.) I propose an alternative process based upon a deeper understanding of human ecology and past successful bridging of authentic differences of strongly held values at the local level called Reducing Adversarial Groups (RAGS) by Pairing Opposing Participants (POPS). The process works like this. Hopefully early on in a confrontation an exercise by all participants is agreed to that lasts a pre-determined length of time (e.g. two weeks, two months). During this period, only those participate who agree to pair with another participant from the 'opposing party.' Only principles (meanings ... affirmations), processes (methods ... approaches) and participations (actions) that both persons in the pair can agree on are brought to a larger inter-group session. Ideally it is best to compose three POPS groups, one of neighbors, one of representatives of organizations/agencies and one of legislators. Over time a number of inter-group sessions are held where these three groups share their conversations and deliberations. Again, only material that the entire group of paired opposing participants can agree on as a group can be brought forward. This dyadic process of relationship and relational dialogue counterbalances the new world cultural tendencies that overemphasize individualism (1) and the old world cultural and historical tendencies that overemphasize group action (3), by putting relationship, that is, interpersonal dialogue (2), back into this process of bouncing back and forth from doing what you want with disregard for anyone or anything else and doing what you want because together with others you have more power than another gang or mob, bouncing from individual prerogative to group pressure/power and back without negotiating person to person. Putting the two back between the one and three often leads to a great mystery and miracle of reconciliation and resolution (123Mystery). While the neighbor I hunt with and I mostly have diametrically opposed political values, over a long period of dialogue, we have found that we really agree regarding some fiscal matters, our responses to institutional hierarchies, and our approaches to the outdoors (environmental matters). What we can affirm with one another provides one of the greatest tools for reaching beneficial group consensus.

The Regional Flavor concept - creating a network of small, locally-owned businesses (arts, heritage, culture, food and tourism) with a focus on long-term sustainability of rural communities and lands. Connecting people together in rural areas helps them understand how together they can become stronger in developing local economies while protecting their biodiversity (including cultural diversity). Additionally, creating links between urban and rural areas is critical. We need to know where our food comes from, how important our public and private lands are, why our resources need protection and sustainable management, etc. Support for regional networks can include sustainable planning, regional branding, ecotourism, agriCULTURE tours, etc. The rural/urban links opportunities are numerous - from promoting educational programs in the schools to creating niche travel opportunities and small businesses.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

-How about using existing tools. For example, in wetland permits, honestly weigh cumulative and secondary impacts for destructive projects that degrade our recreational and natural resources, and deny permits with significant impacts. A good example is the proposed Cross County Connector in Charles County Maryland that threatens Mattawoman Creek. Or the expansion of an airport there—how was a permit issued for filling in a deep stream valley without seriously examining alternative sites? Especially considering that the growth inducing impacts would push Mattawoman over the brink?

-Direct land preservation. Take the example of 2200 acre Chapman Forest, which was purchased in 1998 by the state of Maryland and the Conservation Fund to prevent a huge new development. Now designated Chapman State Park, this site is used for environmental education in an authentic setting that harbors considerable biodiversity, including more than three dozen state-rare species, an old-growth tract, a rare Shell-marl ravine forest, and one of Mattawoman Creek's finest tributaries. Also helped by the purchase was Mattawoman itself, one the Chesapeake Bay's most significant fish nurseries. Also preserved was Mt. Aventine, a remarkable antebellum manor house that housed the Chapman family, whose presence at the site oversaw history from 1750 to the twentieth century. -Past preservation of land works, and continued preservation to thwart degradation by encroaching development. Examples include Chapman Forest in Charles County, Maryland, Piscataway National park that partially preserves the view from Mt. Vernon, and Maryland Natural Environment Areas along Mattawoman Creek, one the Chesapeake Bay's most productive finfish tributaries. Mattawoman is under such concentrated attack by local land use policies that it is now showing the signs of wear predicted twenty years ago by fisheries biologists. Federal investment in land preservation is one of the sure-fire tools known to help. Know that the Mattawoman is to the Chesapeake Bay as a babybottle is to a baby. If the Mattawoman is allowed to degrade, so goes the Chesapeake.

Diane Kerr The Texas Master Naturalist program provides an education and training unique to one's local environment. This type of learning promotes better/wiser choices. The learning is hands on and those armed with the knowledge and understanding of their local environment has contributed to informing thousands of local citizens. Private and public entities continue to benefit from having Texas Master Naturalist volunteers carry their land stewardship to others. This can be seen in the better choices that the Houston/Galveston communities are making due to the training from this program. The public at large is learning, private citizens, children/students, and employees all become better citizens through this most valuable knowledge of learning about one's local natural resources, how to conserve those resources as well beneficially manage them.

Have units embrace substantive volunteer programs. Utilize proven management principles such as the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum and ensure that all aspects of ROS are served. EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN! Practice Tread Lightly! Follow the principle: Pack it in, pack it out with a little extra.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Return to a Multiple Use philosophy. Before the great (?) environmental and preservational movements of the '70s, this worked best. We all shared the land with respect for those who recreated on it and for those who produced commodity resources from it. Commodity production creates wealth. If we don't create our commodity resources, we must import them, exporting our wealth in the process. It seems hard for urban America to grasp that land, whether public or private, is the larder from which we derive all our needs to maintain our quality of life, but this we must understand and respect. The chief obstacle now to Multiple Use is the fragmenting of our public lands into special use areas. The Federal Government should cease being intimidated by vocal minorities and return to a Multiple Use philosophy for the common good. Our political leaders can assist in this by de-politicizing our land management agencies. These are staffed by trained professionals that we have hired to manage our lands. Let them do their jobs. One tool that would help in these regards is to allow no more life-time appointments for Federal District judges. Far too often, with no accountability to hinder them, they follow their own agenda, with little regard to the impact their decisions have on those trying to produce raw materials and on the rural communities affected by their decisions. Another tool would be to rescind the Equal Access to Law consideration for all of the professional protesters who seek to inhibit any further meaningful development of our public lands. Our public land management agencies must pay these court costs out of their own budgets. This seriously erodes their ability to meet their more important obligations. A third tool is to amend the NEPA and ESA laws so that only those appeals of public land management programs by folks who have standing and credibility, and whose appeals have substance, will be considered by the agencies. This would do much to inhibit the myriad of appeals filed by bored college students with nothing better to do on Saturday nights. Finally, with regard to public lands conservation, we need no more. We have National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, to name the most common. Enough is enough! It is time we start managing our public lands in a more realistic, responsible, and mature manner, and bring an end to the public land wars of the PAST THREE DECADES. Montana

Local residents and groups have a keen eye for watching over nearby Federal, State, and Local lands. Although they may not have the expertise, they have to live with the consequences. So if the land, water, and other natural resources are exploited, they are the ones who suffer. Short sighted profits, land development, and mining operations driven by greed and profit are not viable options anymore. All of our resources are becoming scarce and polluted. I wish we could trust Congress and Administrations, to "do the right thing" but money talks too loudly. Big media backed by our Supreme Court's "human" corporations will distort whatever message is delivered. If this process continues, America has lost its heart and soul - its waters and lands. Open the dialogue for "new" development of any sort to local people's vote as to whether or not they want wells drilled, and water exposed to pollution. As for land subdivision, good luck with that one - We need to build UP not OUT. Once the land and water is GONE, it's GONE.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Here is where the environmental communities hypocrisy is abundantly clear. Green folks want us off of oil but cry Crocodile tears when it begins to happen. Someone needs to grow up. We will never have our cake and eat it too. Life forms at ground level will adapt although birds may have a few more problems adapting but will over time. In fact cantilevered nesting platforms for threatened bird species might provide environmental mitigation for the windmills.

Congress authorized the creation of a National Trails System in 1968. Since then 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails have been authorized spanning more than 50,000 miles through 49 states. They touch or go through 100 of the metropolitan areas with 50,000 or more people. These trails are managed through innovative public/private partnerships that rely essentially on the contributions of citizen stewards organized by nonprofit trail organizations. These trails involve all of the Federal land managing agencies and numerous State and local park, recreation, and resource agencies. However, after more than 40 years only one of these 30 trails (the Appalachian National Scenic Trail) is fully open for Americans to use, appreciate and enjoy. We need to hasten the work to complete all of these trails for public benefit by providing more operating funding to the Federal agencies that administer and manage them. We also need substantial annual appropriations from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to purchase land from willing sellers to close the many gaps in the National Scenic Trails and protect critical historic, cultural, and natural resources along the National Historic Trails. Finally, we need to support and assist the nonprofit organizations that are recruiting and training the citizen volunteers that build, protect, interpret, and sustain these trails. In short, we need to complete the National Scenic and Historic Trails as corridors that link together the many parks, wildlife refuges, conservation areas, wildernesses, preserves, and historic landmarks into a network of "green infrastructure" that spans across America.

Orienteering is a wonderful method for youth and families, and all of us, to become more connected with the outdoors, while learning skills in navigation and problem solving and becoming physically active. In Sweden, about 30 percent of the population has orienteered, and many are avid orienteers. In the United States, perhaps one percent have orienteered at some point in their life, mostly through the military or Scouts. The U.S. government can help by encouraging the use of non-wilderness land for orienteering, where appropriate and within environmental guidelines. Many land use managers are not familiar with the sport and thus are overly cautious in approving permits because of lack of familiarity/understanding. A good start would be for major U.S. land owners such as the Forest Service, BLM, and National Park Service to enter into agreements of understanding with the United States Orienteering Federation that can then be used to facilitate contacts between local orienteering groups and local parks/land areas.

Allow people on welfare, unemployment, social security, prisoners, on a voluntary basis to be transported to parks by bus or other means to help clean up garbage or debris. Bring a garbage bag or supply them and let them spend a day in the park voluntarily cleaning up. Companies or other organizations could sponsor these outings by providing transportation or beverages or lunch.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I agree in concept. My concern is there appears to be an increase in independent planning efforts, as though we are returning to the 60s era of functional planning for each resource. (SCORPS, State Wildlife Plans, fire plans, each agency plan) We need to connect plans and planning efforts as you suggest. You might consider a link to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans which are required by LWCF and have a 45 year history. Each state develops these large landscape scale plans that bridge across agencies and communities, etc. The more we can do comprehensive, integrative and multi-resource planning the better will be our vision, connections and partnerships. cheers

The major theme of the initiative is to connect America's outdoor spaces----planning is a essential tool to building this connected system and SCORPs could be a major tool for the larger landscape-scale (regional interagency—county, state, fed) plans that will be needed. SCORPs are the only large-scale planning efforts mandated (LWCF), comprehensive so as to include water and wildlife, and financed in part by federal money----other planning efforts are confined to an agency's particular jurisdiction. We have too many individual agency plans built in institutional silos. SCORPS can provide the forum for much need interagency planning.

Years ago we agreed that to manage water resources we needed to plan and manage watersheds; that to plan and manage wildlife we needed to manage for their home range; to manage timber we needed to plan and manage ecosystems. Likewise, to manage outdoor recreation, parks and open space we need to plan and manage at a larger regional scale then the boundaries of our agencies. We need cross-cutting planning/collaborative efforts that will build interagency/multi-communities vision and connections. We need federal leadership and support, but not federal planning. Statewide-comprehensive outdoor recreation plans are required by LWCF, and they provide the closest example of regional landscape-scale planning across communities, agencies, partners, etc. This is an existing tool and program that can valuable with some improvements.

If the goal of such a contest were to glamourize and publicize under-used public lands, this great idea could be used as a tool to solve one of the biggest public-lands problems--overcrowding--without resorting to restrictive regulations like those now being proposed for Yosemite. For instance, Zion is usually crowded, but yet, not so far away, Kodakrome and Calf Creek generally have available campsites, and almost no one knows about the remarkable campgrounds and recreations opportunities in the mountains of central Nevada. This photo contest could be called something like "Secret Paradise", and accept only photos of underused and underpublicized public lands.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

This is pathetic sarcasm because if it weren't for those smokestacks you wouldn't have most of the products you progressives take for granted. The only reason you can drive your subaru from your urban guilt trip existence, to the mtns and strap on your skis while enjoying the heater in the lodge while you put on your plastic cross country ski boots and your fiber filled jacket is because of the energy and raw materials that our great country has graciously given up for your convenience. Are you all prepared to move back to the equator so we can survive without using any energy but the sun? If not then kindly sit down. Solar and wind have yet to prove themselves profitable and certainly we can't have nuclear power even tho it's been proven safe and your friends the French depend on it almost 100%.

Agree -- it struck me as a little odd at first, but that's just because I'm not a gadget person. But this does seem like a way to let the younger crowd bring technology into the woods, without creating any noise or disruption to harass wildlife or other people. So if this would be fun for them and get them out in the woods, then why not?

For a long time, I was resistant to using a gps unit for the reason Christiaan describes. However, I finally caved in and now I LOVE it. Where bushwhacking is permitted, I am now perfectly comfortable wandering way off trail in unfamiliar places, deeper and deeper into the woods, because I know I will be able to get back to the trail head without angst. Also, now I use gps mapping software to map my excursions and photos of animal tracks and sign, plants, etc. That's one gadget that has added tremendously to my outdoor enjoyment and learning. Maybe this "app" that describes can do this for other people.

Geocaching is a fabulous way to engage kids with the outdoors. It's great fun, kids love it, and it's inexpensive. One GPS unit per family is enough.

I, too, like to get my information from scientists rather than celebrities, but I think TV and the internet are valuable opportunities to do more than merely present the science. Education is necessary, but often not enough by itself to change behavior. People are more likely to change in response to a story that appeals on an emotional level, involving someone they seek to identify with. It's called Education Entertainment. It works for public health issues. For example, in South Africa, a popular weekly drama ("Tsha-Tsha") in which HIV prevention was addressed, was much more effective in getting people to practice safe sex than education alone ever was. There are other examples of this from around the world. I am not aware of any such thing addressing sustainable behavior, and no specific ideas are jumping out at me now. I think the raw facts are best presented in the classroom, where you have a captive audience of young minds, and more of a focus on ecology is critical. The education will help people understand the consequences of their actions. Some may change in response to that, but while others may strive to change, many are unlikely to do so until the new behaviors seem natural and comfortable. To propel that transition, it helps to appeal on an emotional level. TV and internet could be powerful tools for that.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Sounds good, Ron, you've won me over. I, too, occasionally lead hikes for kids or adults, and you are right -- there are some who are afraid of the forest, afraid of getting lost or of being attacked by animals they know nothing about. Fear is fear, and cannot be undone by force. Better to meet people where they are before you try to educate them, and this piece of technology seems to do that.

The landscape already is largely humanized, we don't need more of the trappings of technology. We need to encourage appreciation of raw nature, so people will want to preserve and stop destroying that which gives them life. There is nothing inherent about adolescence or single marital status that makes the enjoyment of raw nature unappealing. That's more of a sociocultural issue. Increasing appreciation and awareness of the great outdoors requires cultural change. Adolescents (along with most everyone else) like to do whatever is "cool". Marketing greatly impacts the latter, and that is where technology comes in handy, not as the bait to entice them outdoors. Already it is becoming cool amongst some adolescent groups to wear t-shirts with green slogans, etc. Littering and the MacDonald's diet are becoming uncool. Backyard chickens are achieving cool status. Change is a-happening.

Yes, I think people might think that this is a sort of virtual tour that you can do from the couch (see comment #9). Before demoting, please read the idea carefully, as well as the additional information provided in comment #6.

Let's turn away from the current, headlong rush toward industrialization of our deserts and shift our renewable energy pursuits toward point-of-use solar installations in the built environment. The policy now being advanced is to fast-track and subsidize massive solar developments that will have irreversible impacts on fragile desert ecosystems and species already on the margins. Yes, we have to address the climate crisis decisively and dramatically. But for the very species now increasingly marginalized by climate change, the massive, industrial-scale energy factories now planned for our public lands will only hasten their demise. We have already seen, time and again, and very recently, what happens when we relinquish our environment and power to corporations. This is our opportunity to make the big change, and turn this giant tanker of misdirected policy around. Our public lands are the last bulwark protecting what remains of our country's ecological integrity. We have to stand up for them. Let's pursue renewable energy, by all means, but let's do it the right way. Localized, small-footprint, solar installations on paved, densified, urban sites is the only sane approach.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The local community park, trail or natural open space represents the first and most accessible opportunity for Americans to get outdoors and connect with nature. These local park jurisdictions are the grassroots of great American park endeavors. Without the facilitation and financial support of federal resources, local park providers will continue to struggle as the lowest infrastructure priority, competing with other municipal services for diminishing fiscal resources. For the majority of Americans, their first experiences beyond their backyard (if they have one) will be on an urban trail or in a local park. The urban core has been neglected as a focus for land conservation for decades yet the bulk of humans are exposed to nature in the city as their first steps to recreating in natural landscapes outside the urban area. If this Presidential directive to get Americans outdoors is to be successful, it must help bridge the gap between the urban environments where the bulk of Americans reside and the great outdoors of our national parks, forests and larger landscapes. Financial resources need to pour in to local park jurisdictions where dense populations reside and the first steps to outdoor experiences can be encouraged and enhanced.

Cost should not be a barrier to spending time outside, yet it is cited time and again as a top reason for not getting out and spending time in the great outdoors. This is a very legitimate concern as a family of four may spend \$800 - \$2,500 for camping gear. For many that would like to try camping, but aren't sure how often they will camp in a year, this may be a prohibitive expense. Companies such as [mountainsidegearrental.com](http://mountainsidegearrental.com) or [lowergear.com](http://lowergear.com) rent great gear for a fraction of buying gear and make it very easy for people to get out into the wilderness. Too bad more people aren't aware of these resources as they may finally get the family out on that camping trip.

I have been involved as an instructor in the Texas Master Naturalist Program since its inception and must say that this program is one of the best vehicles to attract citizens, equip them with knowledge about local natural resources, then send them out in partnership with various federal, state, and local agencies to accomplish great things on the land. I am proud to be associated with such a wonderful program designed to connect the public with my agency and the natural resources we all love. I have not only witnessed great conservation being done by these dedicated volunteers, I've also enjoyed great friendships because of my involvement.

Provide federal support for trail associations, without taking them over or mandating how they do things. Federal support could be land management agency collaboration, coordination of training for association managers, coordination of a seasonal volunteer system that combines travel with service learning, or other support that helps the association get their mission accomplished while increasing local ownership of the natural resources.

I would like to see an opportunity for serving the US in the National Parks. It could be along the same lines as the Peace Corp, or military service. We have gotten away from having high school / college graduates giving back to their country. Whether it be serving as a naturalist, trail manager, or camp ground manager; students could use their skills and talents for the benefit of the parks and people who visit the parks.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

An effort should be made to better engage young kids with wildlife in their areas. This can include textbooks on our nation's wildlife, organized trips to conservation areas, and customized learning programs to teach kids about the ecosystems within their specific region. I remember some of my best memories as a child were being outdoors, exploring nearby forests, finding frogs and strange insects – why do we tend to move away from this as we grow older? We learn so many things at an early age that do not seem to register with children, but perhaps if more effort was put in the schools to teach children about the local wildlife and natural environment, many of us today would get out of our cubicles and go explore America's Great Outdoors more frequently.

The creation of a nutrient reduction credit market would take bold steps in monetizing and quantifying the amount of non-point run-off that destroys the water quality of the nation's waters, specifically the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment discharges from agricultural land in the Bay watershed have a dramatic influence on the biological diversity of ecosystems and the attractiveness of the Bay's water to local citizens. Assigning credits to a certain amount of nutrient reduction from restructured agricultural land has the potential to effectively decrease hazardous nutrient levels as well as support the future of those local communities. A system requiring credit purchase and rationing creates an efficient market of exchange. The newly created Chesapeake Ecofinance Company LLC (CEFC) of Annapolis, MD, focuses on implementing ecologically sound restoration and conservation practices on agricultural lands to create improved farm economies that also clean the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. It operates by purchasing, restoring, and reselling farm properties. It Improves the land by restoring wetlands, installing riparian and vegetative buffers, restoring natural hydrology, and increasing biodiversity, instituting best management practices (BMPs), and selling conservation easement and ecosystem services credits. Government support, on all levels, could encourage nutrient reduction markets, successfully preserving ecosystems and reconnecting individuals with their natural surroundings.

France, Denmark, Britain, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, South Korea, Brazil, India, China, Russia - all and more have nuclear power stations. Chernobyl was a poorly managed and outdated design even at the time of the accident, which has been surpassed by a factor of ten today. Three Mile Island was a big scare but nothing happened other than hype and fear-mongering. Wind turbines are insufficient and momentary producers, kill birds by the thousands, and raise the temperature of the surrounding grounds - AND they kill the people who work on them - there is no set-and-forget operation for power. Hydroelectric is the cleanest form of power generation, but many environmentalists oppose and want to dismantle existing dams.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

It seems almost monthly another Girl Scout, Boy Scout Camp or outdoor camp for kids is put up for sale. This situation is preventable and is often a marketing and/or fundraising problem. To help preserve Boy Scout, Girl Scout and other outdoor nature camps for kids, the all volunteer nonprofit I founded, LandChoices ([www.LandChoices.org](http://www.LandChoices.org)), has launched the new blog SaveCamps.org at [www.SaveCamps.org](http://www.SaveCamps.org). The blog is part of LandChoices' Big Camps program to save camps for kids and was established to offer information on how Scout and other outdoor camps can become sustainable and saved from development. We've had more than 1,000 visitors from 36 states and Canada seeking critical information on SaveCamps.org in just over two short months! Please visit and share the link [www.SaveCamps.org](http://www.SaveCamps.org) with others, and feel free to comment and offer your expertise. I am pleased to announce that Jenny Morgan, founder of The Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative at [www.KidsAndNature.org](http://www.KidsAndNature.org), contacted me after finding SaveCamps.org on the Internet. Jenny and I are meeting in Cleveland, Ohio this month to discuss helping camps improve marketing, camp attendance, land conservation, and fundraising to ultimately save camps and get them protected with permanent conservation easements. Back in 2003, Jenny devoted her life to saving her camp, and with the help of several alumni, she did. I hope to learn from Jenny and her and I will work together to post her story and best practices on SaveCamps.org and [www.KidsAndNature.org](http://www.KidsAndNature.org) so other camps can implement what works. In fact, Jenny is the one who told me about this USDA idea website. Jenny and I discussed the idea for national legislation to save camps, similar to our National Forest system, maybe like a "National Camps" program that would preserve camps with conservation easements. Ken Jacobsen, volunteer editor of SaveCamps.org and an MBA, says, "As a youth, I saw my Boy Scout camp sold to developers. I'm hoping as volunteer editor of SaveCamps.org we can educate scout leaders and other camp owners on options to preserve these youth resources from development." Jacobsen earned his Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America, in 1983 and is currently Cubmaster for Pack 631 at Country Oaks Elementary. He has a son who is a Webelos Cub Scout and a daughter who is a Daisy Girl Scout. Ken and I started SaveCamps.org to help put a halt to the preventable sale of these irreplaceable outdoor camps for kids, Through SaveCamps.org our objective is to help the people making the ultimate decisions on these camps learn innovative land protection and fundraising methods that create a win-win situation for their programs and the camps. Learn more at [www.SaveCamps.org](http://www.SaveCamps.org). SaveCamps.org is a project of LandChoices, a 501c3 national nonprofit land conservation organization based in Milford, Michigan. The SaveCamps.org blog is part of LandChoices' Big Camps program to save camps for kids and was established to encourage and educate people on how Scout and other outdoor camps can be saved from development.

Active management of recreational use works. With management (maps, kiosks, partnership agreements, adopt a trail, on the ground signing, etc) land managers increase capacity while decreasing impacts to natural resources. Involvement of federal land managers with local communities works. Community based FACA committees formed from a broad base of stakeholders can well serve as advisory councils to assist the land manager in critical planning and decision-making efforts.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Have units embrace substantive volunteer programs. Utilize proven management principles such as the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum and ensure that all aspects of ROS are served.

Rainwater harvesting. Getting off grass (and mowing, fertilizing and watering). Learning about bugs. And birds. And critters. Building trails. Leading school groups and passing on your knowledge. Knowing where to find answers. Just enjoying being outdoors.

The following is an idea posted on behalf on an e-mailer: --- This is an idea for conservation and to encourage Americans to use the outdoors but I do **\*NOT\*** want my name on any Web site: - Utilize the existing nationwide network of utility easements, particularly those linking all the highrise electric towers as a cross-country pedestrian pathway/network for walkers, hikers and cyclists (or at least mountain bikers since the existing trails underneath them are dirt). Then promote the trails. This would encourage Americans to walk more, as in Europe, because it would be a safe and fairly scenic, extensive network. These easements could also be used for community gardens and to plant orchards for public consumption, to feed our homeless citizens. Local garden clubs could even have contests to beautify these corridors (designing so they do not interfere with vehicle access to service the towers).

As another source of funds for LWCF, establish a fee for developing on undeveloped lands. This could remove an incentive to continued sprawl development since it is generally cheaper to build on raw land than redevelop. It will also help compensate economically (at least in part) for the value of the environmental service lost when natural resources are removed or impacted.

How about tapping in to the growing numbers of Boomer retirees? Provide housing and a per diem and many Boomers just might be willing to work for a few weeks at our many wonderful parks and historic sites. Many have needed skills for repairing /enhancing the parks and retired history teachers would fit in nicely at our historic sites.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

A couple thoughts come to mind some of these thoughts may have been mentioned in one manner or another... • Education and Re education - I believe the future of conservation will rely within the will of the people, but unfortunately large aspects of our society are disconnected from the land value of open space/wilderness. There needs to be constant/consistent reminders about the positive values of land/open space/wilderness. People need to understand the linkage between riparian buffers and water quality. I would think that the government could partner with the talent of colleges and university programs to educate the masses. There needs to be a more organized/aggressive effort to encourage people to embrace the outdoors and to support the land/sustainability of the land. • Government organizations/restructuring/promoting cohesiveness – I think there should be some heart to heart discussion about creating teamwork/vision between the Forest Service, the Park Services, the Land Management Bureau, and Fish and Wildlife Services. If there is going to be a national dialogue about conservation in America, the individuals within these departments need to be willing to work together. It seems that the visions of the Forest Service could sometimes go against visions of the Fish and Wildlife Services. One groups “vision/role” could hamper/take away from another departments. If these groups are unable to work together in a fruitful manner, why have these discussions? • Continue to Reward individuals/companies who choose easements. We face the reality that in order to encourage conservation - the private landowner plays an enormous role. I think that greater opportunities/creative economic & tax incentives should be given for small farmers, companies, individuals willing to put their land into an easement. With this said, I believe the government should make sure that organizations caring for easements meet national/state regulations. I would even suggest that open space easements should be encouraged within urbanized regions/near wilderness & national/state parks. Easements provide a great opportunity to buffer between open space and developed regions. • I would encourage the president to expand the national parks and designated wilderness areas. • Eco regionalism and wilderness corridors should be a priority within the focus of conservation/wilderness expansion. Within this topic, I would even suggest finding ways to create conservation routes to link different areas nationally. This will require compromise and willingness to work together. If government organizations are willing to work together, if easements are encouraged, if there are aggressive education efforts, and a variety of organizations like The Nature Conservancy can assist with data...I think there can be great progress towards conservation within America.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Global Warming is as a man-made phenomenon is a hoax. Checkout who participated in setting up carbon trading - BP, GE and Obama among others. Look at who benefits..... Al Gore, the biggest promoter, can't/won't answer questions of scientists who oppose this idea. His much honored "documentary" has lost in court battles around the world because it doesn't provide science, just computer models. If computer models were right, we should be in the middle of a new ice age and 50% of the US population would be of African descent based on the absolute truths of the late '60s/early 70s. When he retired Joe (weatherman instrumental in establishing the weather channel) decided to empirically review weather stations that are used in the US to get atmospheric temperatures. He found that only 10% meet the US Government requirements for monitoring stations. We need to stop depending on computer programs as though they provide truth. Incomplete data in, gives garbage out. And, the US stations are supposed to be the most accurate in the world. Climate change is a natural phenomena. I live in New England where everyday has a new climate. If we weren't warming, we'd be living among the mastodons, wearing skins and getting no fruit or vegetables because it'd be too cold to grow anything. With 6billion people on the planet, be grateful we can grow enough food to feed everyone (except where governments are at war or won't allow trade). Get peace and we all flourish on this warm globe.

Challenge Americans to go out and photograph our national parks for one year. Then have them present their best photographs for a National Contest and Exhibition. The photos could go on tour to our National Galleries and be used in a National campaign to educate the public on how valuable these parks are. A picture is worth a thousand words. Thousands of pictures can teach a Nation what they have forgotten.

I support having multiple venues for serving our country. I'm familiar with Americorps serving nonprofits, but didn't realize they also benefit public lands. At this time in our history, we need to place more emphasis on serving a common good -- that concept is all but lost. I'd love to see that effort directed to environmental stewardship.

Promote private partnership and support of organizations like MEEC ( Mojave Environmental Educational Consortium { <a href="http://www.meeconline.com/" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> } and sister organizations like CREEC ( California Regional Environmental Education Community { <a href="http://www.creec.org/" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> } which empower educator and students alike, promoting environmental education and the reconnection of educational leaders to the value of outdoor education and environmental based careers. MEEC's program called "EnviroBus Bucks" Transportation Grants " is a model of how access for students and teachers to wild-places could be advanced across the US to encourage outdoor environmental educational opportunities.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Additionally, they provide benefits that up until had not been economically quantified - now they can be. Environmental services such as air quality, stormwater runoff/mitigation, drinking water protection, and aspects such as increased property values, increased health and health cost savings to users, etc. are all related to preserving open space and wild lands. TPL has a great new method for calculating these benefits (which don't even capture all of them, but some). The economic gains always outweigh the capital acquisition costs. Its a no brainer - purchasing and protecting natural areas (esp close to urban areas and high populations) makes sense.

This problem - of disease and diminution of wild salmon where fish farms are near wild populations, is an international problem. Serious losses are occurring in British Columbia and Chile due to parasites deadly to young salmon entering the sea. Salmon are endangered in Contiguous US areas because of water diversion, pollution, damming of historically rich salmon rivers. 2/3 of the world's agricultural lands (cleared and taken from natural ecosystems) are rangelands, used for cattle, sheep, and other livestock. Reforestation of much of this land is vital for biodiversity and to combat atmospheric greenhouse gas additions made by human activity.

Not what I was attempting to convey at all - I agree with what you are saying and I was not saying that Geocaching "should be implemented by the USFS, or any other governmental agency" - NO WAY! I was saying they should embrace the activity as a very positive thing - where people would enjoy National Forests and historical or cultural properties - without the Gov't. agencies banning the activity, out of some unfounded fear of what damage Geocachers might do. I have looked at some Forest Plans, which address the recreation uses and parameters or restrictions of various things, including Geocaching - the U.S. Forest Service does not embrace Geocaching - because the lobby of support is much smaller that the support for ATV's (which can & do cause damage) - so now maybe you see what I'm trying to say?

Promote geocaching activity on public lands. I worked for the USDA Forest Service for more than 20 years, cultural resource (archaeologist) and trail maintenance. I have also spent much time hunting, fishing, backpacking and riding and packing horses in designated Wilderness and proposed wilderness areas. I love forests & mountains, photography, camping and enjoying wildlife encounters. About five years ago, I was introduced to the challenge of Geocaching (Geocaching.com for more info) and found that I am going to so many fantastic places, in search of another geocache - places you would otherwise never find. With GPS in hand and the description of what you might encounter - you can start your outdoor experience - enjoy incredible scenery, photography, wildlife and see historic & cultural sites - all without getting lost, whether hiking or using motorised travel. I think this should be promoted as a family friendly way to teach about Forest geography, mapping, GPS, flora & fauna and cultural history. Geocaching is the most exciting recreational development of this 21st century. It should be embraced by our Federal public land agencies.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Why doesn't the federal government require any company that wants to use America's natural resources to donate 5% of their profits directly to supporting the National Park System? That way the parks always have a source of income, regardless of attendance or congressional funding. This would solve the budgeting problems for the parks and force the exploiters of our resources to give something back for being allowed to use them.

SCORPs are well understood by planners and provide a ready framework for inter-agency cooperation. Unfortunately, they have become less useful over time because of a lack of funding. Even so, they continue to be a source of innovation in outdoor recreation planning. With a revitalization of the LWCF program SCORP plans could at last reach their full potential. With some regional successes SCORPs could once again be viewed as a useful tool and not merely a requirement to qualify for funding.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) are required for states to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Produced every five years these plans are of varying quality depending on the availability of funding and a given state's dedication to comprehensive planning. One thing all SCORPs have in common is an identification of outdoor recreation issues. I'm proposing that these state-identified issues be aggregated into a regular national report on The State of Outdoor Recreation in America. This document would serve to focus attention on the most widely recognized issues and opportunities we face. It could also serve as a showcase for LWCF funded projects and encourage congressional delegations to make state-by-state comparisons. That would help build continuing support for the program.

As a Texas Master Naturalist, I volunteer as a trail guide for 3-6 th grade youth at nature centers in North Texas. Our experience is that both teachers and kids are afraid of nature. We have found that printed information sent to the schools in advance about the trails, does little to help them feel more comfortable about nature. Amazingly, we found that many of the kids (even low income kids) had smart phones and were excited about using a new trail navigation system. They love to learn from technology they are comfortable with, in this case the Iphone. I have been working as a volunteer on the design of this application to let visitors to the great outdoors focus on the world around them and not the mobile device. The application uses GPS in the Iphone to show them where they are on the trail and automatically displays educational interpretive sign information (points of interest) as they approach. The key is a very low cost application (\$2.99) and no additional costs for the self-guided tour content that can be created by volunteers. An existing Iphone application called EasyTrails can create the trail with geo-coded photos that are exported in standard gpx format. Existing nature center content can also be added to the self-guided tour if desired. It was also important that no WiFi or cell service is needed since you are often far from wireless services. This self-guided tour is a new capability for the Great Outdoors. It allows cities, state parks, nature centers, and historic sites to offer extended hours with no additional staff or cost. We hope to attract tourists from around the world and local residents to enjoy the unique beauty around them. The "app" should be available in the Apple app store around the end of June. We are working hard to create iTours of our local trails, parks, and nature centers in North Texas. I hope that others will join us in this exciting opportunity to get everyone outdoors!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Back in the 1990's there was a serious push to enact a sales tax on generalized outdoor products that would provide funding for land and water conservation. The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition was a big part of that effort, and my understanding is they were fairly close to being successful. Hunters and fishermen are proud of the ways their purchase tax-dollars have gone to restore habitats for game species. Why not let environmentalists pay for nature protection via the same mechanism? If it was a federal tax then you couldn't just evade it by buying online from some other state. The only hard parts would be 1. deciding which products to include, 2. deciding what the tax rate would be, and 3. convincing people and politicians who hate all taxes that it is ok for those who love nature to pay for conservation. Except for number 3 these are not major obstacles, and given the current financial crisis, a new tax on a constituency that is willing to be taxed shouldn't be that hard to get through congress, especially if Obama champions it. I suggest setting the tax so that it generates at least several hundred million dollars per year, mostly for land conservation purchases, but also for nongame wildlife research and management activities as well.

Cell-phone guided natural histories, hiking "apps," or downloadable podcasts will not work everywhere, but where they do and where they can be promoted inexpensively to families and youth it seems like a worthwhile investment of time and technology. Natural history should be combined with appropriate cultural history--people respond to story-telling that is authoritative, interesting, and engaging.

Many of today's kids, teachers, and parents are afraid of nature. We can help them learn and enjoy nature using tools they are comfortable with -- mobile smart phones. They can discover, explore, and Interact with the Great Outdoors in a whole new way. Imagine exploring a nature trail guided by a multimedia presentation linked to their specific location and the nature around them. Whether they are strolling around Central Park, the Alamo, or a nearby nature trail, a new iPhone app called EasyTours guides, entertains, educates with multimedia descriptions of the points of interest around you. How many times have you roamed the great outdoors and wondered "Where does this trail lead?", "How long, how difficult, what features are on the trail?" This new application can answers these questions before you venture out. It also offers a self-guided location-based tour for you to explore in a way trail maps and guides never could. With this new software, we now have a tool that enables Master Naturalist volunteers to create the content for these outdoor self-guided tours of their favorite trails, nature centers, and historic sites. Advantages:

- Real-time GPS trail navigation shows your location on the trail and what's ahead (similar to car navigation)
- Never feel lost on a NEW trail. With real-time trail navigation you will always know where you are!
- Never miss the points of interest because the interpretive signs on the trail or historic city walk are missing
- No Cell Phone or WiFi connection needed (on the trail)

\* Cost for application is less a cup of coffee at Starbucks! - tours are free!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The idea is to get people out of the house and into nature. It is your personal tour guide. It is NOT a virtual tour. While it is possible to "preview" the trail and the "points of interest", this approach really comes to life when you venture out on the trail. \* Viewing the trail map with your actual location on the trail is a FIRST. \* The built-in compass shows direction and distance to any point. \* A full screen picture and interpretive text about each point of interest displays automatically when you are within 100 feet. \* It also offers full GPS navigation from where you are to the trailhead. Admittedly - This is a totally new approach. It is a new tool to attract adults and kids to nature. Please give it a chance.

I am now and have been since 1970 a manufacturer of OHV exhaust systems and I agree. OHV's should be quieter. I am currently an OEM (stock) supplier of exhaust systems and I can tell you we go to great pains to make them quiet and, in fact, we get them so quiet that when we test them (150 foot drive by test) the slightest breeze messes up our test. Or loose tracks (we're working on snowmobiles) will be louder than the exhaust. Moreover, 4 stroke exhaust noise tends to carry further than 2 stroke exhaust noise due to its lower frequency.

I grew up in Chicago, a big city, so it was hard to get out into the great outdoors. I get outside a lot now that I live in New England, but it would have been so helpful to have field trips from school go to state parks or other areas besides museums - or have after-school programs about nature. The only way I got to get outside was in day camp.

Many grassroots and smaller organizations have ideas and projects to share, that could benefit from the synergy of other projects in their areas, or of similar size and scope in other areas. The technology exists to create mapping tools and portals that will allow such sharing, however it can be out of the reach of the budgets or in-house technical capacity for some organizations. Create and support tools such as one I learned about today -- [www.conservationregistry.org](http://www.conservationregistry.org)-- that will facilitate synergy and win-win collaboration and learning opportunities.

Charge small federal and/or state fees for high impact users of public lands. Fees could be charged often through the licensing process for hunting, fishing, orv, etc. These fees would be optional in license purchasing by state -- i.e. huntings accessing state game lands would pay a small fee, maybe \$10 a year for that priviledge. Fees could be higher for extra high impact uses such as off-road vehicle access. The funds would go toward additional land purchases and for conservation projects, including trail building and maintenance, road maintenance, wildlife management, proscribed burns, etc.

Connecting kids to the outdoors and wildlife is critical to get them interested in the outdoors, especially those in metropolitan areas where suburban development makes "traditional" outdoor experiences more distant. Schools are part of the solution, but funding will never be sufficient. In many cities zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, nature centers and others specialize in making such connections and also conduct informal and experiential education programs. Many of these programs are in partnership with local school systems and are focused on students and teachers in underserved communities. Funding for existing programs supporting such activities should be increased and federal agencies should seek to partner with zoos, aquariums and other informal education providers.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Much of the public, their jobs and their investments are the one destroying the land with constant development. Yet they fail to do anything about it. They are only focused on saving public land. Much of which is already saved and since its public it can't be destroyed. Look at what you have and what you continue to support with your purchases and investments. You are your own worst enemy. You state 6,000 acres are lost per day. Do something about it. If you are serious about this loss, you would ask for an wilderness area perimeter around every city in the United States. But don't stop there, check you investments and see what you are destroying overseas by investing in those companies.

Set up location that have self serve credit card operated bike racks like the ones in the city of Denver but with mountain bikes to rent. You rent based on time and if not returned your charged for the cost of the bike. This gets more people out becuase tourist can't fly in their bikes and it's difficult to haul bikes for some. This also brings in revenue to preserve the wildlife areas.

Use OHV funds to restore backcountry wilderness. These people need something motorized and vibrating to sit on, can do it at home.

At the cabinet level, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the appropriate undersecretaries should use the America's Great Outdoors Initiative as a launching pad for an interagency effort to develop a long-term strategy for public land management. The natural landscape does not recognize jurisdictions or agency boundaries, so it's important to plan for the future in a coordinated way. A vision for our public lands would be an important tool that our organizations could organize around and find our place in. It could give appropriators in the House and Senate the confidence that when they fund programs, they'll be doing so in a way consistent with agency priorities.

While volunteers can shoulder important projects, it's incumbent upon the federal government to set priorities, balance competing interests and adequately staff their agencies. Without a clear vision for what needs to be accomplished on our most treasured landscapes, we run the risk of attacking the many problems we face piecemeal. That's why the America's Great Outdoors Initiative is so important. It could create the framework for managing public lands for decades to come, providing predictability and government impetus to move us forward. But it won't succeed without stable and predictable funding. We need a six-year transportation budget re-authorization that includes funding for the National Recreation Trails Program (N RTP). The FLAME Act has to be authorized for at least a decade with funding attached so that recreation funds are not raided to fight increasing catastrophic wildfires. And, federal appropriators need a consistent vision that they can plan funding around.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

With the help of a toolkit (Leader's Handbook, Activity Backpacks, DVD Training Video, and Equipment Trunks), Project GO programs are currently offered in 10 communities in Se Minnesota and will be expanding to 50 communities across the southern portion of the state over the coming two years. Programs are offered for free or very low cost and are held once per week all year round. Children in grades K-8 are invited to participate. Program activities include outdoor exploration and nature activities utilizing public lands (parks, trails, refuges, and other green spaces within 30 miles of each community). Early evaluation data is showing these programs are motivating children to play outdoors during the out-of-school hours; helping kids understand what opportunities are available to them at our public lands; and helping children to feel safe outside so that they may relax and observe the natural world around them.  
[www.mnprojectgetoutdoors.org](http://www.mnprojectgetoutdoors.org)

In the near future people in general will lose touch with the earth, the world of nature, the understanding of its importance if we fail to entrust this to the children. This type of program would be a great help in doing this. On another level this type of program would help the health and stature of our children.

Expand programs like Teacher-Ranger-Teacher and leverage the educational power of National Parks. TRT connects teachers from Title 1 school districts, where at least 30% of students are on free or reduced cost lunch, to national parks. Teacher Rangers spend a summer working as uniformed park rangers, often living in the park. During the school year, these Teacher Rangers bring the park resources "into the classroom" by developing and presenting curriculum-based lesson plans that draw on their summer's experience.

I don't see why this program is only for those in a Title 1 school? Maybe that is what you're asking to expand. This to me would be a perfect opportunity for the Sierra Club to put some funds into, instead of lawsuits to keep people out of lands. Promote.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

A far better bang for limited conservation bucks – and greater support for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund – could be had if we allowed its dollars to be used for private land conservation through qualified conservation organizations. Four reasons why:

The cost of a permanent conservation easement is about a third of the cost of outright acquisition and is often less, particularly when negotiated by a community-based, local land trust.

- Management of conserved lands would continue at the expense of the private landowner, not the federal government, which struggles to maintain lands they already own. In the western states, we see the management and habitat improvement of federal lands increasingly reliant on state and private funds to provide necessary services.

- Assurance of the terms of the easement overseen by – and at the expense of – qualified conservation organizations avoids added burden and expense to federal agencies. Local land trusts are comprised of staff and volunteer boards familiar with the customs and needs of their communities. Allow such groups to serve as grantees of easements funded with these dollars.

- More private land conservation opportunities would be available. Working family ranchers and farmers are more likely to consider working with local organizations.

While coastal states with more urban populations may feel the need to expand their federal land base, most of us in the west do not! Nor do we believe that the purchase of additional federal lands is the best use of tax dollars at this time of unprecedented national debt escalation.

Utilizing LWCF more efficiently and allowing participation by local, community-based organizations would gain expanded support from a broader base of constituencies. It would also increase conserved acres of wildlife habitat, continued delivery of ecosystem services and the protection the working lands which produce food and fiber – and, the security of producing American needs within our borders.

Park management can go a long way toward promoting appropriate, low-impact access by the visiting public by providing informative programs, such as slide shows, campfire talks, and guided naturalist tours; and well-defined venues for conservation-appropriate activities. The latter include, but are not limited to, interpretive Nature trails with signage and brochures emphasizing flora, fauna, ecology, geology, hydrology, etc.; designated kayaking and canoeing runs; cross-country ski trails; birdwatching trails and brochures; scenic hiking trails; and kayak, canoe, and bicycle rentals.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Cheatgrass and other invasive species are gradually destroying the natural habitats in the West. These invasive species are expanding and reportedly collectively now cover an area larger than the state of California. Cheatgrass crowds out native vegetation, and creates excessive fuel loads when it dries out in the summer. When fires occur, these excessive fuel loads can change what was once a natural and beneficial disturbance process (fire) into an unnatural agent of destruction. Cheatgrass thrives on repeated fires, but the frequency and severity of the fires may gradually remove the natural vegetation and even the natural seed bank in the soil. Eventually, the permanent outcome can be an alien, annual grassland that is largely sterile for native wildlife and ugly to look at. This is a relatively quiet ecological crisis. Can you imagine the public outcry if many millions of acres were strip mined in the West? In my view, the response thus far by federal agencies and other stakeholders has been proportionally small compared to the enormous magnitude of the threat posed by invasives. Indeed, in most places, the invasives are still expanding. The challenge will be to aggressively apply the best science and tools to stop and reverse this expansion, and to better educate the public about how they may be inadvertently aiding in this expansion.

Give federal land managers new authority to enforce offroad vehicle restrictions in wilderness and other federal lands, such as: (1) Confiscate the vehicle as evidence, then destroy it when the suspect has been found guilty. (2) Expand the closed area by 1 mile after the first violation, 1 mile more after every subsequent violation.

Install a satellite beacon on each ohv and atv. Similar to an EPIRB, it will allow law enforcement to detect motorized use of protected lands and identify perpetrators. Following an incident of vandalism, law enforcement might review the database to learn who was at the scene. Manufacturers can factory install. Dealers can install on used vehicles. The beacon is powered by the motor and battery. It is always on. Side benefits include: 1) Parents and guardians may monitor children; 2) A two-way device could signal the user when she rides out of bounds; 3) In the event of emergency, the beacon would locate the user for rescuers (recently an elderly Washington state man and his dog spent a night fending off a cougar after an atv accident). If apprehended on protected lands without an active beacon, you lose your license, or you lose your vehicle.

Federal land agencies should implement a system where designated routes are monitored for ORV user violations. They should then close routes where there are violations beyond a set standard (say for example, two violations a month). This system is already in place on USFS land in the cottonwood canyons above SLC for dog use. This would give users an incentive to police their own, and compensate for the agency's lack of enforcement capability.

Adopt a system similar to state laws on hunting. Abuse the privilege, and you lose it and your machine. Current penalties are too low, esp. with limited enforcement, to discourage off-route use.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Thanks so much for the input, this is what I was hoping people would do - comment about balloons after having had an experience in one. I too do not want commercialization of the parks, but if we could come up with some ideas like these - a quiet way to see the animals and terrain, - I'd love to have this as an option.

In African parks balloons are used to view wildlife. They do not disturb the wildlife as much as vehicles and it gives the rider an unique chance to see wildlife that otherwise would not be seen. I would not like to see balloons used in national parks as I think those should be left as pristine as possible with as little commercialization as possible and of course wilderness areas should be off limits to all but otherwise with the proper regulations I think balloons would be a wonderful way for people to experience our public lands, national forests and wildlife.

Provide the resources for local communities to showcase their outdoor activities.

Provide the educational materials and work tools to local volunteers via the assignment of field proven teams to augment local projects unique to their communities.

US Senators and Congress members should be invited and actively encouraged to visit federal lands already designated as wilderness lands or seeking wilderness protection. For too many members of Congress, wilderness is a vague notion. Without direct experience and personal appreciation for lasting value of wilderness lands, there will not be the passionate support needed to protect appropriate federal wilderness lands forever. The visits will benefit other federal land programs, including the maintenance of the National Parks operating budgets, and the public outreach programs to ensure use of parks by those most in danger of Nature Deficit Disorder.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Community Forestry Conservation Act of 2009: Financing the Conservation of America's Working Forests The Setting The US Forest Service estimates that 23 million acres of forestland will be lost by 2050. With economic conditions encouraging such forest loss, the long-term viability of rural mills and jobs are threatened, along with public values including habitat, water quality and carbon storage. At the same time, approximately 84% of America's industrial forests have changed hands in the past 10 years. This unprecedented level of transaction activity creates opportunities for largescale working forest conservation purchases – with funding for such purchases being the limiting factor. A New Conservation Tool The Community Forestry Conservation Act of 2009 would authorize Community Forestry Bonds to be used as a new financial tool that conserves working forests while providing jobs and respecting landowner property rights. In short, tax-exempt revenue bonds are issued to allow for the acquisition of forests by a qualified buyer. The low-cost bonds will be revenue bonds, backed by the revenue stream generated by the low-impact management of the land. The land will be owned in fee by the qualified buyer. The municipal bond market financed approximately \$386 billion in public benefits projects in 2008 and will allow qualified forest organizations to borrow tens to hundreds of millions in an efficient and timely way. The Concept A group of conservation, business and other interested parties with a desire to conserve specific land would become a qualified buyer and reach an agreement on what land would be acquired and at what price range. • Typical of private buy/sell transactions, discussions with the existing land owner would occur as a first step. Subsequent to reaching agreement with the seller, a management plan and a conservation easement would be finalized. • Pursuant to the agreement, tax-exempt revenue bonds to fund the forest acquisition would be issued by an appropriate government authority on behalf of the qualified buyer. • Title to the land would be held by the qualified buyer and the land would be managed to service the tax-exempt debt in a manner that would comply with the management plan. For providing increased public benefit, the qualified buyer would be able to borrow money at a lower cost. Competition with private sector buyers is eliminated by the increased acquisition cost and limitations on commercial returns. • When the bonds are paid off, the qualified buyer would retain ownership and would continue to operate the working forest as it best sees fit -- conservation, revenues for schools, roads or community projects, or other uses. Benefits of the Community Forestry Conservation Act & Community Forestry Bonds: Good for Landowners - All land sales will be voluntary and non-regulatory so property rights will be protected. Moreover, all transactions will be negotiated with the landowner at fair market value. Good for the Environment - Working forests and open space would be protected and qualified buyer organizations will have greater financial flexibility to apply lighter resource management practices on the land. Good for Natural Resource Businesses - While qualified buyers will own and manage lands, forest products will continue to provide raw material for mills and jobs for communities. Good for Governments - Local governments will continue to receive tax dollars that result from the continued land management. If a municipality participates financially it could benefit from revenue flow. Also, public environmental benefits can be achieved across a broader landscape at a much lower financial and political cost. Good for Communities - Qualified buyers will become groups where communities can unite and share responsibility for managing their natural resources. As bonds are paid off, communities will benefit from locally owned and managed forests. Make Community Forestry Bonds a Reality Community Forestry Bonds requires

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

legislation that clarifies unique issues associated with a nonprofit organization's ability to service debt with sustainable timber harvest proceeds. Versions of the Community Forestry Conservation Act have passed the House and Senate in various forms in the past but never through conference committee. The Community Forestry Conservation Act of 2009 was introduced on July 22, 2009. Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) sponsored S. 1501 in the Senate, and Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CO), Jim McDermott (D-WA), and Dave Reichert (R-WA) sponsored H.R. 3302 in the House. This idea was originally posted in the Private Lands Conservation category where it had a total of 14 votes. The following comments were posted before that idea was "archived" in late June: Original comments: 1) Thomas O'Keefe (04 May 2010) This is an example of the kind of great and innovative approach the MOU seeks to identify as stated in Section 2(c)(i) "It should recommend efficient and effective use of existing resources, as well as opportunities to leverage nonfederal public and private resources and nontraditional conservation programs." For the original list of votes see the archived idea here: { <a href="http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/0/4AFD72DB57A9485E86257717006F30F0?OpenDocument" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> }

Tie preservation trades to redevelopment of run down neighborhoods. Use structures to teach about wood window rehabilitation, masonry repointing, carpentry, plastering, decorative finishes. Teach young craftsmen about sustainability issues. Demonstrate the value of conserving historic fabric rather than replacing. Instruct on true energy efficiency upgrades that don't compromise the historic integrity of a structure. Teach sound maintenance skills, showing that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Team with cities and states to revitalize regions.

Decisions Based on Sound Science – Mohonk Preserve is one of the nation's premier sites for the long-term collection of scientific data on weather, landscape change, and species. Preserve staff and research associates have continued to add to what is now a continuum of over 80 years of natural and cultural history records and 113 years of daily weather data—all collected uninterrupted and with methodological consistency over time. These records make up the oldest and most extensive natural history record in the Hudson Valley region. Because of the Preserve's standardized field methodologies and breadth of information, researchers can compare current and historical data and use it in comparative studies with researchers both on the Preserve and from research sites around the country. Climate scientists, such as our partners at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, are examining phenological trends and long-term weather data to identify impacts of climate change on the flowering of plants and the range and arrival dates of neo-tropical migratory birds.

Can you all imagine how pleasant life would be if electric vehicles were on the roads instead of the noisy gas guzzling machines we now have? We could solve the noise pollution pretty swiftly if we all - Off Road Vehicles users, boat users, car drivers - bought into the electric engine idea. And hey, it would be good for the air, for the wildlife and for our security too.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

Estate taxes can undermine important conservation values by forcing the break-up, sale and development of family-owned farm, ranch and forest lands, even when those lands provide important resources for the public, including open space, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, carbon sequestration and local food and fiber production. The Family Farm Preservation and Estate Tax Act, H.R. 3524 or H.R. 5475 would indefinitely defer estate taxes on working family farms and ranches - unless these lands are taken out of production or sold outside the family. If this legislation were to become law, no farm or ranch family would be forced to sell or subdivide working lands just to pay estate taxes – but would also ensure that if working landscapes are sold or converted to other uses for any reason, estate taxes would be paid. This is an effective policy for promoting continued family ownership of farms and ranches and ensuring that the lack of estate planning or cash resources does not result in the breakup of large farms and ranches, which provide critical wildlife habitat in increasingly fragmented landscapes. Federal, state and local governments are investing billions of dollars to protect and restore these resources, and it makes good sense to amend current tax policy so that it doesn't undermine these efforts. In the coming weeks we expect a new Senate version of H.R. 5475 to be introduced, carrying a much smaller price tag and including the provisions of H.R. 3050, a separate bill which increases the estate tax exemption for lands protected by a conservation easement. Ultimately, this provision could be enacted as part of a conservation tax package along with the enhanced tax incentive for donated conservation easements (H.R. 1831). For more information please visit: [www.lta.org/policy/documents/hr3524-packet](http://www.lta.org/policy/documents/hr3524-packet) This idea was originally posted in the Private Lands Conservation category where it had a total of 60 votes. The following comments were posted before that idea was "archived" in late June: Comments: 1) (11 May 2010) This is a good idea so long as it does not open loopholes for estate tax evaders to invest in farm properties solely to protect their wealth. On the surface estate taxes seem crude and unnecessary, especially for the average American; but when you consider the vast difference between the rich and poor nowadays, and you recall why the founders of this country despised landed, multi-generational wealth and the entitlement and undue influence in politics and business it affords you can see why all the implications of any changes in estate taxes laws should be well spelled out and transparent for all to understand. Yes farmers and holders of open space should be allowed to keep these things in the family, so long as it is not just a tax-evasion strategy for those unconcerned with conservation or sustainable agriculture. For the original list of votes see the archived idea here: { <a href="http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/0/65FE28BAFBF79C778625771A0057E7E9?OpenDocument" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> }

Since OHV's damage the landscape much more than other methods of recreational enjoyment, charge them appropriate fees. Given the revenue needs of the park and forrest system, a seasonal fee of \$1,000. per OHV used in each land unit is a good start.

I agree with the original intent of the post, about sharing the parks. It's definitely not a good backpacking/hiking experience to be nearly run over by an OHV, and those driving OHV would probably rather not worry about backpackers on the same trails. The two groups could have different areas (sufficiently far apart) or different days designated so that they can share the parks more peaceably.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

OHVs cause noise pollution. OHVing is an expensive sport - like golfing. Why don't OHVers do what golfers do and create their own "parks"? They can charge admission to pay for maintenance and they won't have to deal with people who don't want the noise or OHVers interfering with the peace and QUIET of the few remaining quiet spaces in America.

I hope this initiative leads to bold new policies that reflect modern conservation science and modern public values regarding nature conservation

I completely agree, I personally know first hand that Nuclear power is safe, reliable, and far more efficient than any other form of energy besides fusion power which Obama recently cancelled any hopes of attaining for the near future. I've worked with nuclear power for a large portion of my life and know just how great it is, and also just how ignorant the general public is due to so little education and so many false rumors. I still don't understand how Obama could intelligently cancel the Constellation project knowing just what can be accomplished by it. The project would have mined He3 from the moon to power clean, safe, and reliable fusion power plants. Just one shuttle load is equivalent to billions of gallons of oil. It's the only thing that beats nuclear power in efficiency, and nothing else comes even close to nuclear power! This was Bush's idea too, he also started the research on fuel cell vehicles. People need to quit listening to the Liberal politician's lies! Obama said he wouldn't cancel the Constellation project, but he did. He was flat out lying just like Clinton did under oath. The economy didn't start to falter until Congress was taken over by Dems and they started passing their laws. It didn't happen when Bush took office like the Dems would like you to believe. Bush didn't take office in 07' Pelosi and Reid took the reins of Congress then. Vote for the people that work for you, not the ones that work for themselves.

For anyone with experience working with many govt agencies and doing grant writing, bringing these resources together makes a lot of sense. A clear well-defined mission and stable funding are critical to long term success.

Our national parks truly are America's great idea. They need to be more than an after thought when it comes to funding. Please work to seek a permanent and sufficient source of funding so that these great treasures will not become 'poor cousins' or an embarrassment. The fact that the American people are loving them to death is a solid sign that they are worth the effort to preserve them and expand them before it's too late. My family and I visit some units every summer. No matter where they are located, coast to coast, they show signs of need for better financial support. Our gallant rangers are doing a great job, but they need more personnel and better funding.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I agree that this is an excellent suggestion. For three years during the 1970s I worked as a crew leader or environmental education staff member for the Youth Conservation Corps. I got to observe and participate in helping teenagers grow in their appreciation for the natural world while developing cooperative abilities and while accomplishing valuable and important conservation projects. Given the backlog of unfunded conservation projects, the critical need for items such as invasive species removal, the high rates of youth unemployment, and the difficulty many recent college graduates and skilled tradespeople have in finding jobs, a reinstatement and dramatic expansion of the YCC would provide tremendous benefits to our nation, in both the short and long term.

I live in a small town in S.C. and this is just the thing I have been looking for. I moved here thinking the job market would be good, living between two large cities. Things are worse! If I could get any information on getting a green space/community garden started in my community I would be forever grateful!! This is what ALL towns, large and small need!!!

I think they have done better than the previous administration regarding the environment. The first thing the previous Administration did was try to dismantle the Roadless Rule. There is no doubt more protection is better than less. Allowing big business access to every natural resource is a huge money maker for the select few. It does nothing to benefit average people. I agree, be VERY careful with what you wish for.

thanks for the information on the Brister UTV. These days there are lots of choices for UTVs in this size range. If you are seriously looking at an electric one, Polaris now has one out. IIRC it has about a 50 mile range. I'd really wonder if any UTV is rugged enough for day to day use as a skidder. I've been pretty impressed with what I can pull with my quad, it's been helpful getting downed timber out of places I can't take the tractor. Just the same, I don't think it would hold up for day-to-day use. Someone really needs to come out with a more useful, universal tool for the small-scale land owner that can be run on hilly terrain. I'd really like to see something like a small wheeled skidder, set up with a cat 1 3-point hitch and a front end loader. Some European tractors are really cool, they have 4 equal sized tires, and a low center of gravity for hillside work. What's really cool is that the operator platform can be turned 180 degrees so you are driving "backwards" with a good look at what your implement is doing. This would be ideal with a snowblower or brush mower. Unfortunately, they don't have much ground clearance, don't come with a FEL and don't have good US distribution.

I'd also add, in most logging areas in my area, a UTV wouldn't be able to traverse the slopes, they would flip over due to the steepness of the terrain. In this country line machines are commonly used. They lift the logs off the ground while bringing them to landings, minimizing as much as possible the ground disturbance. (think Ax Men) . This is done in places too steep to work with a wheeled skidder, which itself can operate on much steeper terrain than a UTV. IMO the bad part of line machine operations (high-lines) is that they are best suited for clearcutting or at least very heavy logging within a given area. It's hard to take just a few scattered trees this way.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Work for renewable energy sources, beneath it all, because if we can't get off coal plants, our natural places will be destroyed along with our lungs and general health. The coal plants have nearly destroyed the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. We need a national energy policy that includes an huge tax for producing carbon dioxide! Please read up and contact your legislator. Everyone's afraid for their re-election in November and don't want to LEAD in this direction, but we need to show them we're all serious about a clean energy future! Thanks, Dina Nash, Little Rock Sierra Club and Ozarks Society Mbr.

As technology advances and as we grow more accustomed to the indoors for so much, we lose sight of nature. Even if personally, someone doesn't enjoy going to parks and what not, we can't just be selfish and say no. We have a responsibility as human beings; what about animals? Parks are a breath of fresh air in urban areas. We should take advantage of this opportunities. Parks should be everywhere.

I also totally support funding our State and National parks, and am very willing to pay higher taxes for that--if need be. State and National parks are the only places left in our Country where one can connect with Nature, and where trees, lakes, creeks, woodlands ,e tc, still remain intact for wild animals. There are some things worth paying higher taxes for- and that is definitely on the top of the list--- even over education as far as I'm concerned, because going to a National or State Park is an education in itself- as well as a tool to educate citizens in respecting the Environment and wildlife.

I noticed your comment focused on coal mining. We need to start moving away from coal to more green energy sources. Things that don't pollute, like wind and sun. I know the technology is not there yet for all our energy to come from green sources, but it is something we should be working toward. Countries like Germany are far ahead of us with the amount of energy they produce that comes from these sources.

This strategy of using cultural resources to help promote natural resources is very smart. More initiatives like this would be welcome.

Creating a "toolbox" to assist with preserving cultural heritage would indeed be very helpful. Oftentimes people at the local level in the field are well intending, though do not necessarily have the resources, time, or patience to be fully effective. The Preservation Briefs and NPS Bulletins are helpful to a certain extent, though what you are suggesting would be far more specific and provide assistance at the level of needs. One community might not have undertaken a cultural resource survey, for instance, so guidance on how this might be started would be helpful. Likewise, when working on a specific type of property like a bungalow, it would be really helpful to know more about this building type, its structure, and qualities of craftsmanship, so maintenance and preservation work may be done in the most responsible manner.

Expanding funding for forestry incentive programs can directly enhance and complement other efforts for retaining forests and implementing sustainable forestry on-the-ground.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

While our partners work to conserve and restore land, preserve wildlife populations, protect water, and provide access to the great outdoors for children and adults, Houston Wilderness works to facilitate and support their efforts. For instance, Houston Wilderness's Wilderness Passport Program links 200,000 children to 40 partner-operated outdoor learning destinations and delivers a science-based curriculum in English and Spanish to all 4th-graders at Houston Independent School District. Houston Wilderness also facilitates the assembly of the Same Houston Trail and Wilderness Preserve, a 650-mile, continuous green corridor to encircle the greater Houston metropolitan region and link our most important national, state, and local parks and preserves. Houston Wilderness also produced the Atlas of Biodiversity, an important corporate recruitment and retention tool, printed by Conoco Phillips and distributed by Texas A&M Press. Information about these projects is enclosed in this letter.

1. Housing and Urban Development. HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides grants to needy neighborhoods in many cities and urban counties. CDBG funds may be used for numerous activities including acquisition of real property; relocation and demolition; and construction of public facilities and improvements. We recommend the addition of specific CDBG language to give priority to urban parks and nature conservation initiatives to mitigate the many concrete and asphalt hardscapes in today's cities.

2. Interior: DOI's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) uses receipts from offshore oil and gas leases for national, state and local conservation. We recommend using a percentage of LWCF "stateside" funds on a nationally competitive grant program for urban projects. Factors for screening could include the quality of the planning process; having a nexus to a larger conservation effort; building off previous government investments; demonstrating regional cooperation and public/private engagement; improving nature access and outdoor recreation for children, the underserved and high-density populations; and protecting water. As with stateside LWCF now, any urban project would require a 50 percent non-federal funding match.

3. Transportation. Since 1991, DOT's trail, transportation enhancements and non-motorized programs have exemplified how federal agencies can work cooperatively with state and local governments. We support the continuation and expansion of these programs that have created and improved many urban trail and park systems for purposeful and recreational transportation and have provided safe and accessible places to play. We recommend establishing a new active transportation fund to provide focused investments in walking and bicycling systems connecting the places people live, work, play, learn, and shop. This will provide safe and convenient options for clean, healthy and affordable travel and more routine outdoor experiences.

4. Environment. EPA's Brownfield program has successfully cleaned up many polluted properties and returned them to industrial, commercial, retail and residential productivity. Relatively few, however, have become parks. We recommend that EPA promulgate new Brownfields language to give priority consideration for the establishment of parks in urban areas that are short on parkland or that have neighborhoods with particular park inequality.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

5. USDA-Forest Service. Since 1978, the USDA Forest Service has been an important provider of research and assistance to communities to protect and enhance urban forests. The Urban and Community Forestry Program in FY 2009 provided assistance to 6,853 communities, reaching a total of 173 million people. The program helps localities assess, plan, manage and enhance urban forest resources, resulting in an array of community and ecological benefits. Forest Service researchers report that 25% of our nation's forest assets are in urban landscapes. Trees and forest parcels in the urban landscape provide significant stormwater benefits, helping reduce the total flow of water that must be managed through engineered solutions. Utilizing "green infrastructure" is an emerging priority for city managers, especially in cities with aging sewer infrastructure. We support the continuation and expansion of Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) research and cooperative assistance programs, and encourage CEQ to utilize the extensive network of U&CF delivery partners to further a variety of urban conservation priorities.

6. Planning. Many federal programs require planning prior to the disbursement of federal funds. We support this concept. For urban parks that planning should take place on the urban or regional (i.e., Councils of Governments) level rather than at the state level. Such planning should include community-wide gap analyses that identify where parks-to-people connections – especially related to children and underserved neighborhoods - will be most meaningful. This will ensure that limited federal dollars will be used most effectively. We recommend that CEQ adopt language requiring urban park planning and analysis necessary to evaluate existing park systems according to consistent standards for accessibility and equity.

5. Threatened Ecosystems. While cities are usually perceived as "all built out" and devoid of nature, most of them still have wetlands, rivers and other habitat remnants that are home to important ecosystems in need of protection. In addition, there are some great opportunities to revive degraded industrial sites into healthy ecosystems.

DEC would like to replicate this successful model in other key state watersheds, including the Mohawk Valley and the Upper Hudson River, Long Island Sound, the ocean on the south shore of Long Island and the watersheds of the Great Lakes. Cooperation and financial support from several federal programs including the National Heritage Program, national Estuarine Research Reserve program, and support for water quality monitoring and geographic mapping has made it possible for the HREP to be effective in its mission. Similar partnerships will be integral to the successful replication of the HREP in other areas of the state.

Third, you ask what additional tools and resources would help efforts to be even more effective. Base funding for established programs and to implement existing plans would be most helpful. Examples include base funding for existing youth conservation and employment programs, full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, funding of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and National Heritage Areas programs. Another valuable tool would be provision of geographic mapping, and data services (e.g. LIDAR mapping, wetlands mapping) and other information technology tools and assistance

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

This is a big issue, but the main issue is really one of national priorities. There is money available for programs, but the Administration and Congress need to push much harder to shift spending priorities toward programs that directly benefit Americans and our environment. That might mean, for example, that departments that have huge budgets, like Defense, have funding shifted away from them.

As part of the Initiative, but also as part of broader social policy, the Administration should support initiatives to increase family vacation time, so that Americans can actually plan relaxing trips to our public lands. Other developed (and economically thriving) countries, like Germany, have very liberal mandatory vacation laws. It is time the United States followed their example. The benefits the psychological health ( and productivity) are many. Take Back Your Time ([www.timeday.org](http://www.timeday.org)) is one organization promoting these ideas.

Accelerate the application of geo-spatial technology

We recommend that you direct the new interior department organization or USGS to lead to an interagency, intergovernmental effort to develop a common framework for utilizing geospatial mapping countrywide and to begin to prepare the inventory

Nationally, we need you to rescind the Leavitt/Norton No More Wilderness Agreement, we need a new Roadless Rule for National Forests from your administration, and we need robust and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million of OCS proceeds annually as Congress intended. Further, we need science to resume a leading role in guiding land management decisions. We need sound decisions based on sound science without conflicting politics getting in the way.

- More IT – links, ask the kids what they would like – they have hundreds of ideas. Read this article – it directly applies to what you are trying to do:  
<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/10/the-creativity-crisis.html>

- People. People who want to help are your biggest tool. By people I mean those who will not exploit, but will carry on the important traditions of keeping our parks for future generations. THIS is why the Europeans come to our parks. Don't shut us out. Let us help, let us participate, let us help you make the parks better and keep the parks

- Keep Corporation OUT. This is our lands, NOT theirs. Sometimes you have to do the RIGHT thing, not the GREEDY thing.

- Do NOT let them drill for gas or oil on BLM land You'll have another BP / Gulf mess to clean up

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

· Work to make Stewardship authorities for the Forest Service and BLM permanent. The authority to trade goods for services through contracting and agreements has proven to be a successful tool in every region. The ability of a Forest or District to use these tools has resulted in getting more work done on the ground, putting local contractors to work in areas they care about, and the agreement authority allows groups and organizations to raise additional funding to leverage against scarce federal dollars.

1. More federal staff for federally funded easement review and processing.

1. Allow land trust access to LWCF funds for private land conservation.

1. Make expanded tax incentives permanent

1. Money for land trusts and conservation easements

1. Production of effective education materials that describe the government's role in partnering with non-profits

2) Grant funding to TPL and other private partners for outreach and convening that help deliver coordinated participation in implementation across each landscape.

Private Landowner Engagement: 1) Agency staff capacity to support technical assistance and delivery of programs for private landowners;

2) Grant funding to private partners to support coordinated outreach and technical assistance;

3) Private landowner incentive funding to support private landowner participation in achieving shared conservation, restoration, and stewardship objectives within each priority landscape.

Permanent Land Conservation: 1) Agency staff capacity to coordinate conservation actions with private partners, including real estate transactions;

2) Access to LWCF, Forest Legacy, and other resources for public acquisitions and easement projects that address landscape objectives;

3) Restoration funding for improvement and/or restoration of conserved tracts to achieve overall conservation objectives.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

2) FY11 LWCF and Forest Legacy funding of \$22.05 million to conserve 53,000 acres, including additions to Umbagog NWR (NH) Forest Legacy Program funding for the Crocker Mt and Orbeton Stream (ME), Androscoggin River Headwaters (NH) and Northern Green Mountains (VT) projects; and 3) Incentive funding for coordinated conservation actions on private lands.

Priority Needs from Federal Agencies: 1) Grant funding to TPL and partners to support development of parcel-level watershed conservation plans and ecosystem markets assessment;

2) FY11 and 12 LWCF and Forest Legacy Program of \$16 million to conserve 25,000 acres, including additions to the Ottawa, Hiawatha, Chequamegon-Nicolet, and Chippewa National Forests and 18,000 acres of private working forest;

3) Support for GFLA, AFF, and NWF-led work with private landowners, including outreach, technical assistance, and convening;

2) FY11 LWCF and Forest Legacy funding for the Montana Legacy (LWCF) and Clearwater (Forest Legacy) projects these projects in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem contain key watersheds that are region-wide priorities for watershed adaptation and habitat connectivity;

3) FY12 and FY13 LWCF and Forest Legacy Program funding to complete TPL's work on Montana Legacy and related projects, and new projects currently being developed in the Salmon-Selway;

4) USFWS and NRCS easement funding to address watershed conservation needs on non-forested lands in priority watersheds;

5) Fisheries habitat and forest restoration funding for conserved tracts, including USFWS Fish Passage funding.

2) FY11 and FY12 LWCF funding for the Silvio O. Conte NFWR project at full request this funding will enable conservation of rare grassland habitats along the Fort River, the longest un-dammed tributary of the Connecticut River in MA and source of rare aquatic habitats;

3) FY11 Forest Legacy funding for the Scantic River Headwaters (CT) project in at full request this project contains 1000 acres of headwaters that rank among the most important for future security of eastern brook trout in the State of CT;

4) Restoration funding to help restore fish habitat on conserved properties, including Fish Passage funding for barrier removal projects led by TU and other partners;

5) Incentive funding through the Partners program, NRCS programs, and other sources for coordinated conservation actions on private lands

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Priority Needs from Federal Agencies: 1) Grant funding to TPL and Carpe Diem to support data acquisition and development of parcel-level watershed adaptation plans;

2) FY11 LWCF funding for relevant watershed conservation opportunities in the Wenatchee NF and Pacific Crest Trail/Snoqualmie-Baker NF;

3) FY12 LWCF and/or Forest Legacy for Watershed Adaptation Projects;

2) Grant funding to support TPL adaptation planning and mapping, including vulnerability assessment to help set adaptation priorities in targeted landscapes;

3) Grant funding to support construction and application of TPL Carbon Mapping Facility as a tool for carbon mitigation project development.

Partnership: 1) Agency staff capacity to coordinate partner actions at the landscape scale;

4) USDA agency capacity for convening and outreach;

5) Grant funding to Carpe Diem to support outreach, technical assistance, and convening around watershed adaptation objectives;

and 6) watershed restoration funding for public and private lands, including funds dedicated for newly conserved tracts.

Priority Needs from Federal Agencies: 1) Grant funding to TPL to support data acquisition and TPL Carbon Map implementation in the Northern Sierra;

2) Development of an MOU with USFS Region 5 to support development of projects subject to reserved carbon rights;

3) Collaboration with USFS staff to identify two carbon projects for FY12one under LWCF and one under Forest Legacy;

4) Access to LWCF and Forest Legacy to assure funding for these projects.

2) FY12 LWCF funding for acquisitions in the Chattahoochee NF and Chattahoochee NRA properties under negotiation within the national forest boundary include critical inholdings for watershed protection;

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

4) FY12 Forest Legacy Program funding to support relevant projects currently being developed in the watershed that feature longleaf restoration;

5) Restoration funding for improvement of public acquisitions, including fisheries habitat improvements and longleaf restoration;

6) Assistance in identifying areas where NRCS and DOI easement funding can be used to support conservation of non-forested areas in service of watershed conservation objectives;

7) Support for AFF and NWF-led private landowner outreach activities;

and 8) Dedicated pool of incentive funding for private landowners willing to undertake watershed and/or longleaf restoration objectives.

Appropriations for REPI have generally increased each year since the program began in FY 2005, but the appropriated funds have fallen far short of the need, as evidenced by the number of funding requests submitted each year by the services to OSD. In recent years, these requests have been greater than \$100 million annually. The FY 2010 appropriation was \$57.4 million and the Administration's budget request for FY 2011 is only \$39.8 million. TPL urges the Administration to restore budget investments in this important and effective program, which addresses both a military and an environmental need.

With a steady annual provision of \$900 million, both the federal side and the state grants portion of LWCF would be able to see a consistent flow of meaningful funding, allowing for better planning and targeting of land acquisition and recreation investments.

SCA's community programs reach over 1100 at risk young people age 15-24, placing them in paid summer jobs on federal and community public lands each year. Typically, many of these young people have never experienced a connection to the outdoors before their summer jobs. Yet, SCA is able to get them outdoors, keep them through the summer, and engage many of them throughout the year and subsequent summers. SCA's retention rate in these programs is over 95 percent. Our high-touch continuum of service approach is a powerful model that can change a young person's life, while also instilling an ethic of stewardship and connection to the outdoors. We recommend scaling these types of proven community conservation summer jobs program across the country.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

SCA has had success engaging diverse young people at the college level as well as high school-aged youth. Currently, most of the federal public land management agencies lack a diverse workforce. For example, 5.5 percent of the current National Park Service staffing is Hispanic, 9 percent is black, and 1.8 percent is Asian. Through our programs and targeted diversity initiatives, SCA recruits diverse young people from over 300 majority-serving and minority colleges, including HBCU, HACU, AAPI, and AIHEC colleges, to serve as interns with federal land management agencies. For example, SCA has been able to reach over 90 percent diversity intern placement levels for several federal partners in such targeted initiatives. More importantly, many of our diverse young people end up in environmental careers, including in the federal government. As discussed more fully below, we recommend that the government create a direct pipeline to careers with noncompetitive hiring status for young people who participate in SCA and Corps programs.

Youth conservation service also can connect the outdoors, businesses, and community development. For example, in an economic development initiative along the Great Allegheny Passage, SCA interns are working collaboratively with community stakeholders to help (i) retain existing businesses; (ii) expand and increase revenues of existing businesses; (iii) recruit sustainable new businesses; and (iv) renew trailside communities through trail-based tourism and recreation as part of a regional economic development initiative. The potential for programs like this is enormous, particularly in rural, economically depressed areas with underused trail and recreation resources. We recommend piloting similar youth conservation components of public private partnerships with conservation-based economic development initiatives across the country.

We, therefore, strongly recommend strengthening public land management partnerships with nonprofits by: (i) investing in youth conservation service; (ii) focusing on the collaborative nature of the partnerships through the use of cooperative agreements; and (iii) implementing youth programs through youth-serving nonprofits rather than through the agencies or individual land management units.

Piloting studies and evaluations of program models by SCA and Corps that work.

The Montana Office of Tourism has identified the geotraveler as a target market. Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. Geotourism strategies provide products, services and visitor experiences that maintain a destination's sense of place and complement rather than compete with the needs of the local residents. This type of visitor helps to sustain and enhance our regional assets and deeply enriches their travel experience by directing them to that which is unique and distinctive to our areas. It connects the traveler to the community and vice versa.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Montana has found success in partnering with public and private businesses, federal and state agencies, international entities, tribes and gateway communities in promoting our region's distinctive environmental, cultural and historical character through our geotourism projects in conjunction with the National Geographic Society, Center for Sustainable Destinations. To date we have developed two geotourism projects: the Crown of the Continent which encompasses the Rocky Mountain region surrounding Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, including Alberta, British Columbia and Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Geotourism project which encompasses 20 million acres surrounding Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the states of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

[http://www.visitmt.com/national\\_parks/crown\\_of\\_the\\_continent/](http://www.visitmt.com/national_parks/crown_of_the_continent/)

[http://www.visitmt.com/national\\_parks/greater\\_yellowstone\\_region/](http://www.visitmt.com/national_parks/greater_yellowstone_region/)

Federal dollars are needed to acquire and manage the scenic and recreation rights that will provide access to the outdoors on private and state land.

Even as we struggle with budgets and priorities, more people than ever are using trails. Trails are the way we manage visitors on our public lands and enable people to experience nature. Trails are also an essential tool for conservation in our communities, parks, and federal lands. As all of the States and federal agencies are working to improve the health and futures of our children, it is important to help more Americans discover our trails and great outdoors. By providing convenient, enjoyable opportunities for people to spend more time outdoors, trails encourage healthier living.

However without available sources of funding, trails remain only a dream, but even with limited funding, we have seen individuals and communities fulfill their dream using their creativity and collective volunteer power.

While the concept of trails within 15 minutes of all Americans is a wonderful ideal that American Trails promotes, it is not always possible in dense urban areas. Coincidentally and unfortunately, educational efforts are needed most in these locations in order to raise awareness of environmental ethics, reconnect with nature and generate a greater desire to be outdoors.

For the last 20 years, American Trails has been the collective voice for a diverse coalition of trails enthusiasts, land managers, conservationists, and friends of outdoor recreation and livable cities. We celebrate the bold and effective leaders of the nationwide trails movement, and we support efforts to bring trails into our daily lives. As our nation looks closely at public health, transportation, urban development and the environment, we see lots of problems. We want trails, greenways, bikeways, and other routes to be part of the solution, and we support efforts to link community trails to neighborhoods, school, and workplaces. The health of our children as well as our cities, will depend on preserving parks, open space, transportation choices, and places for recreation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

One avenue that many of us who advocate for wildlife have considered and that some states have taken is the development and use of what can be called a NON- Consumptive license or approach. If the Federal government would allow a simple check off on the 1040 or other tax forms, similar to a beef check off or a PAC check off, we believe many dollars could be earmarked to benefit wildlife research, habitat procurement and corridor development. These dollars would be mandated directly to wildlife and could give the average American, non-hunter a way of getting involved. Such involvement would counter the influence of the aforementioned groups thus encouraging management to take more seriously the thoughts and comments of the general citizenry into consideration when making policy decisions.

The USFWS could help and encourage on the local state levels, non-consumptive licenses or tags where the cost of such would go to the same direct benefit of the animals and habitat, without the 'killing'. Special state license plates with various logos [say in SD a pheasant or cougar] could be made available with the monies again going directly to the critters.

Any and all no-kill programs or incentives would give funding to the managing Agencies and level the field for those of us who do not hunt hopefully resulting in a stronger more civil and equitable voice based more on the health, welfare and sustainability of the animals.

The use of a NON-consumptive approach, not matter how developed would be a great step in the right direction.

Secondly, areas of solace, retreat, safety and refuge that have been put aside for animals and natural resources must be maintained and secured as originally intended, to be enjoyed by all of those who enter therein, including humans. In other words, Parks, Preserves, Refuges and most assuredly Wilderness areas MUST be off limits to hunting, grazing and any other untoward forms of HUMAN influence.

Natural Law must be allowed to take precedence and these lands must be 'untrammled by Man' with the lands totally controlled by natural forces. To date, Wildlife Services [WS] and other man oriented influence can, under certain circumstances [mostly politically motivated] be allowed to enter. NO human intervention other than visiting at one's own risk should be allowed. This includes fire suppression, mining, grazing or any other activities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund draws funds from oil and gas royalties to provide matching grants to states for conservation. Although it is authorized at \$900 million, it has only met this funding level twice the forty years since its inception. Parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and BLM lands all benefit from LWCF funding. Funding LWCF to its full authorization level will increase opportunities for the public on these important lands.

The jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act should be restored to include intermittent streams and intrastate, geographically isolated wetlands, as it did before key Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006. Wetlands provide ecosystem services like water filtration and flood mitigation, and offer an opportunity for people to experience distinct and diverse plant and animal communities.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Diverse and robust forest products markets are fundamental to keeping forests as forests because they provide a revenue stream for forest landowners. The financial viability of owning land for timber depends on diverse markets for wood products. Strong forest products markets are also essential for the rural communities that rely on the forest-based economy. The livelihoods of people in Maine's rural mill towns, in particular, are dependent on the relatively high-paying jobs that the mills offer, and the forestry jobs that supply the raw materials for the mills. If those mills cannot continually find new markets and new streams of revenue, develop new methods of production, and make critical investments in buildings and equipment, then they are at risk of closure and their rural communities are in trouble.

Therefore, we encourage USDA to fund a Forest Products Advisor (FPA) position at a total annual cost of \$300,000, including an operating budget. The FPA would serve as liaison between the forest products industry and the Governor, with a goal of strengthening Maine's forest products industry and thus keeping forests as forests and revitalizing rural communities. With a working budget, the position would coordinate public and private resources to help Maine's forest products industry identify, create, and maintain special niches in regional and global marketplaces. The FPA would work to attract investment and new companies, with a focus on forward and backward integration.

Through relationships with private sector experts, the University of Maine, and an advisory board of industry professionals, the FPA would be proactive in anticipating problems at the industry and the mill level and in identifying and coordinating solutions.

The FPA would provide technical assistance to mills, assist with product development and marketing, and coordinate an aggressive wood-to-energy conservation program for schools and government buildings, this latter responsibility modeled after the successful Vermont program. The FPA would also serve as a model of public/private coordination for other states with large forest products industries.

Maine's electricity costs are among the highest in the Nation, so Maine's forest-based businesses must invest in energy efficiency to remain competitive. This is especially true for large industrial electricity users like pulp and paper mills. For example, a world-class paper machine is currently idle in Millinocket's Katahdin Paper Mill, waiting for the \$40 million investment required to convert an oil-fired boiler to biomass. REAP is designed specifically to help rural businesses invest in energy efficiency but federal caps for the program are too low for large mills.

To take advantage of Maine's exceptional forest-based business opportunities, workers need to be superbly trained. For example, in the tourism industry, employees must not only understand and deliver excellent customer service, but also be aware of local events and culture, along with state history. In addition, owners and managers of tourism businesses must know how to foster a culture of hospitality. Tourism and non-tourism businesses alike often need additional forms of assistance and resources, like business planning, accounting and tax assistance, trade strategies, feasibility and marketing studies, access to capital etc., to remain competitive and create job opportunities in Maine's forest-based industries.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) programs are effective, well-designed programs with strong records of funding workforce training and business assistance initiatives for rural businesses. RBEG funding is currently helping to pay for a small series of frontline tourism training seminars in three of Maine's poorest, most rural counties. RBOG funds recently helped pay for a foundational labor force analysis that examined the ages and skills of existing and projected workers, with a special emphasis on older workers and their attitudes toward retirement. Unfortunately, these critical programs are underfunded and some of their rules have not been updated to reflect current economic realities in rural America.

CCSP funds should be made available for use on existing and future federally-funded conservation land and easements, where the deeds guarantee public recreational access. The eligible lead recipient would be the fee owner, likely in coordination with recreation clubs or nonprofit entities. On easements, funds would only be awarded where both grantor and holder report successful patterns of easement compliance and stewardship.

CCSP is an important matching-fund program that can be used to improve recreational resources on federal lands such as National Forest and Park lands (as well as federally designated scenic and recreation trails and rail trails), but usually not on private lands. Since the percentage of Maine land in federal fee ownership is so small (0.86% - 45th in the Nation), its eligibility for CCSP participation is limited. On the other hand, Maine has the largest and most successful program of federally-funded conservation easements and state ownership in the Nation, drawing on a variety of sources, including the USFS Forest Legacy Program and the USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program. In addition, the State's Land for Maine's Future 5% public access program is a successful state-funded case study. Adequately funded trail development can reduce costs for landowners and concentrate recreation in desired areas, and that increased investment in trail infrastructure is critical for Maine's forest-based tourism economy.

Better maps and markers of areas accessible to those that have to use mobility devices such as wheelchairs or scooters.

Community Forestry Bonds - leveraging private markets for working forest conservation

Expand Use of LWCF for Private Lands Conservation and Third-party Administration

Community Conservation Clubs: mentors and places to connect and integrate programs and actions

100 Stories of Youth in the Great Outdoors

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Access for equestrians and all outdoor enthusiasts

Allow volunteers to use chainsaws in National Parks

Colaboration

color of wind turbines

Correct Thinking for Effective Action in a Complex World

Create an OHV Driver's License

Free Speech is a Wilderness

Gather Together and Consecrate Special Places

Get rid of the republicans and oil soaked dems

Hot Air Balloons to view nature

I am the 'Future Generation'

Include viewsheds in protected categories

Increase Technical Guidance

Internet base conservation forums

Make companies help pay for parks

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

nature gear sales tax

OHV and ATV carries a large, legible license number

OHV and ATV Satellite Beacon Service

park and wilderness clean up

Partner Urban Redevelopment with Preservation Trades

Photograph America

Point of Use Clean Energy Solutions

Preserve Big Smoke Stacks, a national symbol of manhood

Preserve our healthy heritage with the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Preserving Red Clay State Historic Park

Privatize OHV Use

Promote local "ownership" of trails via trail associations

Reducing Adversarial Groups (RAGS) by Pairing Opposing Participants (POPS)

Save Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Outdoor Camps for kids

Self Serve Rent a Mountain Bike

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Ski Trails and Wildlife: Toward Snow Country Restoration

Teach Urban Kids What National Parks Are

Techniques for Promoting Low-Impact Park Use

Tools and Resources

Transparency and / Coordination and Collaboration with Locally Vested Groups, Scientists, and Conservationists

We have the tools

ALL Builders need to learn the environmental aspects of green building

Encourage more individuals to donate money to protect our land

Large-scale commercial-industrial wind farms

Bridge the Gap for Local Parks and Trails

Bring Back Recess For Middle and High Schoolers

buy more

Consider joining or starting a Nature Club for Families.

Create butterfly and wildlife friendly gardens in communities

Creating a "Signature" Outdoor Lifestyle in Chattanooga, TN

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Environmental Leadership Centers & Ecosystems

Environmental Learning for Kids - the sure thing!

Fruit Trees in Urban Areas

Encourage individual energy independence (solar panels on homes) and produce energy where it will be used

Recommendation: Issue an Executive Order establishing pilot landscape programs that apply current administrative authority and programs on a broader scale. Direct that agencies shift budget priorities to fund those programs that enhance landscape-level conservation, restoration and maintenance of working lands. Appoint a federal taskforce to work with collaborative groups to implement these new approaches.

Examples of how existing authorities could be creatively used across a broader landscape include:

- Reward communities for adopting land-use planning that saves the federal government money in the long run, such as communities having a solid planning rule around the wildlands-urban interface that will ultimately save the government in wildlands firefighting costs.
- Working with the Department of Education and Environmental Protection Agency, establish citizen and student monitoring programs around water and other measures. Monitoring will be a key component of measuring success and involving youth and other volunteers through programs similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps. Large landscape programs should have a solid monitoring plan in place and funded. This monitoring effort would be a direct benefit to the collaboration efforts around the landscape.
- Fully fund restoration projects within the landscape. In the case of Forest Restoration projects, restoration has proven to provide common ground between diverse interest groups and a place for agreement on management of public lands. In urban areas, people can immediately experience the benefit of land enhanced by restoration.

The goal of these efforts would be to create incentives for people to work at a larger scale while ensuring minimum standards are met across the landscape. This would establish a conservation over the long term. Thank you for your consideration of Trout Unlimited's comments. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance as you develop the report and implement the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The Endangered Species Act is one of the most powerful tools the Federal Government has to protect wildlife. This important law requires the government to conserve the habitat of all endangered and threatened species. Unfortunately, the Dept. of Interior under both Pres. Bush and Pres. Obama have not enforced the Endangered Species Act with much vigor and as a result wolves and other rare animals have been killed and the habitat of other rare species have been destroyed. Please vote YES to send our Federal Government a stg message that you want the Endangered Species Act enforced.

Reach people where they are - on the couch! Raise public awareness with a Get Out! campaign that would encourage people to get outdoors to explore and enjoy nature.

A "job corps" would be good...both for the parks and the people...

Before banning OHV use of any kind, perhaps another route would be to offer tax incentives/breaks to those land owners so that private lands can be opened up for OHV use. This could ease/lessen the amount of traffic on popular trails therefore decreasing damage.

Unrelated subject but here is my chance: We need a national subsidized program as big as the space program to push development of advanced Hydrogen and Solar energy technology and LED Light technology to depend less on oil and gas. The oil will be gone and is not our future solution.

I would also urge you to use science to color your decisions.

It is essential we have wildlife corridors and protect areas around the national park for the parks do not stand alone in the ecosystem.

But designating trails is not enough. We need sustained programs which help fund needed trail maintenance and programs which map trails and make info available to the public -- including info about current conditions. Best tool now is the Recreational Trails Program (see post on this program).

More and more communities are doing this. Prince William (VA) County Schools is opening a new campus this fall adjacent to a county park, with planned joint use of parking and land. Good use of resources -- and a way to help kids learn about the outdoors on a continuous basis.

The Recreational Trails Program not only provides funding (derived from federal motorfuel excise tax paid by motorized forms of trail uses) which are available to all types of trails (and by law, at least 30% must go to exclusively non-motorized trails and another 40% are discretionary with the state) but also requires each state to create a state trails advisory committee with representation from all major trail interests to stimulate conversations about goals, needs and conflicts and develop a strategy for serving the needs of all trail users. In Minnesota and elsewhere, the results are outstanding. There may be some joint use of key corridor and access trails, but separation of uses to provide quality experiences is typical.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Designation of a national scenic byway or All-American Road is by the Secretary of Transportation and does require the involved municipalities and agencies to collaborate on a corridor management plan to recognize and protect intrinsic values (scenic, historic, recreational, cultural), but the plan does NOT utilize any new federal controls or requirements. Nor does it prevent safety enhancements of the roadway. The goal is for communities and agencies to shape growth and change, not try to block it. And we are now approaching the 20th anniversary of the first round of designations (of which there are now 150+ for some 35,000 miles of road). The results are encouraging. Economic value of the designations is proven by increases in visits and use of the featured assets of the corridors, and local pride and awareness of the corridor value is widespread and greatly increased.

Living just east of the San Francisco Bay for over 50 years I am aware of the decline of fish populations, mercury contamination in the smaller fish caught today resulting from past mining activity, and pollution of the bay from agricultural runoffs. Efforts are being made to remediate. The Consumnes River stands out as an example of what can be done - through the work of the Nature Conservancy and many volunteers, this river has remained free-flowing and relatively clean while providing access to many, many birds as residents or migratory visitors and to their human students and admirers. The rest of the Sacramento River watershed needs such intervention on a more massive scale.

I support this idea, but recommend that it be broadened to consider a coordinated and connected system of federal, state, and private lands. Even with a major expansion of national parks, they alone are not going to be enough in terms of meeting current and future wildlife corridor needs. National wildlife refuges, national forests, BLM lands, state parks, state natural areas, private lands under conservation easements, and other assorted lands must all be considered in planning to maintain habitat connectivity and to provide for wildlife movement corridors. The new Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives will hopefully play an important role in this coordinated planning and management effort. It is clear that greater leadership and direction are needed to effectively "connect these dots."

There already are well-balanced and inclusive programs to teach our youth about the value of the outdoors, good citizenship, and healthy living. They are under the well known umbrella of Scouting. Scouting, from its roots in England over 100 years ago, is the premier youth program, peace movement, and service organization worldwide. Its inclusiveness cuts through all cultures, languages, and religions of the world. Its worldwide programs serve both boys and girls. In the United States it has, not only produced leaders in every field of endeavor, but has influenced the good citizenship of millions of youth in this country alone. Its potential for teaching care for our environment and actually giving experience in conservation is unequalled. Of any of their several programs it is money and time best spent. Naysayers know not of what they speak.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

>I don't see why we can't dedicate an area for motorized use just like they do for Wilderness Areas? Call it a Recreation Area and it can never be changed to anything else just like a Wilderness Area." , Believe it or not, Senator Feinstein of California has legislation in the works, S2921, which would establish Congressionally mandated OHV areas. Her staff and The California Wilderness Coalition worked with a number of willing off roaders to establish these areas and others in the Southern California desert areas. I was one of those off roaders who had the chance to successfully negotiate motorized access in a couple of those desert areas. It was a little mind bending to say the least to be working with those which I had historically felt were just out to close everything they could. But to be very honest, I discovered a genuine interest on the part of the Senator's staff and the wilderness group to work with us in keeping areas open. The practice should be a national model when ANY areas are being considered for closure of any type.

Great idea! It is also important to ensure that the Farm Bill's easement programs benefit farms in all states. Each region of the country can be defined differently, and food security is important everywhere. In New York's Hudson Valley, the region's diverse agricultural base provides eighty percent of the fresh foods to New York City's greenmarkets. Farms in our regions have a different character than other region's of the country, yet they provide critical public benefits that support public health and the regional economy, and provide a first hand experience for many American's to connect with the outdoors.

I trust you and Michelle. I'm retired from teacher training in California. I know children thrive when fresh air and open spaces challenge their creativity. You can improve opportunities to use our national parks to get kids into active healthy outdoor activity that will help them lead long healthy lives. Thanks for all you do for children youth and their families.

Enjoying the outdoors increasingly has become a dirty business for Americans. We know because we're out there camping hiking observing wild places wildlife and people. Way too many American kids grow up thinking that "outdoors" means ATV's tearing up sand dunes snowmobiles chasing terrified animals (and each other) motorized "recreational" equipment roaring over lakes that should be paddled or rowed or swum or left alone to just be home to the quieter cleaner millions of creatures that inhabit them. WE KNOW THAT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT EVEN LEGAL IN SOME AREAS IN WHICH THEY ARE PRACTICED. But budgetary cuts have made enforcement impossible; and the educational outreach function that used to be invaluable in rangers is something for which no Federal employee now has the time. Shame on us! So our family hopes that some inappropriate activities will be taken off the table in our parks; that emphasis will be placed on the appreciation of natural values and peaceful activity that's appropriate to these national treasures. And that there will once again be funding sufficient to provide welltrained dedicated rangers to guide teach and inspire.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

1.Reinstate Fire Trails. Too many forest fires are consuming valuable timber that could be sold and endangering lives to fight them. 2.Allow multiuse trails walking/hiking bicycles and equestrian use in all national parks with staging areas for horse trailers water picnic tables and portapoties. Horsemen could be the eyes and ears of the Park Rangers notifying them of any suspicious activity. This includes the National Civil War Battlefields 3. Starting harvesting portions of some of heavily timbered areas in sections which would provide funds to bolster the revenue of the parks. .

We need more off road trails for Mt. biking and Hiking .

We are a small historical society and struggle daily to compete for support and funding.These programs help to bring our cause to a national audience.Our small efforts have saved important pieces of our history in Arlington which in turn adds to the history of our United States of America.Please continue to fund historic preservation programs.

It is a very small expense with a very significant return for generations to come. FDR supported it in the most trying of times with the CCC that helped shape our national park system that we currently enjoy. Please take this seriously.

In addition to the reasons cited below the addition of historic resources to this initiative will provide both jobs and education to all communities AND promote the documentation of previously unheard voices in the broader scheme of American history.

We in Shawnee County Kansas are committed to heritage awareness and see historic preservation and heritage education as a key element in building a common national identity as America becomes more and more culturally and ethnically diverse. We celebrate multiculturalism and tie it together with knowledge of place. Our theme is "lighting freedom's pathway building heritage culture.

These resources are also great for the economy since heritage tourism is a huge and growing segment of the hospitality industry. Focus in this area could help revive the economy.

It's also important to remember that preservation efforts employ local people ensuring that traditions and knowledge of heritage endure for generations. One example is the program for stone masonry initiated at Zuni Pueblo. Elders teaching younger men the traditions and techniques for maintaining and repairing and rebuilding structures on the pueblo.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Not all points worth preserving are purely "Natural" In Highland Park MI sits the Ford Highland PArk plant. This was the site of the Model T ford. The car that put America on wheels. Mr ford also started the \$5.00per day pay syatem that went a long way toward creating the great American Middle class. The Woodward Avenue Action Association ( Woodward Ave.- An All American Road) is seeking to rehabilitate the Administration Building on Woodward Ave to be used as a center to explore the historical impacte of the US Auto industry on our history including a tour of the famous "Crystal Palace" as the on site assembly plant became known for itsy use of a glass roof to inhance natural lighting in the assembly area.

People Americans included value what they understand; they understand what they can know something about; they only find significance in what they understand; and they will protect and preserve that which they can identify among all the things they know about. We all do this. If people cannot see themselves -- some part of humanity some piece of the human experience -- in the places they visit they can appreciate them but the appreciation lacks empathy with the resources themselves. People care for the things they care about; and they care about the things they care for. So it is with national parks and historic landmarks and with local and regional cultural landscapes as well. I am working currently with a local project to turn a 100-acre area into an interpretive site where 20000 years of environmental and 10000 years of human history can be told. It is unthinkable in this particular setting -- as it is in all settings -- to separate the human from the nature stories. This is a project about total heritage -- some of it visual some of it verbal all of it experiential just as the best of America's historic and cultural landscapes sites parks and locales are.

As an architect who for the last 35 years has advocated the protection and restoration of one of the Trust's " Dozen Distinctive Destinations" here in Apalachicola Florida I join in this effort. Inspired by Lee Adler of Savannah's Historic Savannah Foundation in 1975 I obtained HUD 701 funds for a study titled "Economic Development Through Historic Preservation" which I republished 35 years later and which is available at Downtown Books our local bookstore. We advocated for the same message which you are putting forth and though it took decades to be fulfilled Apalachicola is today even in difficult economic times enjoying the benefits of respecting the natural and built environments.

I have been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for over forty years. The Scouts have enjoyed the federal state and private lands that provide the opportunity to connect with the outdoors promote conservation and recreation. My Boy Scouts stand ready to help.

With the assistance of a Save America's Treasures grant the Central of Georgia Railroad's landmark 1856 headquarters was restored with a new stainless steel roof and exterior preservation. This building is not just a critical cultural resource for Georgia its restoration has led to a larger preservation and construction project for the adjacent 1853 freight depot. Both buildings are anchors in Savannah that will encourage cultural tourism as visitors come to see the museum and its artworks students learn in the new classrooms and a variety of cultural events have a new venue.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I have been associated with the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society of Sault Ste. Marie Michigan for 27 years and I now serve this fine organization as its Development Officer - because I care about the importance of the Humanities in America's History. We are the proud recipients of a 2008 Save America's Treasures Award - and this funding has done wonderful things for our mission. For the first time in history the historic 1899 U.S. Weather Bureau Building at Locks Park National Historic Landmark Sault Ste. Marie Michigan is now open to the American public. It is very important that funding for Save Americas Treasures be restored to benefit other organizations.

In the early 1930s my father worked in the CCC in northern California. And growing up in north coastal California in the 40s and 50s I was aware of the work that the CCC and WPA had done to protect and develop the parks and recreation areas that still give us so much pleasure. It was such a practical and sensible investment of public money to create needed jobs that in turn created useful recreation areas and other public places.

Grassroot organizations such as the Juneau Lighthouse Association have been struggling to preserve our historic and cultural resources without much assistance. Your help is greatly appreciated.

As an Eagle Scout with a wife who earned the equivalent of Eagle as a Girl Scout and then served 11 years as a Girl Scout leader we have an intense interest in the out-of-doors and preserving green space.

Historic Preservation creates jobs and it is one of the most sustainable initiatives in the country. By preserving the built environment we are not adding demolished buildings to landfills and wasting non-renewable resources. Also historic preservation creates good-paying rewarding and skilled jobs for persons from all walks of life. Those jobs can never be outsourced. Finally historic preservation provides us with the tangible reminders of the past - the people and their stories. Please support these preservation-related initiatives that are support of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Look at the years of beauty provided by the CCC.

The historic U.S. Columbia River Quarantine Station which is on the Nat'l Reg houses a small museum in the 1912 lazaretto that focuses on the roll of the Public Health Service and its history linked with immigration . We hve formed a non-profit with the mission for preservation and interpretation of this important Pacific NW site. We are all all volunteer organization and depend upon donations and grant monies. We were looking forward to this area becoming a Nat'l Heritage Area but are so disappointed that seems to have come to a standstill. Is there any hope for that designation to become a reality?

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

If not for the Save America's Treasures Grant we would not have been able to preserve the colonial era Memorial Cemetery in Ste. Genevieve -- the oldest cemetery in the State of Missouri. We need programs such as S.A.T. to provide support when local resources are simply inadequate to the task. Local money sufficient to match the Federal money dollar for dollar was raised but without S.A.T. as a partner the project would have not been possible.

The Dimock Center in Roxbury Massachusetts is a historical landmark in the inner city and has applied and received several grants from Save America's Treasures over the years to restore our landmark buildings. These buildings serve our most vulnerable and without the support of these grants for bricks and mortar Dimock would not be able to provide respectful environments for our community. We ask for your support in preserving these critical funds.

As a retired federal museum curator collection manager and director and an active volunteer and board member for the Edinboro Area Historical Society and the Erie Center for Design and Preservation I know firsthand that our governmental program are essential in helping America preserve it's historical and cultural past. At this moment the Edinboro (PA) Historical Society is beginning to look for grants to develop a condition survey and an even larger grant to stabilize and digitize hundreds of rare historic glass plate negatives that reflect the history and heritage of our fine community. Without the trickle-down effect of preservation funds provided by our Federal government much of our culture and history stands to be lost.

As the President of the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization Preservation Iowa I have witnessed first hand the power of community revitalization and economic stimulation that comes about because of the rehabilitation of historic resources/buildings. These commercial and residential buildings make up the very core of our Iowa and most American communities. Historic rehabilitation has also played a very important part of the disaster recovery from the devastating flooding that affected Iowa in June 2008. To date over 50 historic rehabilitation projects worth over \$200 million have gotten underway or have been completed.

All of our landscapes are shaped by our culture. How we as a nation understand the relationship between nature and culture will define our ability to sustain our society and the health of our citizens. What better way to promote this understanding than to link together the programs that have helped us preserve our culture with those that have helped us conserve nature. We need as many good reasons as possible to encourage our citizens to explore the out of doors. Some of us are enticed by nature. Others are enticed by history and culture. Whatever the reason we need to support conservation programs AND preservation programs to help us sustain a balance between nature and culture in our society.

I speak personally of the benefits of the Save America's Treasures program as the folk arts organization which I founded 25 years ago has been a recent proud recipient of an SAT grant of \$150000 to help Traditional Arts in Upstate New York create The TAUNY Center in an anchor building in our village's National Register historic business district. Without that kind of help downtown areas in our rural communities will be gone forever.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

As a 20 year resident of Colorado, I know that the public lands in this state are essential to the health and welfare of its people and its economy. Support opportunities for sportsmen to continue enjoying healthy and challenging hunting and fishing on federal public lands. Preserve the values and access that make backcountry hunting a wholly unique endeavor. This can be done through a variety of measures, including through the designation of backcountry hunting Special Recreation Management Areas as has been proposed by the Jarbidge, Idaho and Little Snake, Colorado BLM Field Offices in their respective Resource Management Plan revisions. Thank you President Obama, we look forward to your involvement with the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in Colorado.

Respect for the land has always been important to me. Here in Southern New Mexico, we have acres of desert public lands which are home to birds, reptiles, deer, coyote and occasional cougar. Oil and gas interests are always looking for ways to exploit the resources of this land. Our many acres could be used to produce wind and solar energy without ruining the habitat.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

When a site marries environmental, historic, and cultural resources you'll find the most successful formula for bringing people outdoors to enjoy the places that tell America's stories. Take Saugatuck, Michigan for example. It's a sparsely-developed landscape of spectacular beach, rare freshwater dunes, water, woods and wetlands; habitat to several endangered species; and home to a large number of significant historic and archeological sites. Saugatuck has been a very successful draw for Chicago residents and others for more than 120 years because all of these resources work together for one of the best visitor experiences.

**What works: What are the most effective strategies for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?** One of the most effective strategies for reconnecting people to the outdoors is providing federal dollars for local projects. Modeled after its sister program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provides dedicated funding to support the programs and activities for historic and cultural sites. Programs like Save America's Treasures and Preserve America along with National Heritage Areas play important roles in promoting heritage tourism which brings people with their dollars out to experience those sites. The programs also attract private dollars to restoration projects and work in partnership with the federal government to promote economic development and create jobs.

**o According to one analysis, between 1999 and 2009 the Save America's Treasures program allocated around \$220 million dollars for the restoration of nearly 900 historic structures. This investment by the SAT program generated in excess of \$330 million from other sources and created 16,000 jobs (a job being one full time equivalent job for one year) at a cost of \$13,780 per job created. (D Rypkema)**

**o We are fortunate to have in our midst the I&M Heritage Corridor, which was the first explicit bringing together of preservation, conservation, recreation, and economic development in the country. There are now almost 50 national heritage areas in the U.S. that owe their existence to the pioneer I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor.**

**Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals? (for conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors)** The obstacles to achieving our goals of reconnecting people to historic sites outdoors are The lack of full, permanent and dedicated funding for the Historic Preservation Fund limit the matching grants for State Historic Preservation Offices; Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; and limit funded preservation activities like planning, survey, and public education for historic preservation. Eliminating funding for SAT that leaves no preservation \$\$ for "bricks and mortar" projects and ends the most successful preservation effort in the country's history.

**o If the I & M Corridor, with its many natural, historic, and cultural resources were given more funding, it could continue to rehab historic resources, and develop more programming to draw even more people to the to this beautiful 96 mile-long historic site.**

**Federal Government Role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner? (in helping achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors)** The Federal Government can be a more effective partner by:

- Reinstating FY 2012 federal funding for historic preservation for Save America's Treasures, and Preserve America at FY 2010 levels.
- Increase to at least FY2010 levels National Heritage Areas' funding.
- Provide full, permanent and dedicated funding for the Historic Preservation Fund at \$150 million and the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million.

**Tools: What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?** We believe that increasing the capacity of federal, state and local agencies

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

to care for and interpret historic and cultural places would go a long way to helping our efforts be more successful.

What Works: Involvement/participation- WE need to get people involved. WE have too many public employees who try to take over and be gate-keepers which make many stay away from public places. I was able to get 100 acres on a Scenic River for a Public Park and kept it for 10 years with a single Ranger. One day Ranger Jane showed up with 2 other ladies and told me that I had NO RIGHT to tell people they could come to the place even though I had signed waivers and had an agreement. They also made up some story about my being a "gay basher." They got rid of the hard-working Ranger and replaced him with 4 others... I do not lead hikes there anymore, I do not do "kids in creeks" there anymore and I seldom visit and pick up the site. I saw the same public employees who try to limit public participation at the AGO meeting along others who think parks belong to Park employees and not the citizens. In trying to deal with our Natchez Trace Park people, there is no concern for the public nor genuine safety issues. As a full time volunteer for public parks, spaces and Green-ways, I tend to feel less than welcome..... My suggestion is to replace most of the paid bureaucrats with motivated volunteer groups and neighborhood coalitions. Challenges? Absolute indifference of Government to dumping and filling and ruining of watersheds by a few connected developers.... When you complain or report incidents - you become the enemy. There is something wrong! It is not that we have too much government, it is that we employ too many who do not care, work as little as possible and work against and not for PUBLIC interests. I say motivate or terminate. Most Public employees work fewer hours for more money and benefits than most other workers..... We have a volunteer network in Nashville Parks and Greenways which should be a model for others. Federal Role? Funding, incentives and motivation... Get friendlier, more committed and dedicated workers who care..... Think about those who have worked to conserve great parks, forests and places- not many were Government Employees. Continue to get more public input outside of the paid to work group.... Tools? SCHOOLS! Conservation incentives- Identify the treasures and publicize more about what WE should and can do... Work with existing conservation organizations and help locals to help themselves... A 20,000 acre tract near me that was bought with Federal money is now like a War zone with insensitive shooters and 4 wheelers. There is something wrong in our society with militant groups intent on violence which tool should be training and behavior modification. We need more public education about Good and Bad practices and more public information about what is sane and rational and to do more about those who abuse the environment and to make it news.

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### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I attended yesterday's listening session at Occidental College in Los Angeles, which I greatly enjoyed, however, I did not get to voice my concerns and ideas. There were some great thoughts being presented that I considered of importance, so decided to email my comments. I am a long time resident of the Mojave Desert, and I have great concerns on the rush to site renewable energy projects. Our deserts provide extraordinary opportunities for recreation such as camping, hiking, photography, exploring, and much more. While I understand the importance of alternative energy projects, our desert is experiencing a rush to site renewable energy projects somewhat like the gold rush. There are many problems with this rush to put such projects all over our desert. First, I don't believe there have been adequate studies to determine the actual amount of energy we will need in the future. There are other considerations to be made before running forward recklessly. Such sites should be close to the areas of use instead of in far away deserts, eliminating the need for transmission lines and the loss of energy when being transported on these transmission lines. More incentives should be made for rooftop solar, not only on homes but on large buildings and over parking lots in the urban areas of use. This could lead to green jobs in the cities where such jobs are drastically needed. Another place for siting solar and wind projects would be in previously disturbed areas of land and not out in pristine areas of the desert. Conservation of energy used is still an important part of the equation. Another great concern of this rush to site these projects is the technology and integrity of the companies applying for permits to build on public lands. Many of the technologies are not adequately proven and the companies that are rushing to get government money are not necessarily going to be successful, thus destroying our treasured desert resources with no successful outcome. Reading the proposals for these projects you will find much necessary information is not included and all the the negative impacts are not addressed. Also some of these applications do not have accurate figures for the amount of energy they can produce. Rushing to put such projects on our valuable public lands could lead to devastating destruction of these resources. We must slow down and proceed in a very methodical manner. Another concern is funding for our National Parks, monuments, and other public lands. Funding should be adequate for comprehensive management plans and for on the ground implementation. As development eats away at our public lands it becomes more and more urgent that these lands are protected for people, wildlife and the health of our people and the ecosystems. Thank you for this opportunity to express my feelings.

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### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I Believe that locking the wilderness away from people is the worst thing that can be done !!! I enjoyed the wilderness as a youth with the boy scouts and all my friends. it teaches you to love you're land and use it with respect. If its locked down then no one will respect what they don't know. To spend any money to close down nature from the benefits of proper enjoyment is absurd!!! Instead you should take a look at WEST VIRGINIA it has opened maintained trails with a permit fee and largely boosted it economy with out handing out (waisting) tax dollars. If you want to know whats good for any area you have to live there for a while. You can't know whats good in ARAZONA if you live in D.C. or for NEW YORK and live in COLORODO. I live 35 minutes south of D.C. and have watched development destroy all the woods I enjoyed as a youth. I have seen allot of people that call themselves tree hugger that have never spent a week or two in the woods camping and in joying nature instead they have to have a blow drier and cell phone. There idea of camping is a motel room!

I am 63 yrs of age and have enjoyed outdoor recreation in many forms I have enjoyed hiking riding offroad and and now I share the sport of trail riding with an organization that does what the government promised they would do when they applied the "Green Sticker" fee the "widerness permit" fee the Special "Group permit" fee the "Day use" fee the "Yosemite Pass" and so many other leans. I can remember when the "Green Sticker" fee was first proposed the Government offered to maintain our trails police our public lands and recreation areas for the few bad actors that did not use them responsibly provide permanant and temporary employment (summer jobs for college students) in order to maintain a good balance of enviremental empact and "SERVING" the public for thier responsible recreational enjoyment. There is not enough room in this format to write about the broken promises to the public and how most of our funds have be misappropriated for political and special interest. Wouldn't it be nice if we could trust our government servants with our taxes a government that would listen to and recognize the responsible majority not regulating for the sake of control. I am fairly sure that this letter will never see another set of concerned eyes I trust this initiative will be passed in some midnight session by a small group of politicians that have never ventured into the forest with their friends to install water bars clear brush plant trees and trully enjoy the great outdoors. The last thing and the most important thing that I trust. There are still a greater part of this Nation that will do "the right thing". President Obama Myself and others would respectfully request that you investigate the agencies that have misappropriated funds and NOT rendered the services that we have paid for. Please protect our PRIVILEGE to enjoy and be responsible for our public land and recreation areas. Thank You

Gather as many TankersFreighters Large ships as needed. Equip them with large PUMPS. Pump the contaminated Sea Water (OIL Covered) thru Filtering equipment. Separate the Sea Water from the Oil. Recycle the cleansed Sea Water. Salvage the oil which would also pay for the cost. SAVE the Environment. and the Habitat. This cost should be covered by the Oil Company. If this suggestion has any merit gather as much equipment as needed—100 ships; 500 ships; whatever it takes.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I am one of the people who attended last night's function in Seattle- I appreciate the effort this administration is putting out to try to get input. I am just a citizen that enjoys hiking and camping in the outdoors. I have no affiliations to any groups. I was a bit intimidated to talk last night because so many of the comments and suggestions were put forth by extremely knowledgeable and articulate spokespersons from different nonprofits and environmental interest groups. I have a few comments I will put forth now. What works: I have read of groups like Conservation Northwest that work with interests that environmentalists traditional have butted heads with hunters Logging companies and developers they have sat down and been cordial to each other to find ways to satisfy everyone's needs. I think this is the approach we need to use as we reach an era of resource depletion. Challenges: As I mentioned in what works- resource depletion- This will ultimately be the sticky wicket This will be the Government's role to educate the public and industry about the brutal facts of overpopulation and resource depletion and everyone can't have all that they want. There will have to be incentives and education to try to steer this country in the direction of sustainability. Federal Gov. role: My wife and I love to camp and hike and one thing we noticed that is frustrating is the different passes and fees at different outdoors areas. Couldn't the Federal Government oversee a single pass that all the states dipped into? Sometimes you go to a trail head up miles of poorly maintained forest and once there find out you need a pass to park there but you can't buy it there- same with some camping areas- A sign says to buy at the regular place you would buy a hunting or fishing license- but the sign may not be specific in the location and I don't know the businesses in the area. A pass for all the states we would gladly purchase. Tools- I would like to see websites that could give you information on hiking and camping and other outdoor activities that would tie together the disparate agencies involved State Parks BLM Land County Parks State lands etc just have one place to go to find out about outdoor opportunities. Another tool would be a website for volunteer opportunities. One last comment is that I think some of the traditional uses of public lands need to be reexamined. I don't believe that ranchers should be able to leave their stock on public lands- Cattle foul waters and destroy fish breeding habitat and they are unpleasant to encounter when out hiking. If Ranchers don't have enough of their own land they shouldn't be raising livestock. Cattle are a big greenhouse gas producer and are not efficient for food production either. Thank you very much for your time and interest

Thank you to President Obama and Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. As a foundation dedicated to the protection of wild lands in the Northern Appalachians Sweet Water Trust applauds this new emphasis on protecting our nation's most significant natural areas before it is too late. We hope there will be funding commensurate with the challenge. Please go to [www.sweetwatertrust.org](http://www.sweetwatertrust.org) (web site under development) to see what this small private foundation has done over the past 18 years to protect wildlands in the Northeast.

Heal the bay. Clean the ocean. Stop people from throwing trash into the ocean. Support Heal The Bay in Santa Monica. PLEASE!

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### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

p.s. I KNOW IT WOULD BE TREMENDOUS WORK, BUT IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF WE COULD ESTABLISH AN INTERGRATED NETWORK OF REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS BASED ON LANDMARKS SUCH AS MOUNTAINS OR RIVER WATERSHEDS, INSTEAD OF WHAT WE HAVE NOW, ISOLATED STATE-BY-STATE ENCIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BASED ON ARBITRARY POLITICAL BOUNDARIES.

It is very important to consider "corridors" that allow preservation of migration paths for sensitive species. We have lost so many already, the depletion of species cannot continue. Or soon there will be no living examples of our national treasure of wildlife. Already the major symbols of the west are nearly decimated (wolves, bears, bison, eagles)

Under FDR, the CCC reforested our country and gave jobs to the unemployed. The young, unemployed might help now to repair the land.

Time to take the extractive industrialists out of the organizations that should be protecting our natural resources! It won't be long until they're gone if we keep compromising with those who make their money by selling them off.

Loving & protecting the outdoors is a huge need now more than ever as we slowly pull away from the antural world and launch into technology. But, as a volunteer docent for a threatened shore bird the Western Snowy Plover in Santa Barbara at Coal Oil Point, I want to give you a great way to preserve the parks and get American's working. HIRE people to be docents to the parks, armed with the stories of the land, the animals and the plants to make the visitors experience that much more rich. I see the recognition in people's faces when I discuss the reason we have docents on the Snowy Plover nesting site and how the docents are making it possible to keep the beach open to the public while keeping the Plovers proliferation momentum going forward. The Snowy Plover Docent Program is a model for how to make a species protection program workable and fun at the same time. It will celebrate it's tenth year in 2011. The strides the species has taken in those ten years is documented. I welcome you to take a look at the program (<http://coaloilpoint.ucnrs.org/SnowyPloverProgram.html>) and get in touch with me should you want to explore how to implement something like this in our national parks.

In addition, now more than ever we need a comprehensive approach to safeguard wildlife and wild places.

May I suggest that because of Michigan's financial issues, we take welfare recipients and make them work for their money. Use their untapped talents to help restore and clean up our parks, much like Teddy Roosevelt did during his presidency. It could teach them a new skill and it would benefit our state and nation's great outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

We are thrilled that you have launched this important process and we strongly encourage you to make sure this effort has the guidance, tools, and resources necessary to make the initiative's lofty goals a reality. One way to gain the needed manpower and combat our massive unemployment problem would be for President Obama to reinstall the C.C.C. & W.P.A. programs that President Roosevelt used to great success in the 1930's. Thank you for considering our comments. we look forward to your reply.

We should focus on the long run and try improve the situation of our environment by smart concepts and not concentrate on short term interrests.

We need to to preserve this earth, its flora and fauna, for future generations, your grand-children and mine.

I really am so excited by this good and positive news. Bad news and griping has gotten old and tiresome- for all of us. I'd like to see developers rewarded in some way for reusing all of the old and abandoned \*existing\* buildings and public spaces, rather than leaving them to rot and simply tearing up more precious green space.

Having been involved in comprehensive planning process at a local level, please include all the interested groups and peoples in the process. Without the give and take necessary for a balanced plan, there will not be the global buy-in needed to see that the plan addresses all sides of the discussion and it will constently be undermined by those that feel their wishes were not addressed.

PS As an almost-senior citizen (64) terminated by a school system that wanted to save money and left to find part-time work and file for Social Securitiy two years early, I would like to suggest a Senior Americans Preservation Corps for people my age (60-70+) who could help repair hiking paths, conduct learning projects, create public information programs, assist in landscaping maintenance and wildlife population surveys. I am sure there are many other possibilities. We could work for whatever is paid to young workers in comparable programs.

Keep in mind that "EcoTourism" can work just as well here in the US providing jobs, etc., as it does/could in Africa, Indonesia, etc., etc.

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### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

(P.S. Our Native American populace, myself included but especially those on reservations, are still in need of opportunity. A group of peoples sent to the least desirable tracts of land to wait out their fate could perhaps now be a wonderful source of aid in the fight to protect our most natural places. What irony is it that Natives are the only people the government has managed in the same department as its natural resources, yet they were given the worst lands for farming. In all these years, nothing has been changed to show my people that we are worthy of respect and trust. There are many stories out there of tribes standing up against industrial developments in their sacred lands, lands that are also worth protecting from an environmentalist's perspective. Why haven't we put the pieces together yet? To me, it makes sense. The original inhabitants of this country fought to stop the rape of the world, and were punished for it. Now, our ancestors deserve to be heard, and to be given through their descendants the right to heal America's mistakes. Aho.)

Once our natural environments are gone, they are gone forever. We have some amazing parks in this country thanks to individuals like Theodore Roosevelt. We need to follow in his footsteps and do all we can to preserve our vanishing landscape.

Please conserve large landscapes that include our most pristine wildlands working forest and ranch lands private lands and the connections across these large areas. Large natural areas provide our best hope for addressing loss of species and open space preserving water quality and adapting to climate change while preserving the wildlife and lands we enjoy today. Wildlands represent some of our healthiest and most intact lands. Please use all tools available to protect our public lands including recommending new wilderness and national parks designating national monuments and expanding National Wildlife Refuges. Restoring our public lands helps protect clean water supplies and adapt to the effects of climate change. Please prioritize collaborative restoration projects on public lands making restoration a national priority. By restoring our forests we can spur economic growth by providing needed jobs and improve recreation opportunities. Please create new national programs that help connect people especially our youth with nature. Today youth especially people of color are underrepresented on our public lands and it is important that new policies and programs are developed to encourage more youth participation including nature education or recreation programs and a revived civilian conservation corps. No matter where they live all children deserve the opportunity to learn about and experience the wildlands that belong to all Americans. Recreation is a great way for people to experience nature and help develop a strong conservation ethic. Please ensure access is increased for all Americans. Please support fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other programs that foster conservation on private lands. These efforts would help keep wildlife habitat intact and connect wild areas protect lands around lakes rivers and streams. The fund can also be used to establish new local parks and trails or provide key wildlife linkage areas.

Please start a 21st Century CCC and put our young men to real work building instead of only giving the option of war.

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### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Outsourcing singlehandedly degrades the care and the land: Turning over the management of national lands to private companies has radically changed the priorities for those lands. The result is damage and lack of upkeep. From protecting and enhancing to profit and loss this simple change has brought a profound disrepair. This single practice has been responsible for degradation of property and slow but steady limiting access though fee increases and elimination of discounts for the elderly and disabled. Disrepair and slovenly care is evident in privately managed parks. The companies hire people who are underpaid and whose goal of free rent and small amount of work is in direct opposition of any ideals to protect and enhance places for which they are responsible. Care and conscientious administration and funding is the basic responsibility with which our government is charged. Commercialization of the management of our parks and forests has nothing to do with preserving these areas for the American people. Further I would urge full funding for repairs upkeep and to make these areas available to the public instead of threatening to close because of lack of funds. Our public lands are being trashed through persistent underfunding and commercialization. One other point I recently revisited Emerald Bay California State Park Cascade Falls in Lake Tahoe California. I was saddened by the devastation from tree removal supposedly in the name of safety. The area has been denuded and looks urban. One of the most beautiful places on earth and ruined by thoughtless tree cutting. Further the so often noise of large maintenance vehicles loud saws and other (cleaning clearing) machinery was like a construction zone instead of a natural area. I realize this is a State park and not national but funding comes also from Federal sources for State lands and continued Federal cutbacks affect State funding.

1. in unending public works employment 2. in unending public information outreach Thank you for your potential leadership in shaping a bold conservation strategy

Not only do I want the next generation to be able to enjoy America's great outdoors too but I would also like to remind you that science has no idea of the possible negative cumulative environmental effects of human development on the natural world which is after all our life support system here on overburdened planet Earth. That's why I am asking you to seize this opportunity to create expand and better protect America's outdoor spaces including wilderness monuments wildlife refuges parks forests trails wild and scenic rivers and historic sites.

Do a massive funding of renewable energy sources

Once our wild places are gone they are gone forever. Please work to conserve one of the great defining aspects of this country in the face of urban sprawl and climate change. To be most effective plan conservation at a large scale that'll address keeping watersheds and wildlife habitat intact. That will provide the most opportunity for current and future populations of Americans to enjoy and connect with nature. That makes us human.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Look to your better angels and you will see that this initiative would make a global economical and humanitarian impact like no other in history. Consider the impact should we protect and employ many to guide and handle increased tourism in the US. We might be trailblazers again in the world. If not for this reason consider this request for our future generations.

FULLY FUND the US Forest Service and National Parks Service to maintain road maintenance control burns proper wildlife management (relocation and restoration not unnecessary harrasment/slaughter of bison wolves mustangs etc.) Restrict corporate use of public lands to environmentally safe usages only; grazing is okay OVERgrazing and grazing in areas supporting endangered species is not okay; strip mining oil drilling oil shale (not even worth the effort) and oil pipelines through environmentally critical areas should not even be considered!!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I add here the text of other comments I have submitted but have so far received no acknowledgment. My comments are based on my professional knowledge training and experience that spans over four decades. I have a Ph.D. in chemistry that allowed me to pursue 30 years of biomedical research drug discovery and medicinal chemistry at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda where I ended my time as a section chief in 1999. I then became Professor and Chair of Chemistry at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff where I served for eight years. During that time I was also appointed a Full Investigator at the University of Arizona Cancer Center and also appointed as Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona Medical School. I have published over 200 scientific papers edited four books on drug discovery and medicine been granted several patents and was the cofounding scientist of a startup company. My concern expressed here is about the dependence of the drug discovery process on products of the natural world. Fully half of the medicines in use today arose from plant microorganism or animals. In the case of anticancer therapeutics that number approaches 70% or more. The 1990's saw big pharma turn away from natural product drug discovery efforts in favor of what appeared to be less expensive more productive means of discovery. The tough lesson learned is that our science is not advanced enough for that and a path is being beaten back to the natural world as a source of novel medicines as well as clues on what artificial molecules could be of medical use. While the challenges poised by common infectious diseases metabolic and genetic diseases and cancer are mind numbing we must also bear in mind the growing threat of emerging infectious diseases bacterial resistance to antibiotics and bioterrorism. We will never run out of the need for novel medicinals. However even though we are faced with medical problems as great as any in history we willnilly continue to impoverish the natural cornucopia that has given the best medicine in history. I refer here to the present humaninduced extinction crisis. I hope you have had time to read the writing of Harvard biologist E. O. Wilson as well as such preeminent authorities as Stuart Pimm Michael Soulé John Terborgh to name a few. I trust you are familiar with the findings of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and related scientific organizations. The message from all these sources is the same. We are destroying the fabric of life on this planet. Humans are causing extinctions at a rate approaching that at the end of the age of dinosaurs (Cretaceous) the one initiated by a massive asteroid impact. And perhaps we are going to compete with the one at the end of the Permian (250 million yrs ago) when life itself nearly disappeared from Earth. We also KNOW that at least 20% of mammals 30% of amphibians and 12% of birds 30% of flowering plants 20% of reptiles 40% of freshwater fishes and 70% of freshwater mussels and 20% of ferns currently are threatened with extinction. And that's just a few examples. The scientific fact is that humans use over 40% of the primary productivity of this planet! That is 40% of the products of photosynthesis every year go to human use directly or indirectly. We are only one species out of millions and we depend on all the others for our food clean water clean air pollination medicines wood and fiber recreation and many more services. I argue here from just the single perspective of a biomedical scientist. As we willnilly extinguish species we also willnilly destroy the future of a host of medicines for the American people and indeed the people of this Earth. Imagine the repercussions if someone had caused the extinction of the Pacific Yew tree before we discovered Taxol which has given breast and ovarian cancer patients hope. Or what if the

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### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

Rosy Periwinkle of Madagascar had been doomed to extinction before we discovered the anticancer drugs contained therein. Vinblastine and vincristine have totally revolutionized the treatment of childhood cancer turning a nearly certain death sentence into a almost certain survival to lead a full productive life. Even the lowly and ancient horseshoe crab contributes mightily to our nation's health by making possible the detection of highly toxic bacterial toxins in medicines made for injection. Presently the greatest threat to species loss is the appropriation of habitat by humans. The most effective way to counter this is through habitat preservation and more specifically through the setting aside of large tracts of wildlands places where the forces of nature are dominant and humans have but a minor influence. I subscribe to a definition put forth some time ago: "[wilderness] is the ultimate source of health terrestrial and human." That encompasses all the values encapsulated by the Wilderness Act in a short simple phrase. It recognizes that for wilderness to remain "untrammelled" it must also serve as a Noah's Ark in an age when least 20% of mammals 30% of amphibians and 12% of birds 30% of flowering plants 20% of reptiles 40% of freshwater fishes and 70% of freshwater mussels and 20% of ferns and many more are threatened with extinction. Fortunately we have a mechanism for accomplishing this aim: the National Wilderness Preservation System. However just over 2.5% on the lands in the lower 48 states is protected as wilderness. Much more is of wilderness quality. Your administration needs to work diligently with Congress to place many more lands under Wilderness status. Such designation is also of benefit to humans in terms of nonmotorized recreation watershed protection wildlife fisheries carbon sequestration and rural economies. I suggest that your Presidential Legacy should involve the designation of at least 50000000 new acres of wilderness. And baring the ability of Congress to act quickly enough you should reach into your administrative toolkit to protect these lands by regulations and Executive Orders (e.g. National Monuments). Mr. President conservation biologists will tell you that in order to ensure species longterm survival these wilderness "cores" must be connected by means of wildlife corridors. You should order that Federal Agencies adopt policies to establish such corridors immediately and then your administration should work to have these embodied as the law of the land. Furthermore since many of our key core wilderness areas are beset with potential destructive private "inholdings" you should seek funding to buy out as many of these as possible. This does not have to add to the administrative burden of your Presidency. There already exists a very effective nonprofit The Wilderness Land Trust ([www.wildernesslandtrust.org](http://www.wildernesslandtrust.org)) that pursues this goal. They just need some additional funding to make it happen. In the interest of full disclosure I proudly serve on the Board of Directors of that organization. And I must make a special plea for my home region of Southwest Oregon called KlamathSiskiyou Bioregion. It is in the northernmost part of the California Floristic Province one of the Earth's 25 Biodiversity "Hotspots." These "hotspots" are biogeographic regions with a significant reservoir of biological diversity that are under intense threat from humans. Together they contain about 60% of the Earth's known species. The California Floristic Province is a zone of Mediterraneantype climate and with high levels of plant endemism characteristic of such regions. The KlamathSiskiyou region bridges the coastal mountain ranges of California and Oregon and is home to the most diverse temperate coniferous tree community in the world. Here in the KlamathSiskiyou Ecoregion we are blessed since almost 63% of the landbase is in federal ownership thereby providing a huge

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

opportunity for forward thinking biodiversity preservation actions. This ecoregion has been regarded as an area of global botanical significance by the World Conservation Union (IUCN 1992) a proposed "World Heritage Site" and UNESCO "Biosphere Reserve" a global "center of plant diversity" and a "Global 200" ecoregion by the World Wildlife Fund. The area is however being severely threatened and degraded by both federal and private actions. 1. There exist here low levels of protection (12%) compared to other temperate conifer ecoregions in the United States. 2. Extensive habitat fragmentation is common with more than 30000 miles of roads in the ecoregion. Moreover intensive logging has replaced biodiversityrich oldgrowth forests with sterile tree plantations at a rate of about 50000 acres per year since the 1970s. 3. There are 154 terrestrial species here with state or federal conservation status. This is largely a result of habitat fragmentation and degradation. 4. There have been five extirpations: grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) and big horn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). 5. Over half of the ecoregion's 877 watersheds show extensive degradation and are in rapid decline. This is caused by road building logging barriers to fish passage livestock grazing fire suppression overallocation of instream flows and water quality problems contribute to poor watershed health 6. Exotic species here are akin to a "biological wildfire. Most notably the endemic Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) has been devastated by an exotic rootrot fungus (*Phytophthora lateralis*) that is threatening the functional role of this cedar as a keystone species of riparian areas. 7. Finally there is a decline of endemics and globally imperiled communities. Once these species are gone or once they reach a "living dead" population level and once these ecosystem begin to unwind we will lose more than the imagination could ever fathom. Not only will miracles like Taxol disappear but an allbutinvisible vital support and subsidy source will greatly decrease the economic and wellbeing status of every American. This is a national security issue of paramount importance to address. Fortunately we have many of the tools already at hand to rescue much of this biological and ecological wonder that supports us as humans. I refer to the Antiquities Act and the Wilderness Act. One of the priorities in my specific region would include the designation of a million acre Siskiyou Crest National Monument. With a single designation you could protect the wondrous biodiversity of this key biogeographic region provide a destination for recreationists of many kinds stimulate local economies and provide a biological corridor for genetic flow and climate change adaptation. A second priority encompasses what we here call the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Salmon and Botanical Area. This would establish robust cohesive protections for the forests and watersheds of five Wild & Scenic Rivers on public lands. To conserve them commercial logging mining and offroad vehicle use will be restricted. Roadless areas will be protected as Wilderness and nine candidate rivers will be given Wild & Scenic River status. A key piece of this would be protection of southwest Oregon's Rogue River and the neighboring forests. You must nudge Congress in the right direction here for the benefit of America. Enormous opportunities await you administration if you are willing to chart a robust and healthy future for natural world which framed America and led her to be the envy of the world. For us for our children and onto the Seventh Generation I implore you to act on behalf of all the species of this beautiful Earth. We here who care about the future stand ready to inform your administration about the needs of people and nature in our ecoregion.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

Give us a chance. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your American Great Outdoors Initiative.

Find ways to tax pollutions sources so that the cost and damage of pollution is passed on to the generators so the true cost is recognized by all consumers.

I am writing to ask you to do all you can to protect and preserve America's national parks wilderness areas monuments historic sites forests rivers and trails. I have a personal interest especially in The Ozark National Scenic Riverways which includes some of the most beautiful springs and streams in America and is home to several endangered species found nowhere else on earth. and wildlife Restore damaged Watersheds and Wildlife Habitat through Education

The nation must preserve it's natural environment and serve the sacred trust inherited from previous generations. protect air & water quality everywhere Improve Watersheds and protect Wildlife Habitat Build renewable power generation plants and retire fossil fuel power plants convert all existing coal plants to clean coal plants with carbon sequestration and construct energy storage systems to give the electrical power distribution system a backbone that empowers distributed power generation on a robust scale.

In addition I want to preserve wild areas for native plants and animals. We need to protect and preserve these areas. Humans are not the only living being on this planet and it is time we started thinking about all living creatures. We need to stop building instead we should rebuild areas that are dilapidated. We need new cleaner sources of energy instead of depleting our earth of all its natural resources. I know it is expensive to make these changes but the our future the earth's future depends on it.

engage public and private corporations to assist in conservation in their regions. Consider tax advantages if necessary. for us and for our children. Really seek out alternative energy sources and develop them for use. No more drilling!! let's not have any more species face extinction because we neglected these important areas. engage children teenagers and young adults with innovative electronic campaigns. Engage adults thru electronic and print media. Make it cool to be outdoors! help the states maintain and fund their outdoor recreational areas. so America keeps the wilderness it already has and can return important overdeveloped areas back to the wild.

I spent the best years of my career actively involved in water conservation; fund the everglades restoration fund.

I would also like to see more tools implemented for land and wildlife conservation short of full government ownership.

Parks and wilderness in California are of particular importance to me and I would like these to be a priority for future funding and protection.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

As resident of New Mexico which has almost 75% of its lands publically controlled by one or another federal state or local government agency we are in urgent need of your leadership to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Act. Your Presidential voice will provide strong support to get this critically necessary funding.

I teach too many students who have never been exposed to nature and an appreciation of all life forms. The first reaction of many of them is to step on a bug shoot a deer or use a street as a trashcan. We need to not only preserve our wilderness areas but to add programs accessible to all citizens especially the young ones that will teach responsibility and an understanding of the web of life.

Beauty especially natural beauty is being pushed aside in our fastgrowing and sometimes outofcontrol world. The sanity and awe that come from being in nature are what have sustained me and my children through times of stress and adversity. It is a comfort that is ours by right and citizenship. It is also our right and responsibility to maintain and conserve the diversity that will surely provide life for our descendants into the future. I am doing my part by becoming a woodland steward and supporting conservation causes. I know I can do more.

Promote appreciation of and respect for our natural and historic places Increase awareness of the benefits that accrue by preserving our heritage Increase funding for preserving and protecting our heritage

Fully fund our national parks they need a lot more money than they are currently getting. Increased access should not include motorized vehicles in national parks or wilderness areas

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

: Please conserve large landscapes that include our most pristine wildlands working forest and ranch lands private lands and the connections across these large areas. Large natural areas provide our best hope for addressing loss of species and open space preserving water quality and adapting to climate change while preserving the wildlife and lands we enjoy today. : Wildlands represent some of our healthiest and most intact lands. Please use all tools available to protect our public lands including recommending new wilderness and national parks designating national monuments and expanding National Wildlife Refuges. : Restoring our public lands helps protect clean water supplies and adapt to the effects of climate change. Please prioritize collaborative restoration projects on public lands making restoration a national priority. By restoring our forests we can spur economic growth by providing needed jobs and improve recreation opportunities. : Please create new national programs that help connect people especially our youth with nature. Today youth especially people of color are underrepresented on our public lands and it is important that new policies and programs are developed to encourage more youth participation including nature education or recreation programs and a revived civilian conservation corps. No matter where they live all children deserve the opportunity to learn about and experience the wildlands that belong to all Americans. : Recreation is a great way for people to experience nature and help develop a strong conservation ethic. Please ensure access is increased for all Americans. : Please support fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other programs that foster conservation on private lands. These efforts would help keep wildlife habitat intact and connect wild areas protect lands around lakes rivers and streams. The fund can also be used to establish new local parks and trails or provide key wildlife linkage areas. Strong leadership is needed to shape a bold conservation strategy for the 21st century.

To be more specific how about starting with protecting what is ALREADY supposed to be protected but isn't? Like the WILD HORSES and their ancestral land given to them by court order and law but wildly disregarded and blatantly ignored by BLM who rounds up these magnificent creatures with OUR TAX DOLLARS! In addition these millions of acres that are supposed to be protected need to be managed responsibly and that includes getting CATTLE and SHEEP OFF THE PUBLIC LANDS! These lands belong to the American people and if we continue to let cattle ranching mining and other destructive activities on these lands then our grandchildren will inherit deserts devoid of wildlife and soul. I'd like to see species protected on a much larger scale such as WOLVES which we have treated horribly! These animals should have sanctuaries where people can visit but not harm or destroy the land. We need to become stewards of the land with a mentality that we ought to take care of it for many future generations and not merely to profit from it in the short term. for the 21st century I trust that you will take our public comments seriously and into consideration.

For those of us who live in a watershed environment like we do in Michigan the water becomes vital. What we put in obviously we take out. One simple example is that of salmon. Over the 25 years of living here we have gone from being able to fish for salmon from Lake Michigan to not being able to eat it. Our efforts are beginning to pay off for Lake Erie I hope that we are wise enough to continue to clean things up.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

I am a teacher and mother who values above all else the need to pass on to our children a clean environment rather than one damaged beyond repair by humankind. The most important challenges now facing us as a society a country and as human beings are (a) the need to develop sustainable methods of producing energy (b) the need to protect and preserve the outdoor spaces and wilderness areas we have left are.

Address Conservation as a national priority areas and their bordering areas through federal educational and access programs

If it is a fact that parks are free why not start charging? I know that the parks need a lot of money for upkeep and have been suffering from neglect for some time. These treasures should be cherished for our greatgrandchildren and beyond. Thank you for anything you can do!

I know how much you and your family enjoyed your recent vacation on Mount Desert Island. I have lived here all my life right on the ocean and quite near Acadia National Park (at least by boat!). You enjoyed so much of the outdoor beauty that our state has to offer and I voted for you and still support you 100%. I even have a framed picture on my wall of a poster which shows you on a hundred newspaper covers the day after your inauguration. (And that says a lot as I'm not into politics at all.) You made history then and you have continued to make history with your wisdom and courage. I commend you for your leadership in shaping a bold conservation strategy for the 21st century. Thank you.

Our Great Outdoors need to be protected by empowering the local land managers with the authority to enforce the land usage laws already in place. We DO NOT need any more wilderness or land areas closed to the public. What we need is for our public lands to be more accessible by the public including motorized travel and better access for the handicapped. Address Public Awareness of responsible OHV usage Protect access to all public lands including OHV trail systems by increasing land use education and etiquette and by increasing motorized access to public lands including motorized access Fully Fund all motorized and offroad trail opportunities Fully fund our local USFS districts to enforce the laws and regulations already in place to protect our public lands. Fully Fund land use education programs Please DO NOT lock us out of our Public Lands but instead create a way for our lands to be better accessed and protected by better land management.

Provide more funding for national parks & their staff

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

My wife and I just spent 4 days in the small Arizona town of Eagar at an ATV Jamboree. Multiple organizations were involved in the planning and execution of the event. These entities included Federal, State, and local governmental agencies as well as private groups. We spent 3 days riding, mainly in the National Forest. It was a great opportunity for my wife and I to spend time together. Multiple families were there as well. The total registration was in excess of 450 individuals. The scenery was spectacular, the organization well done, and the company very friendly. We now ride instead of hike. At 62 years of age, I cannot hike as I did when I was younger, so the ATV allows me to see many of the places I would have hiked to in the past. Unfortunately I see more and more public lands closed to motorized access. I strongly suggest that we be allowed to continue motorized access to public lands. Restricting huge areas to an elitist group is not in the best interest of the majority of citizens in this country. Please listen to the many of us that wish to recreate responsibly but want to visit areas we cannot reach by hiking alone. The President has asked to hear from the citizens--here are my comments. Give us all room to recreate, not just the select few.

Encourage wind breaks along farmland every few miles made with trees to avoid another Dust Bowl in the Great Plains, water conservation to save and reuse rain water, and plant species of plants around crops to encourage moisture and soil to stay.

I also support Boy Scout and Girl Scout Camps and have seen first hand the positive impact outdoor education has on our youth!

The Centers and Greenspaces initiative integrates land use, transportation, and ecological planning to implement Greenway principles and prevent strip-and-sprawl patterns. The goal is to encourage municipalities to identify natural and agricultural greenspaces for possible protection and priority growth centers with positive development potential. The Centers and Greenspaces approach was first applied in the Rhinebeck Town Plan and a Red Hook intermunicipal plan, then with the Towns of Poughkeepsie and Pleasant Valley and the City of Beacon. These plans not only identified growth centers and greenspaces, but also tried to illustrate what new close-in development might look like. The Centers and Greenspaces map builds on these local examples and will evolve on the interactive website as new municipal plans and projects are completed.

There is no doubt that increasing public awareness of food quality and security issues have fueled a dramatic rise in efforts to develop and support local food production. The Know Your Farmer program has begun to empower citizens throughout the country to begin to take responsibility for their food. This flood of interest has spawned thousands of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and they are growing exponentially. As participants in this effort, we founded the Rockland Farm Alliance so that we too can know our farmer. As leaders of this effort, we are developing a model based on the principles of sustainability; economic, social, and environmental. This model is being tested, documented and analyzed to support its ultimate evolution into a program that can offer success to any community, with the participation and support of local leadership and the general public.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Keeping Maine's Forests believes that a strategic investment in conservation and stewardship of the Maine Woods today will pay huge dividends to the public long into the future.

Empowering Tribal Nations Improving Trust Land Management: DOI seeks to strengthen natural resource management on trust lands.

All Lands Policy: Recognizing that the majority of the nation's forests are in private ownership, Secretary Vilsack has launched USDA's All Lands Policy to keep private forests as forests to maintain drinking water, rural economies, wildlife and mitigate and adapt to climate change. USDA seeks to partner with conservation groups, forest industry and government agencies "to address the common threat of forest loss on private lands," building upon their history of cooperative forest initiatives with the states.

- **Expand Stewardship Opportunities for Private Forest Lands:** In its FY '11 budget, USDA sets a strategic goal of "ensuring that private working lands are conserved, restored and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing our water resources." One of the most significant changes brought about by the 2008 Farm Bill was to expand existing NRCS programs that have primarily been focused on agricultural lands to include non-industrial forest lands. USDA has proposed expansions of NRCS programs available to private forest land owners. USDA also seeks to develop markets for ecological services that will compensate landowners for high quality stewardship.

- **Assist Rural Communities to Create Prosperity:** Through its Rural Development programs, USDA is seeking to increase economic innovation, alternative energy production and job creation in rural communities and improve the quality of life of their residents.

- **Wood Energy Production:** USDA has launched programs to spur the development of energy production utilizing biomass from forest lands.

Two potential pilot projects - one within the Downeast landscape and the other within the Western Mountains and Lakes landscape are described here. Both involve multiple landowners who have discussed their interest with conservation partners. However, such discussions and negotiations are, understandably still preliminary, until the Departments of Agriculture and Interior express their interest and support for Keeping Maine's Forests. When that occurs, more detailed proposals of these projects, and potentially others, will be developed and evaluated by the Keeping Maine's Forests Steering Committee.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Overview: The proposed Downeast Pilot Project seeks to maintain the working forest in the region. It also builds upon an existing core of conserved lands of more than 500,000 acres which protect some of the region's most important large lake and wetland complexes, endangered Atlantic salmon rivers, popular backcountry canoe routes, and world-class fisheries, along with productive working forests critical to numerous mills which ring the Downeast forest. Based upon discussions with several of the region's major forest landowners, there appear to be excellent opportunities to pursue conservation and stewardship initiatives that will connect existing conservation lands, protect valued natural and recreational resources, and maintain the working forest landscape necessary to fuel the region's industry.

The essence of this proposal is an innovative and robust public-private partnership specifically tailored to Maine circumstances. Keeping Maine's Forests seeks to establish a new model for forest land conservation and stewardship for the country that sustains the forest landscape and the forest products industry, rural communities and fish and wildlife populations that depend upon it. It has been designed to be scalable based upon available resources with initial efforts identifying pilot projects within the Maine Woods where forest landowners have indicated a strong interest in taking part.

This proposed partnership must include private landowners, the state, tribal, and federal governments, local communities, non-profit organizations, and the philanthropic community. It should encompass all relevant state and federal programs in a synergistic fashion to secure an outcome where the Maine Woods provide for future generations the goods, services, jobs and values it has provided for generations. Success will require unprecedented levels of understanding, communications, and cooperation among a variety of partners over a sustained period.

A well designed stewardship incentive program could potentially address resource management issues that have proven problematic in recent years. For example, there has been an ongoing public dialogue about expectations for forest landowners to manage deer wintering habitat and other habitat for important game and non-game species. Also, concerns have been raised whether current forest practice regulations can provide the diversity of habitat necessary to support forest biodiversity. Rather than have such issues become contentious public debates, it would be far more productive to develop a program that appropriately rewards landowners that manage their lands to meet identified public objectives and create a new model for how to achieve responsible stewardship.

Keeping Maine's Forests brings this proposal to USDA and DOI knowing that a substantial share of federal funding is essential to its success and appropriate due to its national significance. Furthermore, a major commitment to conserving a vast landscape of forests, lakes, rivers and mountains in the East would restore some equity for federal land conservation programs that, understandably, have allocated major resources to the western states.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Keeping Maine's Forests is seeking \$25 million of federal funding to initiate the pilot project phase of the initiative with additional contributions to occur from state and private funding sources. This request is in addition to the funding Maine currently receives through existing federal programs including Forest legacy, LWCF, NAWCA and NRCS stewardship programs.

The greatest strength of Keeping Maine's Forests is the diversity of forest interests that have come together to pursue a common vision for the Maine Woods. We now seek to involve the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to further strengthen this endeavor. Through a strategic and creative partnership, Keeping Maine's Forests offers an opportunity for making federal conservation and stewardship programs more relevant and cost-effective than ever before and to make the Maine Woods a model for landscape conservation.

Urban Programs and Operations - in partnership with National Parks, Recreation Areas, and Monuments and local government agencies and communities  
Close to the major metropolitan areas of the state, urban Corps programs serve as a portal to the National Parks and Forest system for urban youth and young adults. Corps are an ideal segue experience as young people with little or no interest in the environment are attracted to the corps as a job and educational opportunity. Once introduced to the environment through the hands-on nature of corps work, many young people are "hooked" and excited about the possibility of a career related to the outdoors. In addition to working within their local communities, urban corps typically offer members the chance to leave home to work on projects for 5-10 days during which they camp out. Organizing these "spike" projects to the non-residential corps introduces young people to wilderness and parks they might not otherwise have seen.

Develop career pathways from Corps to Career - There are both programmatic and administrative issues that can be addressed to create a more explicit career pathway from Conservation Corps into employment in natural resource management. The Conservation Corps introduce many young people of color to this employment sector; but more explicit career pathways need to be constructed to bring more young people of color into permanent federal employment. There are a number of ways this can be done:

Set an administrative priority to determine who best to include Corps experience as qualifying experience'

Develop more "second step" internship type program experiences to allow interested corps members to move into these internships roles.

The existing infrastructure of Conservation Corps in California, when combined with the extensive responsibility the federal government holds for environmental and public land management in California makes the State an ideal starting place for a national initiative that embodies the goals of America's Great Outdoors.

Conservation Corps programs are proven national models that engage youth and young adults in environmental service while providing the support and opportunities for personal, academic and professional development through the structure of employment and civic engagement that creates a culture of high expectations.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Young people enroll in full-time, part-time or seasonal programs that combine entry-level employment in the outdoors for young people with little or no previous work experience. The Corps organizes young people in crews of 10-15 lead by a full-time, adult supervisor who guides, directs, trains and counsels their group through an immersion, "learning by doing" approach. Young people accomplish hard, physical work producing tangible environmental benefits, acquire work habits and skills, and develop social and interpersonal skills that enable them to work constructively as part of a team.

During their year of service, corps members who lack a high school diploma can enroll in school and continue their education; and those with diplomas can enroll in community college or vocational education. Corps programs have developed corps-to-career pathways that lead Corps graduates through the transition to post corps employment and/or education in a number of fields directly related to corps experience.

The Conservation Corps model promotes stewardship of our natural world while helping young people achieve their potential. Conservation Corps programs help manage resources, conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide safe and supportive environments where young lives can get back on track and become assets in their families and in their communities. As a result of the Corps experience, young adults become more employable, better educated, more self-directed, and more engaged in their communities.

#### Corps Address Current Critical Environmental Issues

Corps programs respond to the changing environmental needs identified by land and natural resource management agencies. A 21st Century Conservation Corps can build on the current work project expertise and capacity to expand the scope and scale of any, or all, of the Corps work in areas including:

- Energy efficiency
- Fire fuel reduction
- Water conservation
- Climate change
- Habitat restoration
- Parkland Improvements
- Trail maintenance and construction
- Emergency response and mitigation

The Conservation Corps in California attract a broadly diverse population of young people including young adults of color and young women interested in outdoor work. Currently members of the California Conservation Corps include: 30% Hispanic; 24% African America; 5% Asian and almost 30% are women. The Corps expose these young people to environmental work and, to careers in related work. Corps make the connection between young people of color and young women with federal agencies seeking a more diverse workforce.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

While the Corps in California have been continuously operating for more than a generation, the program model can respond to the current issues raised by the AGO initiative building on these essential program elements and best practices that have proven effective over time.

The Corps model can quickly adapt to a variety of conditions, needs and expectations including location, duration, and numbers of corps members. Projects can be done within the daily commute of existing corps facilities; or, temporary tent camps can be set up to house corps members temporarily assigned to a project. Longer-term tent camps can be established for larger scale projects that might run over a period of months.

Instead of federal agencies establishing and sustaining programs within federal operating units where there may not be enough work to support an effective program, Corps can stitch together projects from a variety of federal, state and local agencies thereby creating full-time corps experience - something that is difficult for any single federal agency to manage and sustain.

Launching the 21st Century Conservation Corps based on this foundation will result in the accomplishment of tangible environmental benefits while creating the service and employment opportunities for young people leading to positive long-term outcomes for corps members.

**CCC's Backcountry Programs - in partnership with USFS, NPS and State Parks**

This is a CCC Legacy program with over 2,000,000 hours of service over 30 years and 8,600 miles of trail built, repaired or maintained. Each year, young adults are recruited from within the ranks of the CCC, local corps programs, as well as through AmeriCorps national network for an extremely challenging six-month experience and assigned to work in some of most important national parks and forests in California. They live and work building and maintaining trails, restoring meadows and habitat and other similar work.

**Coastal Fisheries Program - in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife, State Fish and Game and local environmental action groups**

The Corps partners with USFWS, State Fish and Game officials and local environmental groups to restore salmon habitat in California's north coast. Corps programs remove invasive species along critical stream beds, restore spawning grounds, replant vegetation along stream banks stripped by logging practices and perform other tasks related to the restoration of wild salmon habitat along California's coast. These projects have received funding from a variety of state and federal sources and are performed in cooperation with native tribes and local nonprofit environmental groups.

National parks must receive additional funds in order to meet AGO's educational, recreational, and collaborative goals.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative must include the funding necessary for national parks to contribute fully.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Expand programs that enhance and build an appreciation for our national heritage in communities outside national park units. Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance should receive three successive increases of \$5 million, to bring the total program allocation to \$24 million within three years. The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom should receive its fully authorized amount of \$2.5 million.

The 21st Century Conservation Corps engages young people from all backgrounds as resources to provide service ranging from urban tree planting to wildland firefighting while gaining valuable job skills on public lands. Engaging young people in paid service on public lands is a pivotal strategy to address pressing national issues including:

- disengagement of young people from the great American outdoors;
- lack of diversity in both public lands employees and users;
- youth obesity;
- record high unemployment among youth and young adults;
- millions of dollars of backlogged maintenance on public lands; and
- need for future federal public lands employees.

Teen Conservation Crews engage 15-19 year olds to work in crews with one or more supervisors to complete service projects for local municipalities and land management agencies while learning life skills and environmental education. Terms of service are typically four to eight weeks over the summer and programs are either community-based non-residential or involve camping at project sites.

Young Adult Conservation Crews engage both in-school and out-of-school 16-25 year olds on eight-week to one-year conservation crews on public lands. Programs are either residential with crews camping in 'front-country' or remote backcountry sites, or non-residential, urban-based dispatching crews daily from an established base of operations with a significant education component leading to a high school diploma or GED.

Advanced Conservation Corps places educated and skilled young people aged 21-30 on teams or individually as interns to address a wide range of specific conservation challenges. Corpsmembers have completed a term of service in a corps, have college degrees and/or specialized training and programs focus on career paths, preparing and transitioning program graduates to meet agency hiring needs. Specialized Advanced Conservation Corps programs also include crews comprised of recently returning military Veterans and mixed ability crews.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

In all cases, the federal public land agencies should implement the 21st Century Conservation Corps by partnering with the national network of existing Conservation Corps/SCA and leveraging their experience, expertise and knowledge. There are currently operating Conservation Corps/SCA programs in all 50 states that annually engage more than 30,000 young people in service. Rather than trying to duplicate this infrastructure and expertise with new federally-operated programs, the federal land management agencies should use cooperative agreements to engage existing Conservation Corps/SCA under the “21st Century Conservation Corps” banner. Programs would operate under common branding and parameters but with local operating partners in each location.

Adult Supervision. Crew-based programs include at least one and often two supervisors on each crew of six to 12 participants. Interns receive regular guidance and support from both agency and corps operator personnel.

Use of cooperative agreements: The federal land management agencies should implement the 21st Century Conservation Corps through partnerships with the existing infrastructure of non-profit and local/state government organizations such as Conservation Corps/SCA that have significant experience engaging young people in public lands service. To do so, agencies should use ‘cooperative agreements’ versus ‘contracts’ to purposefully acknowledge that youth service activities involve more than just completing the work, but also engaging and educating youth, instilling work and life skills, and orienting youth to public service careers.

In many respects, the 21CCC is the natural evolution of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the Young Adult Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps initiated in the 1970s. It takes the best aspects of these models (national identity, conservation, youth development) and brings a new approach (partnerships with non-profit and state partners, focus on diversity & engagement with public lands, professional/career development) to connect a new generation of Americans with their public lands.

Agencies can support the 21st Century Conservation Corps program through their regular appropriations, fees revenue collected, grants and cooperative agreements.

The 21st Century Conservation Corps as proposed in this recommendation is an innovative model that builds a national program by engaging partner organizations across the country. The Nation’s current Conservation Corps/SCA annually engage 30,000 young people in all 50 states and are poised to dramatically scale up those efforts under a national 21st Century Conservation Corps banner. The 21CCC builds upon the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and subsequent models with a new approach to engage today’s young people in meaningful service in America’s great outdoors.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Land and resource planning process should include the conduct of climate vulnerability assessments. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines vulnerability as "the extent to which climate change may damage or harm a system," and says that vulnerability "depends not only on a system's sensitivity but also on its ability to adapt to climactic conditions"<sup>2</sup> Vulnerability boils down to two basic elements – sensitivity and exposure. Sensitivity is a measure of how a focal species or ecosystem is likely to be impacted by climate change. Exposure measures the extent of climate change a species or ecosystem is likely to face.

Conduct of vulnerability assessments will empower and inform land managers to: Identify those species and habitats most likely to be in need of management actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change; develop adaptation strategies tailored for those species and habitats in greatest need; foster collaboration with other agencies and organizations to develop and provide a shared understanding of impacts and management options; and, target scarce resources in the most effective and efficient way possible.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

While the conduct of climate change vulnerability assessments is an emerging practice and no standardization has yet to develop within the profession, we recommend that in conducting such exercises the following elements identified by Lawler and Stein<sup>3</sup> be incorporated:

A clear articulation of the need for the assessment. In this case, to aid in the preparation of the land or resource management plan.

A clear articulation of the target of the assessment.

A determination of spatial and temporal scale. Identify the geographic boundaries of the assessment, the ideal spatial and temporal resolution for relevant data and the level of specificity required to obtain useful results.

Inclusion of stakeholder input. Identify products of the assessment that will be most useful to the public as well as users, with items such as maps, data, analyses, assumptions, etc.

Inclusion of regional expertise. Draw from both inside and outside of the respective agency for expert input.

Inclusion of existing efforts. Utilize existing relevant information in addition to developing new information sets. A clear articulation and, if possible, quantification, of any uncertainties in the results.

The assessment should take budget and time constraints into account when selecting tools and methods. Design of the assessment should be such that it can be easily repeated to update the plan and aid in the development of other plans. Once completed, the results of the assessment should be widely shared. We suggest that the assessment be posted on the world wide web and be included as an appendix in the final native fish management plan

The Administration could compliment the vulnerability assessment by commissioning a National Academy of Sciences study to determine current and projected habitat with a focus on connectivity. Use the results of this study as recommendations to the relevant land management agencies.

Lower elevation areas provide the crucial winter range, transitional habitat, wetlands and riparian areas utilized by many of America's wildlife species and these areas are dominated by private landholdings. In fact,

almost 60 percent of forest lands in the United States are privately owned<sup>6</sup> more than 900 million acres of agricultural lands, 39 percent of America's land area, cover our national landscape approximately half of species managed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act have at least 80 percent of their habitat on private lands<sup>8</sup> riparian areas, while estimated at less than 1 percent of ecosystems in the western United States, provide habitat for approximately 80 percent of native wildlife species at some point in their life cycle.

support passage of the Community Forestry Act to allow the retention of private forest lands in forest uses.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Design targeted media and marketing campaigns to make the great outdoors relevant to underrepresented populations, including children, youth and their parents, and communities of color. Engage non-profit and corporate partners working directly with youth and underrepresented populations to develop and increase the visibility of the campaigns.

Ensure outreach initiatives integrate 21st Century communications tools, including social media, and are designed to reach their desired target populations; one size will not fit all

As we look ahead to a climate-changed world, we must actively work to create resilient habitats where plants, animals, and people are able to survive and thrive on a warmer planet. The Sierra Club has identified 10 priority ecosystems throughout the United States to focus our efforts to create these habitats.

Focusing on landscapes that are well known, and have strong constituencies for their protection, we will move beyond the environmentalist-versus-exploiter story line and reframe protection of climate-safe ecosystems as an economic and environmental benefit for all Americans. The Sierra Club is working with federal and state agencies, wildlife advocacy groups, sportsmen, and private landowners to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change including the protection of lands and wildlife in each region.

Encourage the DOI to provide leadership in developing planning models for various agencies on a new approach to land management that takes climate change into account.

o Encourage support for other federal programs that protect Tennessee's natural and cultural resources, such as the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, Forest Legacy Program, and Transportation Enhancement Program. Tennessee has numerous opportunities across the state to protect critical open space, farms, forests, and recreational opportunities. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 2006 over 2.8 million people participated in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Tennessee contributing \$2.3 billion to the state economy.

Fully fund and improve the operation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year and make it a permanent, dedicated source of conservation funding.

Pool funding in the 2012 budget to provide catalyst grants for projects selected in competitive processes

Support for investments in conservation stems from voters' strong personal connections to the environment. More than four in five (81%) say they have visited a state or local park in the past year and a majority of voters report having visited a national park in the past year.

Increase flexibility of funding and program delivery by removing bureaucratic obstacles to on-the-ground action

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

There is a groundswell of place-based, collaborative efforts to sustain large landscapes; federal funding and programs should be enhanced to empower these efforts. Large landscape efforts range from several hundred thousand acres to entire watersheds and large ecosystems. Some of many examples include: Northern Everglades, Alabama River/Mobile Delta Corridor, Central Appalachians, Hudson Valley, Penobscot River Watershed, Maumee Basin of the Great Lakes, Upper Peninsula (Michigan) Forests, Crown of the Continent, East Side Oregon Forests, the Pioneers (ID), Colorado Plateau (UT, CO, AZ, NM), Longleaf Pine Initiative, Keeping Maine's Forests Initiative, and the Northern Sierra Partnership.

Federal agencies should support local, collaborative efforts rather than be the top-down driver of these efforts. Maintaining the delicate balance between Federal support and local and community initiative is important to long term success.

Landscape and, where relevant, related coastal features, warrants federal investment given the presence of major federal protected areas or land holdings or previous investment in private conservation, threatened and endangered species, major wildlife corridors, important water resources, and conformance with existing federal and state conservation plans (e.g. USFWS Recovery Plans, State Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plans, etc.).

Local residents, multiple NGO's, state and federal agencies are actively collaborating around a landscape vision and are capable of delivering landscape scale results. Where multiple federal agencies exist in a landscape, they are actively working together (or have potential to) around shared conservation goals and objectives.

Federal funds can be leveraged with multiple funding sources, including, but not limited to, state funds, private funds, and private landowner donations of conservation easements.

Strong support of local community and elected officials. Community support and leadership around a conservation plan is central to the sustainability of conservation outcomes

Tangible results on landscape level goals are achievable over five years.

The project contributes to the connection of existing protected areas, river and wetland systems, and migration corridors.

The conservation outcomes will enhance the resiliency of the landscape to the potential effects of climate change. The project has been identified in the planning of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) as important to the protection of habitat in the face of climate change.

Focal areas should be representative of America's diverse natural resources and special places.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Matching multi-year catalyst grants to facilitate implementation of landscape scale conservation. Where Landscape Partnerships already have a landscape plan of action and coordinated implementation, AGO should not require new levels of planning to become eligible for project selection and focus but a simple standard plan format should be developed to encourage parallel action at many locations.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal and state funding

Forest Legacy Program

Cooperative Endangered Species Fund Grant Program if the area is already part of a Habitat Conservation Plan(HCP)(funding from USFWS and NOAA)

Farm bill cost share and reserve programs including expanded use of the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)

The application of various conservation tax incentives (as noted below some such incentives should be expressly designed for use in these program areas)

The accelerated use of ecosystem scale mitigation of infrastructure and development projects including watershed scale wetlands mitigation and other ecosystem scale approaches to mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

NOAA restoration and land conservation programs (including Community Coastal Restoration Grants, CELCP, Open Rivers, National Estuarine Research Reserve capital funding)

EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Funds, State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Program, and EPA Watershed Protection Funds

Superfund and similar toxics remediation programs

The ability to pool Federal funding and the flexible use of such funds to meet the objectives set out in landscape plans

The opportunity to use new mechanisms for multi-year budgeting

Full funding for Payments in lieu of taxes and Refuge Revenue Sharing on Federal lands within the partnership landscape

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Accelerated designation of lands for special status (Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, National Estuarine Research Reserves, etc.) where the landscape partnership plan recommends such designation

A commitment of ongoing interagency cooperation within the project area

Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Mississippi River, Gulf of Mexico/Louisiana Wetlands, California Bay Delta, Greater Everglades, Colorado River. These specific places are often talked about in the context of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. All of them, however, already have some level of multi-agency Federal and state involvement. Some, like the Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades, have been underway for many years, but they have proceeded slowly with considerable difficulty and with varying levels of funding. Others, like the Gulf of Mexico, have never been funded comprehensively and require accelerated investment and cooperative action. Large amounts of money, invested in targeted and strategic ways, over a long time period are required to accomplish restoration of these areas and in most cases there is also a significant regulatory component required to reduce water pollution and prevent further habitat degradation.

Army Corps restoration activities authorized by the Water Resource Development Act

Farm Bill cost share and reserve programs with a focus on reducing non-point sources of nutrients, including expanded use of CCPI

State Revolving Loan Fund Program

National Estuary Program

Ecosystem-based/watershed scale wetlands mitigation

Superfund money for cleanup of residual toxic sites

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Water Resources Development Act continuing authority programs

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The application of various conservation tax incentives (as noted below some such incentives should be expressly designed for use in AGO areas)

The accelerated use of watershed scale wetlands mitigation and other ecosystem scale approaches to mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

NOAA restoration and land conservation programs (including Community Restoration, CELCP, and National Estuarine Research Reserve capital funding)

Funding for mitigation of transportation and energy facility siting

Enhanced funding through EPA Clean Water Act Programs such as the National Estuary Program

The ability to pool Federal funding and to use those funds more flexibly to meet the objectives set out in landscape plans

An interagency council working with the Department of the Interior as the lead agency to develop and shape the program. In this case the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency should also be members of the council. (The Department of Transportation can play an important role by encouraging state agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to develop and incorporate ecosystem-based regional "green print" analyses of Regional Transportation Plans. These would identify critical natural resources, agriculture and working forest lands, and recreation spaces. Federal transportation funding could be provided for regional conservation planning).

Climate-informed conservation and restoration projects can also help foster more resilient human communities such as through the protection of water supplies and the restoration of wetlands to mitigate storm damage. Thus how a landscape project affects and is affected by climate change should be a criteria for project selection and project design.

Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year and make it a permanent, dedicated source of conservation funding. Communities all across America have successfully used this fund and continue to find it pivotal to meeting their conservation goals. A fully funded and dedicated LWCF is the key to a successful AGO initiative.

Further leverage state, local and private funding by enhancing the importance of such funds in project selection criteria.

Allocate a significant portion of the fund (\$100M-200M per year) for a small number of large-scale, transformative landscape projects.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Develop a new program of competitive grants to fund conservation easements held by qualified land trusts that advance specified conservation goals (such as federal trust resources, wildlife corridors, connectivity of federal and state conservation lands) and promote the economic sustainability of working agricultural landscapes. Allow 3rd party holders of conservation easements similar to Farm Bill programs (FRPP and GRP) in those cases where federal agencies determine the project will advance landscape goals.

Expand the size of the Forest Legacy Program and make grassland projects eligible for Legacy funding.

Allow for technical assistance funding for third party providers under the Farm Bill.

The additional investment in things like full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is extremely small in relation to other Federal expenditures and in comparison to the immense permanent benefits derived from that investment.

Reduce or eliminate capital gains tax for transactions involving the sale of land or easements for conservation purposes. By eliminating Federal capital gains on conservation transactions, Congress would both encourage those landowners who cannot afford to make a gift of land or an easement to sell for conservation by improving their net after tax return from a sale for conservation. In addition, the reduction in the tax would enable other Federal, state and local acquisition programs that buy land for conservation to stretch their limited dollars to accomplish more conservation results. A version of this provision has been introduced as HR 1447.

Provide an income tax credit for donation of funds used for the acquisition and stewardship of conservation easements by qualified land trusts. By providing an income tax credit for cash donated from private parties for the specific purpose of acquiring conservation easements or for stewardship expenses incurred with managing an easement program, Congress would stimulate private investment in land conservation. The tax credit could be targeted and applied to landscapes and watersheds designated by AGO processes. Tax credits have proven to be very effective tools to generate capital to be used for specific purposes.

I am a member of Southern Off Road Mountain Biking Association (SORBA) and of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). The opinions I express are mine, but much of what I have to say is embraced by our local club, the Middle Tennessee Chapter of SORBA. SORBA and IMBA are now sister organizations with the same goals; to advocate for more trails for mountain bikers. At the same time, the clubs have promoted and taught proper trail building technique that can yield trails that minimize erosion, and require minimum maintenance. Club members routinely volunteer for trail work days where we help local parks build and maintain their trails.

Our local club would like to partner with the National Park Service to build and maintain this trail. We cannot provide enough labor to take on the project single handedly, but we would like to participate in a big way, and would commit volunteer effort to maintain the trails once built.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

While on the subject of partnering with National Parks, we would like to mention the success of a local group of mountain bikers in partnering with the NPS at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. That park has embraced the concept of mountain bike usage since 1987. Today, there is a growing network of mountain bike trails, and limited mountain biking access has been granted on some existing trails. Local members of the Big South Fork Mountain Bike Club have worked tirelessly in this effort and have this success story to show for it.

Some of our members have gotten interested in the possibility of situating a new mountain bike trail on the Fort Campbell Army Base. I frequently have met US Army personnel from that base, riding on other middle Tennessee trails. Middle Tennessee SORBA would like to voice our support for a partnership for a new mountain bike trail on this base property.

Raleigh's population has just been projected to have exceeded 400 thousand. Its metropolitan statistical area including Durham, Cary, Chapel Hill, and numerous smaller communities is well in excess of one million population. As the northeastern anchor of the Piedmont Atlantic Mega-Region, the most rapidly growing of the eight mega-regions identified across the country, the future is clear and challenging. Given its thirty-five year head start with greenway implementation, Raleigh currently has 3,660 acres within its greenway system and 63 miles of greenway trails. Its system is already interconnected with adjoining communities, and about to be interconnected with adjoining counties into a Triangle-region network. While this is advantageous, it is not the norm across the country. The PAGO Initiative is an opportunity to create a support structure for conservation and public use that can lead to a nationwide network of interconnected greenway systems.

In 1983, NC was the first state to initiate a tax credit (GS 105-151.12 & 105-130.34) on the donated value of interests in real property for conservation purposes. Since then more than 180,000 acres have been conserved with the assistance of this incentive, and the capacity of limited State Conservation Trust Funds have been enhanced by bargain sale opportunities encouraged by the available tax credits.

For several years the IRS has had a temporary "enhanced" charitable deduction for the donated value of conservation easements on working farm and forest lands. The program has been successful at its intended purposes, and should be made permanent.

The NC Conservation Tax Credit, and the twelve other variations on the program that followed in other states have proven successful at leveraging more conservation activity at less cost. Consideration should be given to changing the IRS charitable donation for the gifting of real property value for conservation purposes to a tax credit

Following enactment of the new health care law, the New York Times reported that it included some changes that largely escaped public notice. Among the list of such provisions was: "A new federal trust fund [that] will pay for more bicycle paths, playgrounds, sidewalks and hiking trails". I found this to be encouraging for addressing urban needs, but have not yet found any detailed information about the provision. Nevertheless, it may be another instrument in a conservation and public use toolbox that is all too small to properly serve the needs of urban areas.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Using heritage education lesson plans and outdoor educational activities for local schools to build local consensus for, and awareness of, battlefield preservation over the long-term. The National Park Service and National Trust for Historic Preservation heritage education program "Teaching with Historic Places" is an excellent model for use in local schools to teach the significance of Civil War sites, including battlefields.

Can anything be done? Yes. And, thanks to initiatives by individuals, lake associations and other local groups, and to the leadership and support provided by Minnesota Waters, whose goal is to preserve and enhance Minnesota's water resources, a few hundred lakes are benefitting from protection programs. But on far too many nothing of that sort is happening, virtually guaranteeing existing problems will only worsen.

America's most endangered rivers likewise require action at the scale of large landscapes. The good news is that substantial historical momentum is focused in this direction. Several types of formal coordinating mechanisms have been implemented in dozens of river basins to address the unique challenges posed by interstate water resources. To complement these more formal responses, a different type of political engagement and problem solving began to emerge in the 1990s (Kenney et al. 2000). Driven by the often competing or conflicting concerns of different sets of stakeholders within a given watershed, many adversaries began turning to their opponents to explore mutually satisfactory ways to manage large-scale watersheds that cut across political and jurisdictional boundaries. As these efforts proved increasingly promising, they were supported and encouraged by various state policies and initiatives, and were nurtured nationally through the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies. Restoration projects in the Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, California's Bay Delta, the Louisiana Gulf Coast, the lower Rio Grande, New York City drinking watersheds in the Catskills and Delaware basins, and other areas transcend political boundaries, focusing instead on whole watersheds and natural systems (Foster 1994).

The New England Governors' Conference (2009, 10) adopted a regional conservation strategy as an "initiative to conserve the region's diverse landscapes and help ensure that they will remain forever healthy, productive, and accessible to the citizens of New England and the nation." In a similar vein, the Western Governors' Association (2008, 3) adopted a Wildlife Corridors Initiative to "identify key wildlife migration corridors and crucial wildlife habitats in the West and make recommendations on needed policy options and tools for preserving those landscapes." Meanwhile, every state has completed a comprehensive wildlife action plan as charged by Congress in order to be eligible to receive funds through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and the State Wildlife Grants Program. As the product of public-private partnerships, these plans articulate practical measures to protect and restore important lands and waters, curb invasive species, and address issues related to habitat corridors and connectivity. Many action plans emphasize both the need to inform decisions with the best available scientific information and the use of market-based incentives and collaboration (rather than regulation).

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

At the national level, former President George W. Bush's White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation (2005) recommended that the Secretary of the Interior be authorized "to support innovative landscape-level, multiyear projects that place an emphasis on collaborative approaches to conservation."

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced in early March 2010 his intention to create the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2010). The committee will help prioritize the landscape restoration needs of national forests and adjacent lands.

Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, directed the agency in November 2009 to produce "landscape conservation action plans" to guide its day-to-day response to climate change

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar (2009, 3) recognized that "Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal, and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts." To that end, his Secretarial Order 3289 of September 2009 calls on Interior bureaus and agencies to develop a network of collaborative landscape conservation cooperatives, which are now being established by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) jointly with the National Park Service, Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and many other partners. In addition, the USGS is creating regional climate change response centers to identify key ecosystem changes and provide scientific information to management agencies with the goal of better protecting climate-sensitive ecosystems. The BLM also is initiating a set of ecoregional assessments to document and analyze the conditions, trends, and disturbances of large landscapes.

The Office of Management and Budget issued an executive memorandum in August 2009 directing all federal agencies to develop effective place-based policies for the FY 2011 budget: "Place-based policies leverage investments by focusing resources in targeted places and drawing on the compounding effect of well-coordinated action. Effective place-based policies can influence how rural and metropolitan areas develop, how well they function as places to live, work, operate a business, preserve heritage, and more. Such policies can also streamline otherwise redundant and disconnected programs" (Orszag et al. 2009, 1).

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The Blackfoot Challenge is a landownerbased group that coordinates management of the Blackfoot River, its tributaries, and adjacent public and private lands, covering approximately 2,400 square miles in Montana. The Blackfoot Challenge has produced an impressive list of accomplishments over the years, including integrated weed management practices; land protection through conservation easements; restoration of streams, riparian areas, and native grasslands; removal of fish passage barriers; and educational outreach about the watershed. The organization clearly meets the criteria for large landscape conservation— multiple jurisdictions, multiple purposes, and multiple stakeholders—and illustrates one way to organize and govern such an initiative, in this case as a nonprofit organization. With respect to the issue of scale, it is large by eastern standards but small by western standards. The Blackfoot Challenge is also a good example of how landscape-scale efforts often nest within one another. The watershed lies within a region know as the Crown of the Continent (figure 7). During the past eight years, a number of independent and complementary initiatives have emerged to promote conservation and community stewardship in this remarkable landscape that covers 18,000 square miles (about twice the size of New Jersey). Numerous Crown-wide initiatives and subregional efforts address issues in southeast British Columbia, southwest Alberta, the Rocky Mountain Front, the Blackfoot-Clearwater watersheds, and the Flathead Valley.

Beginning in 2006, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at The University of Montana convened a series of roundtables to facilitate communication and understanding among these initiatives, and to explore opportunities to work together. The roundtables created an informal, ad hoc network of networks, representing another promising model of large landscape conservation. The Crown meets the basic criteria of what we mean by a large-scale landscape, but operates at a much larger geographic scale than the Blackfoot Challenge and functions with a different model of organization and governance.

Scaling up to an even larger level is the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), an effort to protect core wildlife areas and corridors across 500,000 square miles (nearly three times the size of California) and spanning the U.S.–Canada border. Y2Y began as a network of biologists and conservationists who were concerned about the northward trend of declining wildlife populations and habitats. Today, Y2Y continues its networking function, but programmatically focuses on protecting key connectivity areas for wildlife— areas that both currently harbor endangered species such as the grizzly bear and face significant threats from habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change. While Y2Y focuses on wildlife corridors and connectivity, it works closely with private landowners, community leaders, and others to address a range of issues related to land use, community and economic prosperity, and wildlife management. In this respect, Y2Y meets the basic criteria of large landscape conservation, but operates at a much different scale than either the Crown or the Blackfoot Challenge. While it operates as a nonprofit organization, it relies heavily on partnerships with diverse stakeholders to achieve its objectives, thus embracing several ways to organize and govern a large landscape conservation initiative.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Freedom to Roam was instrumental in helping advance and pass the Western Governors' Association (WGA) policy framework for wildlife corridor conservation across the West and continues to be closely involved in WGA's wildlife corridor initiative. It has also developed a national campaign to promote and conserve wildlife corridors as a solution to habitat fragmentation and climate change impacts on species. One of Freedom to Roam's programs is Witness for Wildlife (W4W), which focuses on building grassroots awareness of the great wildlife corridors in North America. W4W combines citizen science with a Webbased community, wherein participants are encouraged to report, share stories, and upload data, images, and videos onto a W4W Web site.

America's Longleaf Pine Initiative: The partners recently completed a longleaf ecosystem conservation plan that identifies priority actions at a regional scale that add value to the many longleaf conservation efforts currently underway. Local implementation teams are now being formed to guide and accomplish on-the-ground work within Significant Geographic Areas (SGAs) and Significant Geographic Sites (SGSs). Each team will convene multistakeholder groups; develop priority actions for restoration; work with partners to carry out restoration activities; and evaluate projects as they are completed.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program: Participants developed a Recovery Implementation Plan from 1997 to 2007 with the aim of satisfying the requirements of the Endangered Species Act while accommodating other water users in the basin. The Secretary of the Interior and the governors of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming formally adopted the plan and it was launched in early 2007. The PRRIP, which coordinates the implementation, currently has a 12-person staff, including engineers, biologists, ecologists, real estate specialists, and administrative support. One goal of the implementation program is to protect, restore, and maintain 10,000 acres of habitat by 2019, with a long-term objective of acquiring 29,000 acres. Habitat will be acquired through either purchase or cooperative arrangements where designated lands could be managed by other entities, such as environmental organizations, utilities, and irrigation districts. To date, a total of 6,125 acres have been secured. The program also established an Independent Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) to review the program's adaptive management plan. The ISAC completed its review of the plan in 2010, and a number of new adaptive management research projects have been initiated based on its recommendations.

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor : The commission has sponsored or participated in over 400 projects throughout the corridor and has entered into nearly 300 agreements with 100 different partners to carry out its management plan. The commission has also successfully leveraged its significant funding and partnerships, realizing an estimated \$500 million in direct and indirect benefits toward its goals for the corridor since its inception.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: A report by the National Research Council (NRC) in 2008 applauded the agencies for developing solid scientific information and establishing the necessary foundations to implement adaptive management. The State of Florida has acquired more than 200,000 acres of land, about half of the total CERP target. The task force has helped increase interagency and intergovernmental coordination. The Everglades restoration programs have improved water management practices by the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. Since 2008, several substantive milestones have been achieved, including commencement of work to raise a portion of the Tamiami Trail to enable more water to flow south into the Everglades National Park and the start of work on the C-111 spreader canal

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area: The BLM adopted a resource management plan in 2003 consistent with the goals and objectives of the SVPP. Additionally, the SVPP has partnered with the BLM and The Nature Conservancy to develop a monitoring and adaptive management plan for the National Conservation Area. Participants continue to be involved in complementary land use and conservation efforts.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: Following a rocky start that threatened the viability of TRPA's regional planning approach, California and Nevada officials adopted a series of amendments to the compact in 1980, laying the groundwork for a more scientifically rigorous, participatory planning process. One of the most significant changes was the creation of Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities (ETCC) around nine basinwide values: scenic, recreational, water quality, air quality, noise, wildlife, soil conservation, fisheries, and vegetation issues. ETCC also had a mandate that progress be made toward meeting these carrying capacities. Another change was to increase the size and diversity of TRPA's board. A period of robust planning and stakeholder involvement during the 1990s helped the agency make positive progress. In the mid-1990s, public and private partners launched the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), and some \$1.4 billion has been spent since then on EIP projects. The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which authorized the federal share of the EIP, could be updated in the summer of 2010 to help leverage another \$2.5 billion in EIP projects over the next 10 years. TRPA is often upheld as a model for regional planning and governance that is scientifically grounded, participatory, and adaptive

Furthermore, many government agencies have developed tools and regulations within the context of their traditional statutes to facilitate multispecies protections, collaboration in the NEPA process to identify preferred management alternatives, and other measures consistent with landscape-scale conservation. As currently employed, however, these tools have limited applicability and often are not appropriate to promote and assist large-scale conservation efforts.

Many large programs must involve multiple federal (and nonfederal) agencies. However, budgeting typically occurs within bureaus that miss opportunities for coordinating and integrating priorities through cross-cut budgeting. Several exceptions that might serve as models for the future are the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and restoration funding in the Everglades and Klamath Basin regions

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The long-term goal should be to encourage various agencies within the federal government to work together in building and maintaining these scientific assessments. For example, the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) science centers, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) landscape conservation cooperatives, and the Forest Service's recently announced "all lands" initiative could contribute to this critically important task.

An annotated atlas of large landscape conservation initiatives could be modeled after the National River Restoration Science Synthesis of the National Biological Information Infrastructure.

The development of an atlas provides several practical tools. First, it creates an inventory of who is doing what, as well as a current picture of outstanding needs and interests. Second, it provides information to government officials, foundations, and others about where they might invest scarce resources. Third, it builds on what people are already doing and provides a useful way to link bottom-up approaches to top-down interests, resources, and priorities. Finally, it creates a database to help users probe deeper questions about this emerging form of collaborative governance: How do these groups make and implement decisions? How do these initiatives endure over time? What types of governing structures have been created to sustain the initiative and enable it to adapt to inevitable changes? The combination of scientific information, knowledge about who is doing what, and identification of conservation priorities and gaps is critical to facilitate the advancement of well-designed and well-managed large landscape conservation initiatives. This should be viewed as an ongoing task, and both the scientific database and the atlas should be updated regularly.

To facilitate such partnerships, a competitive grants program could promote and support a diversity of experiments in large landscape conservation.

The competitive grants program would Facilitate an interconnected network of metropolitan and urban parks and greenways; cultural and historical landmarks; important rivers, watersheds, and estuaries; working landscapes; and large areas of mostly undeveloped public and private land.

The competitive grants program would Encourage projects across a range of administrative and spatial scales that represent diverse ecosystems, land tenure patterns (urban, rural, working, and wild), and models of governance.

The competitive grants program would Require cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, thereby empowering all elements of American society—government at all levels and tribal, business, local community, nonprofit, and scientific sectors.

The competitive grants program would Embrace and encourage both citizen-driven and agency-initiated projects.

The competitive grants program would • Improve coordination among federal agencies and local, state, tribal, and federal governments by encouraging all of them to actively seek ways to achieve their objectives and to identify and remove regulatory or other obstacles to large landscape conservation efforts.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The competitive grants program would Encourage coordination with state and local land use planning and decision making.

The competitive grants program would Provide federal matching funds and other incentives to support large landscape conservation initiatives and to build the capacity of regional coalitions to participate in this national program.

The competitive grants program would Require monitoring and evaluation of both processes and outcomes.

The competitive grants program would Ensure broad dissemination of the results and lessons learned.

This competitive grants program is not and should not be a federal mandate; nor should it be a proposal to consolidate federal agencies or their planning functions. It does not connote any new regulatory authority, duplicate existing initiatives, or promote one best way of undertaking the challenge of large landscape conservation. Rather, it encourages a distinctly entrepreneurial framework that emphasizes innovation, collaboration, and flexibility among diverse sectors of society.

**Incentive-based Tools for Landowner Conservation** The participation of private landowners is essential, since large landscape conservation initiatives often include both public and private lands, but this may be difficult for several reasons. First, their engagement typically requires investments in time and resources, which may be limited. Second, privately held lands that could usefully serve conservation purposes are often dispersed and fragmented, suggesting the need to assemble multiple blocks of contiguous, high-priority conservation lands. Third, federal laws currently constrain the ability of federal agencies to engage in some types of conservation partnerships by limiting the conditions under which they can operate and share project funding.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Broaden the Use of Conservation Banking. Under the Endangered Species Act, current policies developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provide for the creation of conservation banks. This tool presents opportunities for environmental entrepreneurs to conserve and enhance habitat to serve as mitigation for infrastructure, development, and other projects that affect threatened and endangered species. Conservation banks create a context for assembling larger protected areas than typically result from individual on-site mitigations associated with land development projects. Under current Fish and Wildlife Service rules, conservation banks must contain natural resource values that are ecologically suitable with regard to topographic features, habitat quality, compatibility of existing and future land use activities surrounding the bank, species use of the area, or any other relevant factors necessary to mitigate specified listed species. The bank must be conserved and operated or managed in perpetuity through a conservation easement held by a sponsor responsible for enforcing the terms of the easement, and can be used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same resource values on nonconservation bank lands. Spatial scale requirements for conservation banks and an interagency review team structure may be adaptable to large landscape conservation efforts to create funding opportunities, enhance cross-agency coordination, and provide a potential model for cross-jurisdictional governance. Conservation banks, as currently applied, provide habitat for threatened and endangered species. However, the tool could potentially be adapted to broader circumstances, including, for example, source water protection, energy development mitigation, and other environmental goals that benefit from a landscape-scale focus.

The following current conservation funding sources could be used, with some implementation refinements, to facilitate large landscape conservation initiatives: Department of the Interior Challenge Cost-Share Funds: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: This fund includes four grant programs (Recovery Land Acquisition, Conservation, Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition, and Habitat Conservation Planning) and typically receives \$80 to \$90 million annually. Landowner Incentive Grants and Private Stewardship Grants: Both programs were launched under the Bush administration, but were not sustained. Similar programs could be developed and funded at the \$40 to \$50 million level of their predecessor programs. Coastal Program and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program: These two programs, funded jointly at around \$60 to \$65 million, could be directed in part to landscape-scale conservation partnerships for capacity building, governance, and new initiatives. North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants: These grants, funded at around \$50 million, are currently used for land acquisition as well as restoration, management, and enhancement of wetland ecosystems and other habitat that benefits migratory birds and other fish and wildlife species. Some flexibility in these grants could be directed to landscape-scale initiatives. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson funds): This is a sizeable funding source at over \$200 million per year. Participation is limited to state fish and wildlife agencies, but funding can be used for land acquisition, planning, outreach, research, surveys and inventories, coordination, habitat management, and other purposes. With some modification, some percentage of these funds could be used for competitively allocated funds to support large landscape, perhaps with states as the lead agency.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The nation's largest conservation programs are authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) and operated by the Department of Agriculture, including both the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service. The 2008 Farm Bill includes a total of \$733 million over five years for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, reestablishes the Grasslands Reserve Program with an acreage goal of 1.22 million acres, the Wetlands Reserve Program, and a Healthy Forests Reserve Program; and extends the tax incentive for conservation easement donations. Conservation program funds within the 2008 Farm Bill for the purchase of easements on working lands are over a billion dollars over a five-year period. Other related funding programs include, for example, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. These are not, strictly speaking, considered grant programs. They provide funding for approved eligible partners who enter into multiyear agreements with the NRCS to "help enhance conservation outcomes on agricultural lands and private nonindustrial forest lands." These programs also include provisions for multistate partner proposals that may lend themselves to supporting large landscape conservation. Other funding within this department includes the Forest Legacy Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. USDA's State Forestry Grants Program offers a possible model of competitively allocated, performance-focused, landscape-scale funding that could provide a model for shifting Interior and other programs in this direction.

The U.S. EPA has some funding for watershed initiatives that could be relevant in a large landscape conservation context, including a Targeted Watersheds Grant Program and a National Estuary Program that funds wetland protection under the Clean Water Act state revolving fund and other estuary enhancement funds. EPA also manages grant and loan programs that can support land acquisition to protect water supplies, though they have infrequently been used for these purposes. The Clean Water Act's State Revolving Fund offers loans for water quality improvements that have generally funded wastewater treatment infrastructure. These funds (over \$1 billion, combined with another \$4.7 billion in state monies) can be used to implement nonpoint source management plans and develop and implement estuary plans. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, State Revolving Fund loans (pegged in 2003 at \$787 million in grants and \$1.3 billion in loans) help fund public water system infrastructure. A third of these monies can be used for investment in water source protection that includes land acquisition. Of this amount, 15 percent can support voluntary and incentive-based measures. These programs could contribute to support large landscape conservation projects, though priority setting to target areas would require working with states that largely manage the allocation of these funds. For example, the Ohio Water Restoration Sponsorship Program provides significant loan rate reductions for wastewater treatment projects if the recipient uses a portion of the savings to invest in watershed protection and restoration directly or contributes to a land trust, park district or other watershed protection effort. New Jersey's Green Acres Program allocated funds under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to give three times the weight to projects with a water supply protection benefit through land conservation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Through its estuaries program, NOAA funds a number of conservation initiatives in its Coastal and Natural Resource Management category. Some of these grants fund scientific research, such as the National Sea Grant Program and National Undersea Research Program. Other programs, such as NOAA's Community- Based Restoration Program, generally fund restoration partnerships.

Funding Another possibility is to evaluate how to take a combined percentage of several key programs and designate them for an interagency landscape- scale grant program. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant program, managed by the private, nonprofit organization established by the Congress, supports public-private partnerships in natural resource management, habitat protection and restoration, and conservation policy. NFWF programs are flexible, match federal funds with other donations, and may be tailored to pool funds from multiple agencies for large landscape conservation.

Fully fund the "Save America's Treasures" program

Provide Increased Access and Recreational Opportunities as long as these opportunities do not damage our parks nor the silence and solitude that people visit our parks for.

I am all about the wilderness areas being saved for people to recreate, not just for preservation. Some recreational activities do need to be curtailed at some of the more sensitive areas, but the areas should be available for the enjoyment of the population in some manner. Some areas might need restricted access due to flora and fauna endangerment; that is understandable and those protections need to be in place.

Fully fund the National Parks

Fund to eliminate the maintenance backlog by 2015

\* Fund to increase the parks that need it, and to buy new land for new parks.

Fund Earth-based Religions and Native American Religious Groups to teach living with Nature, via the Faith Based Initiative Bush started

It has been very hard for many of us this summer with so many parks being closed down. We are supposed to be working toward making our country better for the future not selling off our wonderful reserves. I so hope the funding can be found to reopen and fix up these parks so we all once again can go for hikes and camp in our wonderful park. We need to keep adding more new nature park areas not cutting them back.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

, In my lifetime, I have watched parks, arboretums, and wild places of this country disappear as the population increased. What little "wilderness" we have left is overused by competing interests. It takes little time to destroy a wild place, but it takes generations to get it back... I would like to see our government embrace the Land Ethic proposed by Aldo Leopold decades ago. I would like to see our policies for land use in this country be based not on profit or mastery but on an ethical understanding of stewardship. Specific priorities I would like to see are: - Strong laws and enforcement to protect our water, air, and land everywhere in this country. Wilderness does not exist in isolation. A CAFO bleeding concentrated pig manure into a stream or ground water will poison everything downstream.

Name Change

One of the biggest issues facing the "National Landscape Conservation System" is the name itself.

The American public will have a hard time learning about and embracing a collection of lands, when the name is long, confusing and misleading. Our National Parks invoke an image of Yellowstone's Old Faithfull and the Teton Mountain Range. Based on focus group testing throughout the west- National Landscape Conservation System invokes an image of shrubbery or a bureaucratic system. Please officially adopt the name- our National Conservation Lands to describe this relatively new but important collection of lands, waters and trails.

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## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

#### Policy Recommendations

1) Make the conservation, protection and restoration of the National Conservation Lands a clear management priority within the BLM

Despite the clear conservation-focused management priorities set forth in the organic legislation and presidential proclamations for areas within the National Conservation Lands, the BLM is not consistently managing the units of the National Conservation Lands to protect the values that led to their creation. As a result the National Conservation Lands are a hodgepodge of inconsistent management regimes. The National Conservation Lands deserve strong policy guidance from the Department of the Interior that ensures their protection.

We strongly recommend that a new standard of stewardship is built into the BLM's planning, budget and management.

Commit to new, more reliable and flexible funding for the acquisition of public lands, conservation easements, and for the restoration, preservation, and management of lands and waters to achieve the goals of this initiative. The Administration's desire to promote and support innovative community-level efforts can only be fulfilled if there is adequate, long term, and reliable funding to support the additional work that will be required to achieve the goals of AGO, including funding to build collaborative partnerships, engage youth, serve park visitors, and for the acquisition of conservation and recreation lands in fee or easement. These funds may come from a variety of sources, but their expenditure must be targeted and coordinated to achieve lasting results at the scale of whole natural or park systems.

In order for these newly designated corridors to be protected, the America's Great Outdoors Initiative will need to fund programs and legislation that prioritize wildlife corridors for current and future generations. Accordingly, we recommend that new funding sources be allocated to the protection of wildlife corridors that have been chosen by agreed-upon criteria and qualities set forth by America's Great Outdoors and the stakeholders you represent.

The Conservation Fund (TCF) is a national, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's land and water legacy for future generations. Since 1985, we have worked with federal, state, local, and private partners to help protect more than six-and-a-half million acres across the country with a focus on sustaining wild havens, working lands, cultural sites, and vibrant communities. In large measure, these accomplishments are due to the decades of leadership and strong support from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Forest Legacy Program, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, and other keystone conservation programs.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. We commend the Administration for its testimony in support of bipartisan legislation in Congress to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). We encourage the Administration to work with leaders in Congress to reauthorize FLTFA and reinstate FLTFA's Federal Land Disposal Account. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Representatives Heinrich (D-NM) and Lummis (R-WY) have introduced legislation (S. 1787 and H.R. 3339) to reauthorize this important conservation funding tool. FLTFA uses a "land for land" approach to help federal agencies acquire critically important tracts of land from private willing sellers for fish and wildlife conservation, cultural and historic preservation, and outdoor recreation in the West, through the disposal of non-strategic Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that benefits local economies.

In the event that Congress reauthorizes this statute, we encourage the Administration to take advantage of this authority and aggressively implement the program by selling lands deemed eligible for disposal to generate funds which will be used to acquire key properties from willing sellers to benefit the National Landscape Conservation System, National Forest System, National Wildlife Refuge System, and National Park System. The FLTFA program complements LWCF funding, land exchanges, and other federal tools to expand recreational access to the public.

The Weeks Act Centennial. Next year, the U.S. Forest Service and our nation will celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of the most successful land conservation efforts in the United States – the Weeks Act of 1911. By authorizing federal funding to purchase forest land for conservation, the Weeks Act conserved 6 million acres of land in the eastern United States and has helped lead to the creation a network of conserved lands in 26 states.

The success of the Weeks Act and its contribution to the conservation of natural resources in the United States cannot be overstated. In addition to the 780,000-acre White Mountain National Forest, such forests as the Green Mountain, Pisgah, Allegheny, George Washington, Ottawa and many others were created, often incorporating cut over and burned lands in desperate need of restoration. In total, over 40 National Forests were created through this landmark statute. Looking across these large landscapes today, these tremendously valuable forests provide innumerable public services such as clean water, vast recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and forest products. However, our nation's eastern forests continue to remain threatened by development, climate change, invasive species, and the dynamic and everchanging timber ownership in the U.S. today.

In addition to the funding sources mentioned above, we wish to highlight several other priority federal conservation programs, which have been developed and refined over the years to yield excellent conservation benefits by leveraging state, local, and private funds. TCF supports enhancing and broadening these programs to recognize the importance of strategic landscapescale conservation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The NAWCA program has been instrumental in protecting millions of acres of wetlands habitat in North America. Authorized at \$75 million annually, the demand for this program far exceeds the program's current capacity. The Fund has utilized NAWCA grants to conserve important wetlands systems across the country, including recent projects in Florida, Michigan, Texas, and Montana. The Fund encourages the Obama Administration to continue its support for robust funding for the NAWCA Program in the annual budget, with strong consideration given toward ramping the program up to \$75 million annually in upcoming budget cycles.

Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grant Program (CESCF). Under the Endangered Species Act, Congress recognized the importance of the states and the vital nature of their partnership with federal agencies to manage, protect, and recover federally-listed and candidate species. The CESCF program highlights the Administration's commitment to working in partnership with the states. Further, the program recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and Tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands and the States play a key role in catalyzing these efforts. TCF strongly supports the President's past budget requests for CESCF and would like to continue to see this program grow in future years given the intense demand across the country specifically for the CESCF Habitat Conservation Plan and Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Programs.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Initiative. The Fund also strongly supports the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Initiative and bipartisan efforts underway in Congress to authorize this program through the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214/H.R. 2565). Building upon the successful NAWCA model, the National Fish Habitat Initiative establishes a companion program for fish habitats and fish populations with a focus toward on-the-ground partnerships, strong science-based decisionmaking, and strategic leveraging of limited federal funding with state, local, non-profit, and private funding. We encourage the Administration's ongoing support for this important initiative, as well as continued budgetary support for the goals of the National Fish Habitat Initiative.

USFS Forest Legacy Program and Community Forests. The Forest Legacy Program highlights the critical nature of partnerships in protecting the nation's forest resources, with a strong focus on multiple uses, recreation, working forests, and balancing forest conservation with the importance of forestry resources to regional, state and local economies. The Conservation Fund strongly supports the President's \$100 million request for this program in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and encourages the Administration to continue to build upon this program in the years ahead and implement the recently enacted Community Forest provision in the most recent Farm Bill.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

To further these efforts, The Conservation Fund recommends extending the use of Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants, a third subaccount within the CESCO Program, to support applying the green infrastructure approach to large-scale, regional planning efforts aimed at siting new energy or other “gray” infrastructure that avoids and minimizes impacts on wildlife, habitat, and other essential natural infrastructure. We also recommend enhancing the program to include matching grants to encourage metropolitan governments to plan more effectively for implementing conservation plans, particularly for areas projected for major population changes, and for areas projected to experience significant impacts from climate change.

Invest in watersheds through the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, which is currently under utilized. This bill has passed Congress but lacks funding and an implementation strategy. The administration’s budget should recommend full funding for CWMA and name the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the implementing agency. This bill was crafted to replicate the successful watershed restoration effort in Montana’s Blackfoot Valley, which started with small projects and evolved to address watershed-wide issues. Write an implementation strategy so that successful landscape pilot projects would compete well under the bill’s competitive grants program. This could result in increased funding for local watershed group staffing as well as project money, funding the groups that are actively collaborating.

Apply Farm Bill watershed programs like the Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) programs on a regional level rather than via a producer-by-producer approach. This effort will create incentives for small-scale watershed restoration projects to move toward larger scale efforts. In addition, administrative benefits could include removing some administrative obstacles and redirecting agency funding.

The BLM has had at its fingertips for the past 34 years a potentially very powerful and hugely underutilized conservation tool. FLPMA calls on the BLM to identify areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and to manage these areas to protect their critical resources. BLM has half-heartedly designated these ACECs and, in many cases, has never developed management prescriptions to protect these resources.

Many of BLM’s national monuments and national conservation areas have at their core previously identified areas of critical environmental concern or other administrative designations. Identifying and protecting ACECs protects lands and resources, forming the foundation for future conservation areas and additions to the Conservation Lands.

Past BLM leadership has never realized the untapped potential of ACECs, yet all of the authority currently exists to vastly improve conservation on tens of millions of acres of sensitive BLM lands. Unfortunately, BLM has not distinguished between ACECs that have been designated due to fragile or sensitive soils from those designated to protect rare archeological resources or unique wildlife habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated 25 million acres of BLM lands as critical habitat for listed and sensitive species, yet BLM has not used the ACEC designation to further the protection and management of these critical environmental resources.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Manual 1613 (ACECs) has been out of date and out of print for many years, but it is still the only comprehensive guidance available for staff. The BLM should issue an updated manual to provide direction to categorize various kinds of ACECs, lay out standard management prescriptions, encourage research and science, and otherwise provide guidance to the agency on how to designate and manage ACECs.

New ACECs should be encouraged and celebrated as a part of the BLM's on-going inventory and planning responsibilities and as new resources are discovered. FLPMA's direction to prioritize designation of ACECs means that, once the agency finds the existence of relevant and important values and determines that those values require special management attention, the agency should designate an ACEC.

Consider overlaying ACECs wherever the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated critical habitat.

FLPMA's direction to prioritize protection of ACECs means that existing ACECs should not be undesignated unless there is a strong showing that there are other changes in the management of the area that will still protect the relevant and important values, which must be documented in the decision document.

Require management prescriptions (including mineral withdrawals) be developed to protect ACEC resources and be included in resource-management plans.

Direct that the size of the ACEC should be as large as necessary to protect the relevant and important values.

As with ACECs, ensure BLM is fully utilizing designations such as Globally Important Bird Areas, Significant Caves, Research Natural Areas, National Natural Landmarks, community watersheds, and others.

Fully explore how BLM can utilize Special Recreation Management Areas that can both encourage recreation and protect the special resources that are attracting recreationists, such as non-motorized backcountry hunting experiences.

Private Lands: Most of Missouri's grasslands and forests are in private lands. A significant portion of the state is managed for agricultural production. Supporting good conservation practices on private lands is essential for protection of the great outdoors. Initiatives for conservation easements, for example, are a good tool. However, such conservation easements need to be enforced. In Missouri conservation easements have been granted along the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, but not always fully enforced by the National Park Service. Crop Reserve Programs are another way to encourage stewardship on agricultural lands.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

Population growth and suburban sprawl are both threats to America's great outdoors. In addition, now climate change is presenting a major challenge to wildlife and to the ecosystems in which they live. Corridors such as the Ozark National Scenic Riverways can provide some relief for migrating species, thus making the health, integrity and endurance of those corridors essential. Climate change also means that all the connections among various habitats and land managements become even more important. The Conservation Reserve Program for agricultural lands provides an opportunity to preserve corridors. In addition to the CRP land itself, good management of agricultural fields which minimizes pesticide and fertilizer use and runoff is important.

Assuring access is one step, but ensuring that the destination will be safe is another. That is why the Sierra Club is concerned with water pollution in our state and why we fund the Water Sentinels program nationally, with an office in Columbia, MO. It is also why we train and support Clean Stream teams around the state.

Sierra Club members in St. Louis have created an Urban Agriculture committee, which gets our volunteers outside to create wildlife-friendly habitat in their own yards and to grow some of their own food in order to become less reliant on high-energy-consuming transportation, while getting exercise as a collateral benefit. Our committee also promotes community gardens, which bring these same benefits to whole neighborhoods.

Full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is also essential. Good land management by federal agencies could help keep the bar high for other ownerships. Full recognition of the impacts of climate change will challenge other agencies to participate in cooperative adaptations.

Wilderness designation, the National Wildlife Refuge and National Monuments are important tools for increasing protections for valuable lands.

Goal: Passage and Implementation of National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Goal: Full Funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

In 1998, the U.S. Congress passed the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act. The Act required the Secretary of the Interior to implement a national outreach and communication plan to address participation issues associated with recreational fishing and boating, while ensuring public support for aquatic resource conservation. Through the efforts of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council, the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) was created as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to implement the plan.

Funding for RBFF is provided through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, and is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Legalize BASE jumping in National Parks. National Parks were designed to legally preserve land and for this land to be enjoyed by everyone; be it scientists, nature conservationists, RV'ers, rock climbers, hikers, swimmers, photographers, families, and tourists etc... Why not BASE jumpers? I noticed a promote and a demote. Please explain your position with your vote. Thanks!

Fully fund Land and Water Conservaton Fund (LWCF). Land and Water Conservation Funding (LWCF) helps states and communities make parks, trails and environmental education programs available. Friends of Baxter State Park in Maine has demonstrated the importance of such outreach programs and materials, for example our popular "Know Before You Go" brochure for first time visitors to Baxter State Park - Katahdin available at Maine Visitor Ctrs, L.L. Bean, etc. Demand is high. In two years we have gone through two printings of 5,000 each, and are working on an updated 2nd edition for 2011.

Promoting a Conservation Ethic. Promoting a conservation ethic fosters action to preserve, support and enhance the wilderness character of special areas such as Baxter State Park, Maine's premier wilderness. The Friends of Baxter State Park, an organization that works to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of the Park, has demonstrated the importance of promotion of the conservation ethic with its successful Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program. This program provides ten highly motivated high school students from ten different high schools selected in a competitive process to spend eight days immersed in a wilderness experience. Participants gain a deep appreciation of the outdoors, and wilderness in particular, through hiking, camping, photography, art, storytelling, writing, and history.

Encouraging Partnerships. The Friends of Baxter State Park in Maine have demonstrated the synergistic value of partnerships in furthering our mission to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of the Park. Two examples are a partnership with Baxter State Park on the Recreational Trails Program for trail maintenance, and a partnership with the Chewonki Foundation on the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program to immerse youth in a wilderness experience.

These sites are, indeed, everywhere. Tremendously interesting learning possibilities. I've seen many, from over grown trails to pit houses to rock carvings. Many have been in the path of development and have been destroyed.

Living Peacefully with Deer in Valley Forge Park. Valley Forge's history is based on its use as a training ground for troops - this training helped turn the tides of the battle for what is now our nation. Let's turn Valley Forge into a modern training ground for how overdeveloped areas can live peacefully with wildlife squished into small pockets of nature. Here are the key items needed: Provide funds to install Streiter-Lite systems in Valley Forge National Historic Park in PA. This will help keep drivers from hitting deer and other wildlife while driving through the park. Provide funds to install selective fencing to areas the park officials think need it. Provide funds to educate area residents about being responsible by putting up fences if they want to keep wildlife out and by planting native species of plants. The peaceful solutions will enable the area to avoid kill-related car accidents and will demonstrate how respect and peace can play out in society.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Well this is the same self serving IMBA nonsense that Hasenauer has been pushing for years. His point 2 is an out and out lie. 1964 Wilderness Act did ban bicycles since they are mechanical transport. In the early years Hasenauer and IMBA were able to trick some land managers into believing that they were "human transport" not mechanical transport. This allowed mountain bikes into some wilderness areas. Finally the feds had to put the 1984 regulations in place to make it clear the original intent of the Wilderness Act - Mountain bikes are mechanical transport. They are not allowed and should not be allowed in wilderness areas. They should not be allowed on the PCT which is primarily a hiking trail. They already have access to miles and miles of trails, they just want to consume everything. Some jurisdictions have tried to allow Mountain biking on trails with hikers and equestrians but there is a long history of failure of this approach: History of Failure "Share the trails" is the cornerstone of the national mountain biking interest's public relations campaign to successfully promote opening public trails to mountain bike use. In the 1980's and early 1990's, this philosophy was used to convince many decision-makers that a "Sunday ride in the park" was precisely what mountain biking is all about and that no social nor environmental impacts would occur once trails were opened to use by bicycles. By the late 1990s however, mounting evidence of environmental damage, user conflicts and use displacement convinced many jurisdictions to return to earlier regulations and ban the use from public trails. The public agencies' actions amplify growing discontent among officials with the problematic sport. Of eight agencies interviewed on mountain bike use compliance with rules and regulations, all stated that the single biggest problem was the disproportionate amount of time that officers and staff spent on enforcement (See "Liabilities" this report). It is a costly sport in terms of enforcement, but also in terms of medical costs. 1. Bryant Creek Trail in Banff National Park, Canada, was closed in 1998 by officials due to disturbance to wildlife habitats. According to the Parks Superintendent, the distance a mountain bike can travel effectively shrinks the wild habitat from a human disturbance point of view. Predictably, mountain bike interests charged "discrimination" and said the trail should be closed at all. However, no credible evidence was presented that habitat disturbances ever occurred in the past, prior to mountain bike use introduction. The fact that the bike can travel so fast and far may in fact disturb grizzly habitat, a concern raised by nature personnel in Parks Canada when the trail was closed. 2. Boulder, Colorado—home of the International Mountain Biking Association—opened 6500 acres of parks in 1983 after discussion among agency staff and mountain bike interests, who committed to maintain and monitor trail use. Prior to that date, city parks prohibited mountain biking use. In 1987, after years of multiple efforts to educate, post signs, distribute brochures and offer a college course in proper mountain bike trail etiquette, Boulder officials barred the high impact sport from the parks systems because of off-trail damage, community complaints and staff-observed conflicts between mountain bike uses and other trail uses. 3. Alley Pond Park, Queens, in 1999, stepped up enforcement to include fines and seizures of mountain bikes after cribbing, logs and other maintenance devices, installed to impede erosion and bike traffic, were torn out and destroyed by mountain bikers unhappy with the trail closure and bike repair. The Parks Commissioner stated "They kill the vegetation, they cause erosion and they turn the thing into a motorcross track. It's a public park, not a racing ground." The Parks Forester stated that the footpath had been expanded from 12 inches to 5 feet due to aggressive bike riding; that further evidence was present of bikers straying off trails, creating new trails and damaging tree roots. 4.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes Estates, California, in 1990, banned mountain biking from their hiking and equestrian trails, citing unmanageable conflicts. Some bikers are "courteous, others are not," but the overall assessment concluded that the uses are in conflict. 5. Point Mugu, California, was the site of radar guns purchased by the State rangers in 1995 to clock and ticket speeding mountain bikers on "multi purpose" trails. As one ranger observed, "a lot of hikers are no longer coming" to the area because they no longer can enjoy the hiking experience. Radar guns are a clear indication of a chronic, not an occasional problem. When the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) planners limited mountain biking use in 1995, there were sued by biking interests, including IMBA. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals opined that testimony about mountain bike use speeding, causing erosion and scaring horses are valid indicators of use conflicts and the Court upheld the extensive ban on mountain biking imposed on Marin County Trails in the GGNRA. The mountain bike interests tirelessly demand "statistics or scientific studies" to prove conflicts exist, but the published Court opinion has clearly set aside that false argument and has provided that letters and verbal testimony about social conflicts are admissible and clear indicators of past, present and the likelihood of future conflict. 6. In 1990, the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), California adopted extensive guidelines, policies and standards in order to permit mountain biking on multi-use trails. The mitigation measures included: • a published etiquette brochure • caution and speed limit signs • increased ranger patrols in hotspots with persistent problems In 2000, the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), California voted to ban mountain biking in seven preserves, approximately 40 percent of the parks area, because of repeated problems with user conflicts and long-term damage to the parks ecosystems promoting erosion: The Agency launched a review of its trail policies after receiving a steady stream of letters from people who complained that their outdoor experience was marred by a run-in with bicyclists...Often the letters were from senior citizens and families with young children who said that they were afraid to hike the most popular trails. 7. A Commissioner admitted during the reconsideration that opportunities for tranquil nature study and observation had been lost and that the Agency had strayed from its directive to provide a peaceful outdoor experience. Reported as a threat to close trails, the district Commissioners subsequently voted to ban biking in seven preserves. This significant development occurred in an area that spent countless hours detailing policies, guidelines and standards to permit mountain biking on multi-use trails only to reverse its own policy when too many uncontrollable problems arose because of the use. 8. The Tantalus Trail, Hawaii, near the Hawaiian Nature Center, was closed by State officials in February to mountain bike use. The officials said that the halt was needed to allow recovery from rutted and eroded trails. Conditions on the 18-mile trail system were monitored for five years and mountain bike use damage was witnessed and documented; a lot of "near accidents" were also reported where hikers had to jump out of the way, said the program manager for the State Na Ala Hele trail program. 9. In North New Jersey, the Morris County Parks Commission, in 1999, banned mountain biking use from all but two parks. The Commission reconsidered after predictable pressure from bike interests who promised to "educate" bikers on trail etiquette. Mountain bike use is already prohibited on unpaved trails in Essex and Union counties due to repeated reports of conflicts, trail damage and loss of solitude among other trail users. 10. Orange County, California, a parks system touted by IMBA interests as a model, is experiencing significant

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

damage from environmentally and socially irresponsible mountain bike use. In Aliso and Woods Canyons Wilderness Parks, there is now a visible decrease in quality of habitat because bikers ride off of designated trails creating their own and poach hiker/equestrian trails when rangers are not present. The effects have been cumulative: "Rogue mountain bikers ride right over the vegetation – even prickly pear cactus – commonly replanted to block illegal trails. Signs identifying closed trails are taken down faster than I can put them up," (Ranger) Maloney said. And so on and so on.....

I think the main takeaway here is a great idea: We need a shift to view wilderness as the absolute necessity for our public lands, and resource extraction as the luxury than is subservient to ecological values (wildlife habitat, clean air, clean water, etc.)

I wholeheartedly agree. Government's role in society is to do what individuals and private interests cannot, in the name of public good. Preserving pristine lands is good for the public. Let's concentrate resource extraction where it does the least damage to wildlife habitat and our clean air and water (places among the 95% of US land that are not designated nor wilderness quality), and protect the rest.

Valley forge park deer control. Stimulus money should be furnished to the park to fight the legal challenges and start with controlled culling of the deer herd that has destroyed the understory of the park. Increased tourism dollars spent in the future can offset this forth park. Cutting down the deer population will reduce deer ticks and the transmission of Lymes disease, not to mention frequent deer car collisions in the area.

I'd love to see more availability of National Forest recreation. As it is now it seems to be the domain of the big logging industry interests. The ugly clear cutting is merely convenience and the ragged roads are outright dangerous. Even when logging isn't an issue too often these lands are overgrazed, promoting undesirable plant species and the roads dubious. Not all of us can afford to stay with concessions in or near the national parks (especially seniors) or we'd like a peaceful place not overrun with people yet offering more than a downed log for an outhouse. We need to promote more jobs by hiring more staff and funding the projects fully. I'd be willing to pay a small fee to help. Our state parks have "campground hosts" who are often snooty and presuming and the fees are no longer in line with services received. There must be a happy medium here somewhere.

roads for wildlife. We need more funding wildlife crossings on our highways where there is a high incident ratio. This should be included in any new road building. It will save alot of people and animals lives. If you've had a loved one die cause of this you'd agree!

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Only close roads/trails after environmental study shows damage. As travel management plans are being created and implemented across the Western US, thousands of miles of roads and trails are being closed for no solid reason, with no environmental review being conducted to determine the negative impact any particular road or trail has on the surrounding environment. Honestly, it seems to me that some of these land managers have never actually visited a single mile of the roads and trails they close. This is a problem... I propose that for every mile of road or trail that is proposed to be closed, a solid environmental impact study must be initiated to determine the extent of the damage that road or trail is responsible for, estimated times and benchmarks for recoveries of the trails and surrounding areas following closures, and alternatives to closure discussed if damage does not warrant closure. Areas that do not show significant improvement following closure will be evaluated for re-opening. Alternatives should also include temporary closure, or re-routing where possible to avoid sensitive areas. Roads and trails that are to be closed must show significant damage to surrounding areas, with no alternative to rehabilitation other than closure likely resulting in environmental stabilization. In other words, you want to close a road or trail, you need to show just cause for doing so.

How so? I believe it would be good national policy to actually prove that closing a particular road or trail is necessary and vital to environmental well-being. Look, I live at 9,000 feet in Colorado. I am surrounded by NF. I see trails and roads closed every year that I, or my buddies have ridden for years sometimes decades, for absolutely no reason. I LOVE the area in which I live and don't want it to be trashed; it is NOT being trashed, it is not being destroyed, yet these roads and trails are still closed. As a policy, that makes no sense. Roads are important in many ways for rural communities such as mine: tourism, timber, mineral development, wildfires, etc

Close motorized use areas to non-motorized users. My concern is that when the discussion of ohv use comes up we are always looking to minimize our land losses. When was the last time a non-motorized group lost forest access? With specific regards to snowmobiles and back country skiers, we have contentious land use issues. The challenge for the snowmobile user is that as land is closed to motorized use, we are concentrated into smaller and smaller zones where we can legally ride. At the same time, non-motorized users continue to access the motorized areas. This causes conflict in the minds of the non-motorized user and further pursuit of motorized closures. IF, the conflict is as great as suggested by non-motorized forest users, why not fully segregate the groups? If the skiers want easy access, provide the snowmobile with a "cherry stem" into areas not frequented by skiers and close them out of said area. We already foster massive amounts of wilderness and unsuitable for motorized use areas. My suggestion to the skiers is to use what you have already closed to snowmobiles. To eliminate further contention close motorized areas to the skiers.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Is it the case that snowmobiles do not have a registration sticker in California? In Colorado we have to register our snowmobiles and either display the sticker provided on the machine, or have the paperwork on our person. The fee's are used for trail grooming operations and back country rescue operation funding, so there is a strong motivation to register your machine, not to mention a fine if you are caught not doing so. Enforcement is another issue entirely. Bigger, more visible tags are simply not the answer. Law Enforcement must make personal contact with the operator in order to be effective. Posting large tags on riders backs so that enforcement can be done from a distance is probably not even a legal avenue. The police, on a public highway, can take a plate number, or gather a plate number from a call in but in order for a citation to be awarded, a face to face stop must take place. Just as there are those who abuse their priviligages on a snow machine, there are those on the other side of the argument that would love to falsify reports to advance their adgenda. Affixing large orange flags with registration numbers to snowmobiles in order to catch offenders doesn't sound like a viable solution to me.

It is unfortunate that it has come to this, but the OP makes sense. The non-motorized community is unrestricted with regards to wintertime travel, while over-the-snow vehicles are increasingly restricted to smaller areas. The non-motorized users should be focused on areas where motorized use is prohibited. This seems like a sensible way to reduce conflict between motorized users and those that want a quiet back-country experience. Snowmobilers pay some fairly significant fees for groomers to maintain their trails, there is no such fee program for the non-motorized community in most places. The non-motorized community would have to step up here, but the same time the trails wouldn't see the wear and tear of motorized use.

Which is why the OP makes so much sense. It provides seperation between motorized and non-motorized users, just like you ask for. This takes away the opportunity for a small handful of the non-motorized users to contrive "conflict". Please note that the OP doesn't even ask for any areas currently closed to motorized use to be opened. The non-motorized community has virtually unlimited areas to recreate in. Per your own statement "Motorized use makes the land closed to hikers and quiet seekers by design.", as such the impact of this should be minimal if motorized use is really "closed" to "quiet seakers" now. Lets make it official and avoid the whining. Vast areas where motorized recreation is currently banned would still be open to non-motorized use. I suspect that even such a modest compromise will be too much for some.

Motorized Trail Closure Log. There have been many conversations concerning OHV access. The purpose of this thread is to list OHV trail closures. Please list your area, describe the trails that have been closed, and how that has impacted your utilization of our public lands.

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***(cont.)***

Good post. I'd propose separation of campsites for horses from other user groups. This is particularly important for those with corrals, where the smell and bug issue is important. I'd also propose that people with horses that utilize these areas pack out their horse waste from the corrals or designated campgrounds. Pack it in-pack it out should apply to everyone. (I'll give them a pass once they get into the wilderness, even though it's still a mess for hikers) . Corrals should also be located far from waterways, with appropriate measures in placed to ensure that runoff from corrals can't reach waterways. Along the road I discussed, as far as I can recall, every camp ground had facilities for horses. I'd like to see that reduced to maybe 10% of the camp grounds, leave the others free of horse litter. That would also better reflect the use, out of the 20 or so (just a guess, going by memory here) campgrounds we passed and/or stayed at, only 2 or 3 had horses...and all of those had vehicles with signs for commercial operations.

Federal highway funds are primarily collected from on-highway fuel tax. These funds should be devoted to maintaining and enhancing our highway infrastructure system. That makes these funds in effect a user fee on those utilizing this system. They should not be spent on recreation or mass-transit, which both should have their own source of funding via user's fees. If bikers, or hikers want more trails they need to come up with a way of paying for them without raiding funds collected from other users. Biking shouldn't be that hard, we could have an annual registration fee, like motor vehicles have, with the money collected for bicycle trails and lanes. Hiking would be more difficult to allocate. The Recreation Trails Program is funded by all off-highway gas tax. This comes from OHVs, boats, snowmobiles, lawn mowers, chain saws, etc. 30% of this funds motorized rec trails, 30% non-motorized only and 40% mixed use. So hiking and biking already raid fuel tax-based accounts paid by other users.

This site should include all federal and state sites such as Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, Fish & Wildlife Service, State Parks, etc.

Crow Canyon does an amazing job teaching a wide age range. Being able to physically dig with professional archaeologists is an experience for which to long. I would personally recommend this program. My experience has been one of fulfillment, knowledge, and growth.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Federal revolving fund for urban parks. Cities and America's Great Outdoors White Paper by The City Parks Alliance and The Urban Land Institute Executive Summary Cities and their metropolitan regions serve as the economic engine of the United States, housing 212 million Americans and providing 89.8 percent of the U.S. gross national product. Cities also demonstrate their relative ecological benefits by allowing residents to drive less, use fewer resources for home heating and cooling, and otherwise consume less energy than those who live in less dense communities. For exactly these reasons, the Urban Land Institute and the City Parks Alliance have collaborated in developing an unprecedented plan for an urban parks federal revolving fund. If we are to preserve and grow our cities, we must simultaneously green them. Parks enhance the value of development; development gives us the wherewithal to pay for parks and repay the revolving fund. Over the past half-century cities have been massively buffeted by change. Today, despite a growing back-to-the-city movement, many people are still hesitant to return. There are numerous reasons for antipathy to urban living, but one is the feeling that cities are too removed from nature and from outdoor recreational opportunities. We believe that a federal revolving fund program that assists municipal governments and non-profit entities in the thoughtful creation and rejuvenation of city parks and trails will provide far-reaching economic, social and health benefits to a large number of Americans -- both urban dwellers and all the others who depend on the largesse of cities. With a new economy based on research, knowledge, amenities and quality of life, parks often end up setting a region apart. Boston's Common, Minneapolis' Chain of Lakes and St. Louis' Gateway Arch are radically different in design and use, but each puts an indelible brand on the image (and reality) of its metropolis. And there are many new kinds of urban green spaces: parks replacing brownfields, parks layered over old landfills, parks built on rooftops, community gardens replacing demolished brownstones, parks over highways, parks doubling as water runoff mitigators, parks over reservoirs, even parklike cemeteries. In every case, the value of these urban parks flows to the surrounding community through higher land values, more physical activity, better health, more tourist visitation and stronger social ties. It is this value, converted to dollars that will drive the urban park revolving fund program. The Problem For many reasons, cities are on the brink of a major resurgence. But one factor holding them back is the lack of the kind of greenery, open space, parkland, trails and ballfields that suburbs and rural communities have. Naturally, cities can never be as "green" as rural areas, but skillful planning, design and construction can successfully incorporate nature into the built environment. However, there are significant challenges to achieving successful urban parks, and the old methods of park funding are not sustainable. Just as tax-base-constrained cities are not able to carry the full burden of building and maintaining roads and sewer infrastructure, they also require assistance with park infrastructure. Like kindling in a fireplace, these are the underlying redevelopment factors that can then ignite metropolitan economies. Parks create value. We strongly believe that abandoned land, vacant lots and distressed properties are a tapable asset and an opportunity for redevelopment, not just for housing and transit but also for parks in redevelopment strategies. The City Parks Program of America's Great Outdoors We propose a pilot program by Executive Order to demonstrate that federal incentives can help create healthy communities through investment in park restoration and creation. The program would be competitive and would consist of a revolving loan fund for land and property acquisition to qualifying cities that submit a plan demonstrating need, process

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

and likelihood of repayment. Repayment would be through a tax-increment process based on redevelopment around new or refurbished parks. A portion of the return on the investment would be placed in a long-term maintenance endowment, since well-maintained parks generate even higher value and tax returns. The benefit of this approach is that it relies on a market driven approach where the government is an investor, not a grantor. The funding would come from a combination of funds within the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education, Commerce, Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency - and/or other federal sources. Federal funding would be combined with private equity, philanthropic support, and state and local funds. Representatives from each of those agencies (as well as some non-governmental representatives) would sit on the loan fund jury. The competition would be open to any city or urbanized place of 50,000 or more. The competitors would be judged on:

- Showing the need for a park or parks, and who would benefit from it/them.
- Showing a plan for development or redevelopment around or near the park.
- Showing a plan and a timeline for capturing enough value to begin repaying the loan.
- Showing strong public-private partnership to oversee and govern long-term implementation and maintenance.

Examples There have already been smatterings of creative financial mechanisms to develop or renew urban parks -- even before the establishment of a federal revolving program. New York City used a business improvement district to generate funds to reconstruct Bryant Park, which has since stimulated a large increase in commercial value in the 42nd Street area. Boston built a park on top of an underground parking garage and uses income from the facility to maintain the park. Atlanta built a park that serves as a stormwater holding pond in periods of high precipitation; in return the water bureau paid for development. Minneapolis built a linear park on an old rail line; in return for offering thousands of cyclists and skiers an alternative to city streets, the cost of acquisition was assumed by a county transportation agency. Pittsburgh created 28 miles of riverfront parks, much of it through abandoned industrial sites over the past 15 years; more than \$2.5 billion of housing, commercial and retail developments have followed the riverfront improvements generating millions of dollars of additional taxes annually.

**The Benefits of Parks** Parks are important to cities for dozens of reasons. Some of them, such as resident satisfaction, removal of blight and attraction of tourism, are largely of local concern. But many of them are significant on the national level and merit attention from the federal government. Among these are:

- **Reduction of Sprawl and Energy Use.** Since parks help make denser living more attractive and desirable, they help reduce the amount of automobile driving between far-flung residential, shopping and work destinations. Reducing unnecessary energy use is one of the federal government's paramount policy goals.
- **Resident Health.** Urban parks are the premier outdoor spaces where city people can recreate, from playing sports to riding bikes to running, walking and much more. Improving Americans' fitness and combating obesity is another of the federal government's paramount policy goals.
- **Reduction of Air and Water Pollution.** The foliage and permeable soil of parks aids in the control of water runoff and reduces air pollution, both of which are significant federal policy goals, since polluted air and water have no boundaries and affect all downstream and downwind Americans.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

12 Step Model for Project Planning; Stop the hypocrisy of green planning. There needs to be some review and revision before going further with the green plan to promote large scale green energy. Green energy is necessary and a good idea . However, government is going to have to put some boundaries on human greed. It would seem that everyone wants to be the next energy sheik. We love to blame our woes on the politics of the Middle East. Nevertheless, here at home people who use to truly believe in a green world are promoting every scheme to scrape the land and build unproven, unrealistic junk with a profit attached and complete disregard to what these new profit toys are doing to the land that they are supposed to be protecting. However that is not even the worst of it. People are having their rights of free speech curtailed for following the legal NEPA process and submitting comments. This is flat out denial of American freedom and ideals. Our National Security has to come first or we loose everything and when the same greed that got us into trouble "over there" has come home to roost, all that can be said is "we have met the enemy and it is still us". Please put the cap on exploitation of the green movement and put this back in the public sector where it belongs. After seeing bogus contracts and grants, I've come to the conclusion that many green goals should be attained through a structure similar to a 12 step program: take no outside contributions, have no opinions about other issues; have only one simple cause or , goal, and remain anonymous at the level of press and radio, where it is decided in advance no one will get paid or take credit. Like any other addiction we should be responsible for our own recovery from addiction to oil and other glutenous energy and water abuses. Conservation should be the first priority and strategy. Individual roof top solar and water collectors next. Centralizing energy , even green energy has all the old problems. He who has power over the power has power over any legislative body in the world and when the power is on the roof that could be we the people. Otherwise, we have just proven the best of humans can be exploited to rationalize putting the wild places last when there is money and power in the plan.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Viewing Wilderness as a Resource. Often in the course of debating the conservation of wilderness, its opponent is one of our natural resources. Sometimes we wonder whether we should dam a river for the recreational and hydroelectric power it provides or let the river run free. Although water is renewable, a good number of those resources that compete with wilderness are nonrenewable. When gasoline prices rise in the U.S., we consider more seriously the merits of drilling in the oil-rich reserves of a wildlife area, or discuss the pros and cons of mining the metals and minerals found near a mountain during times of economic need. In all of these cases, it seems to me that we view the resources as productive necessities and wilderness as more of a luxury. Personally, I don't believe that this kind of thinking will ever help us make any headway. Instead, I propose that we look at wilderness as another one of our natural resources. While this is not as much a plan for conservation as it is a plan for helping iron out the differences when debating conservation, I still think it would prove to be very useful.

\_\_\_\_\_ explains many of the reasons why people defend wilderness areas in "An Amalgamation of Wilderness Preservation Arguments." First of all, it can rejuvenate the mind of someone who just needed to get away from the rat race for a while. Secondly, removing wilderness designation from an area may end up killing an entire species. Third, if we remove wilderness designation from an area, our posterity will never have the chance to see the area as the wilderness that it once was. Clearly, I have not even skimmed the surface of all possible arguments, and many more examples can be found in \_\_\_\_\_'s essay. However, as much as we may want to keep everything we haven't "touched" intact, that's simply not reasonable. Wilderness is valuable to us for many reasons, but it isn't paramount. That's where debating comes in. If we look at wilderness as a natural resource that can provide meaningful benefits for us, then it becomes easier to weigh the merits of both sides of the argument. We can then take a more economic, cost-benefit style approach to see which of our options best suits us. Granted, those items being debated are far from perfectly quantifiable. Still, in John McPhee's book *Encounters with the Archdruid*, Dave Brower raised a good question as he stood in awe of a mountain and asked, "What would it cost to build an equal one?" Sometimes when using this method we will determine that leaving the land as wilderness proves to be the better choice, and sometimes we will determine that the other natural resource, such as petroleum or hydroelectric power, would serve us better overall. If the decision was made by viewing wilderness as a natural resource, we will have given each side the opportunity to call its witnesses to the stand in defense, and we can be more confident in our decision.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Service-learning on public lands. There is a pressing need to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands to help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service. Therefore, we urge the Department to include service and service-learning as innovative solutions to issues of how to build knowledge of, and appreciation for, our public lands and how to encourage a new generation of Americans to make working on public lands a career. Through the study of our parks, forests, and other lands we can connect young people with their natural environment and cultural heritage, creating a new generation of environmental stewards. Along the way, students can contribute to energy conservation, reduce the carbon footprint, and learn about the use of alternative sources of energy. For those who are so inclined, this experience can lead to a pathway to careers in federal land management agencies, which are in serious need of new, younger, and more diverse employees. Therefore, we urge the Department to use AGO as an opportunity to infuse service-learning into Department initiatives on public lands.

I was about to write something up, then I read this post. It is tough to do any better. There is this misguided idea that the outdoors are only for one type of user. When I started mountain biking 2 years ago, the equestrians opposed us because we were different. There were claims that we destroyed the land, but in New England, soil compaction by horses is arguably more damaging than biking. The point is, America's beauty is experienced by people of many background and by many methods. Closing off any access should NEVER be done in response to one group's desires. It must be PROVEN that the closure is a necessity.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Public Involvement in Archaeology. The area of what is now the United States has been home to Native Americans for more than 12,000 years, and to more recent arrivals from Europe and other parts of the world for the past 500 years. The archaeological sites that document this long history occur virtually everywhere. By visiting and studying the archaeological materials left by those who preceded us, we can gain direct, tangible insights into how people at different times and places have been connected to the landscapes that sustained them, and how those connections have changed over the ages. America's public lands contain hundreds of thousands of archaeological sites--some of them large and spectacularly preserved, as in the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park, but the majority small and unobtrusive, yet still enlightening to those who know what to look for. Visiting or studying these sites, large and small, requires us to think about how people lived in these places in the past. In most cases, they were dependent on locally grown crops and/or on animals hunted and plants gathered in a relatively small radius around their homes. Landforms and places would have had names and stories attached, so the landscape became a living testimony of each people's history in that locale. Thus archaeological sites can provide us with understandings of ways of living on the land that are very different from our own, yet linked to our lives through specific places and by our common humanity. Studying and reflecting upon archaeological sites can give us new perspectives on our own lives and our own connections to the environments that sustain us. The federal agencies that manage the public lands for all Americans offer several programs that provide a way for citizens to visit archaeological sites and do work that both provides new information about the past and helps preserve the sites themselves. Through its Passports in Time Program, the U.S. Forest Service offers opportunities for people to help archaeologists do research and stabilize sites that are vulnerable to erosion. The Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program of the National Park Service includes some opportunities for participants to work on projects that improve public interpretation, contribute to research, or preserve threatened sites. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management runs a very successful Site Stewards program that provides opportunities for people to "adopt" particular archaeological sites. They visit "their" sites periodically to check on their condition, report problems, and give educational and preservation information to other citizens they encounter while they are out on the landscape. Most states have archaeological societies that maintain local chapters where people can get together to learn about archaeology, go on field trips, and become qualified to assist on archaeological research projects. The nonprofit sector also offers opportunities for active involvement with archaeology in the classroom, laboratory, or great outdoors. One of the best-known examples is the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center of Cortez, Colorado [www.crowcanyon.org](http://www.crowcanyon.org). The Center has hands-on educational programs for upper elementary through high school students that help them learn about archaeology and Native American cultures of both the past and the present day. Middle school and high school students spend part of their time on campus helping professional archaeologists do excavations and archaeological survey in the field and analysis in the laboratory. Such "research participation" programs are also offered for adults, and there are educational travel seminars for adults that are led by prominent scholars and that focus on visits to important archaeological sites in the U.S. and internationally. Crow Canyon's education and research projects are developed in consultation with Native American community members, and the Center involves Native scholars and teachers in both its on-campus and travel programs.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Throughout, Crow Canyon emphasizes how both past and present cultures have been shaped by, and in turn have shaped, the natural environments that sustain them.

Apply Voluntary Agriculture Marketing Orders Concept to Recreation. For decades, producers of various crops have had the authority to adopt a VOLUNTARY tax on their products and to use the funds for research, marketing and certain other purposes. The concept is called an agricultural marketing order, and the programs are monitored to guard against any anti-trust violations -- to artificially raise or control prices. Industries which use this authority include milk ("Got Milk?"), eggs and various nut and citrus fruit growers. If a super-majority of the producers vote to impose the tax, it is then applied to all producers. The affected businesses elect a board that sets and spends the collected funds. OK -- so what if the authority to do this was given to all mountain bike manufacturers, or to all of the producers of hand-held GPS units, or to all kayak manufacturers? Understand that there is already a federal excise tax on fishing gear that is earmarked for recreational fisheries programs, and on archery equipment and guns and ammunition for wildlife and ranges. These aren't marketing orders, but serve the same purpose. These use true trust funds created in the 1930's and 1950's -- something Congress seems deadset against doing now (proof -- LWCF)..

Could fund the kinds of infrastructure development and operations that the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund does for fishing and boating -- and that program aids wetlands restoration, fisheries habitat enhancements as well as improved access.

Would an infrastructure bank be a useful tool for federal recreation providers?. President Obama announced a plan for moving ahead on a 6-year surface transportation program which would embrace a concept he referenced in his Presidential campaign: an infrastructure bank which would raise private capital for transportation projects and guarantee the repayment of those funds with a relatively small federal deposit. This would be his way to "front load" the surface transportation program and create more employment without adding to the federal deficit. And the federal guarantee makes the private capital available at low rates. If the White House likes the idea of an infrastructure bank for roads and railroads, would they also like the idea of an infrastructure bank for parks and other federal recreation sites where entrance fees, user fees and other payments could be earmarked for repayment of the funding? Possible examples of projects: utilities; campgrounds; marinas; lodges and restaurant facilities.

We need new strategies and tools for the 21st Century and this idea deserves discussion and consideration. It has linkages to the idea I submitted for applying the investment bank concept proposed by the Administration for surface transportation to parks and recreation.

The RTCA program is immensely important and needs to be expanded. It is all about building consensus and vision, partnerships and leveraging resources. Its legacy goes back to the old Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the '60s and '70s, which coordinated federal programs, administered the LWCF and provided great technical assistance.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

While you could focus your comments a bit more, I applaud your expressed conclusions that recreation is largely irrelevant to the DOI and USDA upper echelons and some type of a new recreation advocacy is appropriate if we hope to keep future generations connected to the outdoors. Your key message to me is: "I learned from ten years of being asked by the DOI and trying to present things to DOA that these agencies have their plates full trying to administer what is before them and that recreation should find its own seat at the table."

More local open spaces!. Sidewalks are NOT nature trails! Newer developments seem to be about maximizing the profit by squeezing people into smaller and smaller lots , and the developers and the city officials run the show. Its like minimum requirements in some city's where one percent of there business has to be beautification. It is not enough. Open spaces should be a requirement! Not just baseball fields and golf courses that you and your dog are not allowed on. We should not have to drive 20 or 30 miles to an open swath of land. There needs to be a better balance for people to actually live and play.

We have gotten ourselves into this unsustainable and disastrous predicament by pursuing exactly the policies \_\_\_\_\_ recommends! We need to learn from our mistakes and start doing things differently, in a way that is not only sustainable (which has become a buss word, these days), but regenerative. By observing and understanding nature, we can learn to live in a way that renews the earth instead of always degrading and destroying it. This is not a pipe dream, we can do this now. We know how to do it. Organic agriculture and permaculture good examples of how to live this way in terms of food production. Solar and geothermal energy, among others, are good examples of how to do this in terms of energy production. There are many other examples and we are just beginning to see the countless possibilities as we explore other options besides the traditional Western notions of exploit, degrade, rape and move on to the next resource area. Eventually, you run out of new areas and resources to exploit and use up and you destroy the life-sustaining systems we rely on for survival. We are now approaching the limits of oil extraction and exploitation, referred to as "Peak Oil", where the only substantial, new reserves left are those that are increasingly difficult and dangerous to get at, and are much more costly to extract. A new regenerative model is clearly needed, one that allows us to live within the capacity of the Earth to sustain us by incorporating the principle of renewability as fundamental to the system. We will either adapt to this reality, or we will perish. The Earth does not care, it will still be here after we are gone. We still have a "frontier" mentality in America, but we no longer have a frontier to exploit. This is now the case on a global level and we must adapt to this reality.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I agree with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Wilderness areas must be wild! They are not theme parks or Disneyland. We have those already for people who want that experience. Gentry's comment, "wilderness is not our personal property. It was not created for profit, and thus should not be dominated by investors with buildings" is so true. What part of our landscape is not dominated by "buildings" these days? Beautiful and historically significant buildings, our cultural heritage, are torn down and replaced by unsightly big box buildings, one story, flat-roofed, uninspired structures that no one could possibly care about. Our farms are bulldozed and forests cleared to make way for even more unsightly and poorly designed suburban sprawl. Even our parks and "wilderness" areas fall victim to the developer's wrecking ball. The F.I.R.E. sector (finance, insurance and real estate) wins nearly every time and trumps all other human values and needs. Hmm, I wonder why? The beast must continually be fed new victims...until we run out of victims, I suppose. Is it just me, or does anyone else think this is all wrong? The tail wagging the dog. Yellowstone and Yosemite National Park's are a good model. "Yosemite's gift shops blend in with the nature around them. They are not huge and are not located every three feet. If we could make our wilderness follow this model, the entire experience of a wilderness trip would be much more enjoyable". So true. And we could do so, in fact, we used to do so all the time. I think Yosemite and Yellowstone were done so well because they were mostly built early on, before the 1940's when the tyranny of the post-WWII Zoning Code began to dominate our lives, our communities and destroy the fabric of our towns and the integrity of our landscape and wilderness. Until this regime is overthrown and we go back to designing and building towns and cities properly (i.e., for community, livability, to be walkable and to last, which includes protecting farmland, forests, water supplies and wilderness), I'm afraid we will keep fighting and losing the same battles over and over again.

I agree with multi-use trails. The problem is that many uses are not compatible with other uses, think bicycles and horses or hikers and bikers. I think we should implement a system of time-windows so that people of diverse interests can use the same land. Either odd-even days or even time slots throughout the day so that all can use the same lands.

I am surprised anyone would demote this. In Sardine Canyon every winter there is a huge transitional range where the mule deer head down to their wintering grounds and there needs to be an underpass for the deer to go under the road and head to the wintering grounds. I bet I seen over 50 deer killed in one winter on less than 4 miles of road. There is 1 underpass for them already but it is placed too high. They need to place it lower by the town of Mantua.

Stop building new roads in the forests!!!!!!!

California Forestry Association: already has a professionally designed courses that cover grades K thru 12 Teaching aides provided. classes for school teachers are held during summer months. Expenses ,food and lodging are covered, all the teacher needs to do is sign up. cal forests can be contacted at, [www.foresthealth.org](http://www.foresthealth.org) or call 916 444 6592 for further info.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

proclamation. I suggest a presidential proclamation to reaffirm that the federal government's role of protecting and maintaining the National Parks System as a national patrimony for the whole people, present and future. The National Park Service should encourage and welcome the cooperation of citizens and communities, but it should never fall under the sway of commercial interests or groups seeking to promote activities that are harmful to the environment.

Digital Preservation for Cultural Heritage. The accelerating pace of human development and increasing effects of climate change have significantly increased the pace of deterioration and destruction of America's important cultural heritage sites. And while the heroic efforts of conservators and stewards are helping save some of these monuments, the pace of destruction has been outpacing conservation efforts by a large margin. Sadly, many experts are realizing that there is not sufficient time nor sufficient resources to save all of America's important heritage sites that are in need of immediate attention. Fortunately, advances in computer and internet technologies over the last thirty years and the more recent development of 3D Laser scanning, GPS and high definition digital photography is presenting a unique opportunity to rapidly and inexpensively document most if not all of America's important heritage sites in a relatively short time. In addition to its use for later conservation efforts, the resulting documentation has enormous value by virtue of its immediate use for public dissemination, preservation advocacy, k-12 education, sustainable cultural tourism, research and more. Furthermore, these new technologies can also be used to engage the youth with cultural heritage, while building capacity within the workforce. This approach not only helps technology transfer to those out of work, it benefits the local economies through job creation. It will also reduce the production cost and allow the local communities to expand the work to other local sites thus achieving long term sustainability for the program. Over the past seven years CyArk has developed and has successfully deployed a system for Digital Preservation of heritage sites that allows rapid and inexpensive documentation and dissemination of detailed heritage site information. Digital Preservation includes 3d documentation (3D laser scanning, HD photography and other high technology documentation methods), production of deliverables to be used by conservation professionals and site management authorities, development of media for public dissemination for cultural tourism, development of media and programs for primary and secondary education, and long term archiving of all the collected and developed media for future generations. Digital Preservation has been successfully implemented at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, Mesa Verde National Park, San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, and many other American sites on the National Register of Historic Places. This system has proven to be effective and should be considered in a program for America's Great Outdoors.

BASE jumpers deserve access to our National Parks. They have less impact than many other recreational activities that are permitted. BASE jumping has been completely unregulated on BLM land and there haven't been any issues for decades. Rangers have more important things to do than hunt for BASE jumpers.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Re-Connecting Youth with the Outdoors Yes but think also beyond the core curricula of school systems and encourage environmental education through funding local initiatives that sponsor recreation and extra-curricular apprenticeship opportunities. Young people, especially those who find themselves in situations that may create a sense of isolation, can benefit from urban ecology programs that reveal the interconnectedness of their physical environment with the larger world. And of course the rest of the world benefits from the next generation's recognition of natural resources, their critical value to society and the importance of protecting and preserving them.

A great source for funding would be the bicycling and pedestrian beneficiaries of such planning efforts. Why burden others with plans that only benefit a rank minority of citizens? Possibly bicycle license tags and a hiking footwear federal excise tax would be appropriate. That way these folks could contribute to good conservation the way hunters have contributed to wildlife conservation for decades.

We in Fla have always supported everyone sharing OHV trails (hikers, campers etc.). After pondering this idea I see how separation could be a viable strategy to possibly reduce extremists attacks upon the ORV community. If they don't have the chance legally to stumble in an ORV rut maybe they won't litigate so much. Probably just wishful thinking on my part.

A snowmobile has a large track as well as skis to support the weight of the machine plus the rider. The resulting pressure on the snow is very low. Due to this large surface area, I would speculate that the pressure associated with a snowmobile is as low or lower than what a cross-country skier would apply. From what I have seen while skiing, I believe that a cross country ski sinks further into the snow than a typical snowmobile track. If a particular area is so sensitive that a snowmobile can do damage, perhaps we should keep all human visitation out of the area. Perhaps a reasonable compromise can be worked out. A cross country skier will do what, maybe 10 miles a day? Why not develop some trail heads that provide some short loops around the trailhead for XC skiers, while providing access that routes snowmobilers into the backcountry away from other users? As you indicated, a snowmobiler is going to cover far more distance than the average skier in a given day, there must be a reasonable way to separate the various user groups.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

In cities Green Parks need Green Transportation. If the America's Great Outdoors initiative is to be relevant to older urban areas such as Boston, where I work, then equitable access has got to be part of the formula for success. For many of us the great outdoors is the neighborhood park a few blocks away. Boston has a lot of parkland if one combines federal, state, and city land holdings. What we do not have, however, is good and equitable access to that parkland. The people who would benefit most from contact with nature and each other in a park setting - children and older people in many of our neighborhoods - just can't get there. Our parks, even our linear greenways, have become islands to some extent, cut off from the neighborhoods they should be serving by busy roads lacking decent crossings and other barriers. We need to connect quality parks with innovative transportation solutions. Frederick Law Olmsted invented the first multimodal greenway in the world right here in Boston in the 1880s - the Emerald Necklace with its walking paths, carriage roads, bridle paths, grade separated pedestrian bridges and transit lines. Today we are attempting to build on that legacy and way of thinking with a greenway network plan - something every city should have. We envision a system of paths - some in parks, some along tree lined roadways, some following transit lines - that knit together the parks and neighborhoods of the city in a way that is safe and comfortable for families to use on bike or on foot. It's inexpensive, it's healthy, and it gets people outdoors to reconnect with nature and each other. Green transportation has got to intersect with green parks for our cities to be livable in the 21st century. The Department of Transportation led by Secretary LaHood has a key role to play in helping Americans find their way to parks and recreation but has not figured prominently so far in the America's Great Outdoors dialogue. That needs to change. Context sensitive solutions (CSS) are now part of the DOT mandate for transportation planning and design. This mandate could be strengthened and extended to embrace the idea of interconnected greenways. Every roadway or transit project should first understand the context of parks and greenways in the vicinity and then seek to reinforce links between those resources. Two or three cents on the transportation dollar could make a world of difference for Americans trying to find their way to the great outdoors.

One quote in this states "each park fits the community in which it is located." Then let's consider making funds directly available to the state and local communities so they can decide the correct fit for their community. In Federal Highway the funds are sent to the State, County and City DOTs for projects selected that fits their community. So to it could be with parks. If the Federal Government for many many valid and good reasons wants to fund parks then send the money to the local community and let them decide what facilities are appropriate for their community. For some communities it might be "urban parks", however, in other communities trails and greenways might be the answer while other communities might need more soccer fields. In my community and I would think in most communities the under served need and desire for public outdoor space varies based on the local population make up. So please consider building and funding local initiatives instead of developing one or two programs in Washington that only satisfies a few of our outdoor recreation needs.

Education. Teach kids every phase of conservation. Let them know the jobs of everyone in the field. From the Rangers to the office workers. What the importance it is for them, and their future generations benefit. What an interesting and rewarding career choice it can be for them.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Trout unlimited and other sportsmen groups advocate unroaded areas, especially in Colorado, because the large wild areas draw alot of revenue from hunters and sports fishermen locally and world wide. Most hunting and fishing groups are trying to preserve some of these wild aspects of Colorado. Another piece of information about roads in national forests is due to the huge cost of maintaining the extremely large amount of roads in our national forests, it is believed that there will be less roads as we go forward into the future just because of cost alone.

I snowmobile. In Michigan, we have far more snowmobile trails than cross country ski trails. I don't cross country ski, but I can tell you I would not want to try it on a snowmobile trail the way some snowmobilers ride. There should be areas for snowmobiles and areas they are not allowed. Just like any other activity.

Conservation in a Progressive Society. Conservation in a Progressive Society It is hard to deny that most of us feel some sort of awe or reverence to wilderness. Whether it is scenic mountains, raging rivers, or wild dunes, wilderness seems to have some strong hold on us. Perhaps it is the grandeur of such images that makes us feel small and insignificant. Perhaps we realize how little we matter in the large scheme of the world. Nevertheless, it is in these places that many people experience some sort of spiritual revival or self-discovery. Away from the hustle and bustle of life, in the tranquil, raw wilderness, we find ourselves reflecting on our lives, and often, we walk away changed. How then could we destroy something so mystical and mighty? Ironically, in a matter of hours, we can destroy something that took thousands of years to form. It is clear we should take steps to prevent such destruction, but obviously this proves to be complicated in a progressive society. I recognize that the standard of living must be maintained. It is simply unreasonable to suddenly force people to live like Native Americans, for a dramatic example. Regardless, America is obsessed with expansion and competition. We are not maintaining the standard of living but constantly searching for untapped resources so we can become richer and more powerful. There is a constant race to have the most advanced technology or to be the most powerful nation. Such expansion requires a continual supply of resources. We destroy whole mountains to obtain a small amount of copper. We strip the land of nutrients to acquire the resources we need to progress in this competitive world market we have created. This is the challenge we face. Where do we draw the line? When are we going too far and taking more from the land than we actually need? We cannot expect to continually take from the earth without repercussions. There will come a point when we have destroyed the very places that always provided for us. Therefore, in the process of our extraction, we must be environmentally aware. We must give back to the land that so amply gives to us. Conservation needs to play a key role in the system of removing resources. These are the points that need to be considered. The challenge: find a balance in conserving the wilderness while maintaining our place in this fast-paced world.

Early in the 20th century some cities set a goal of putting a park within walking distance of everybody. But they strayed away from that during the go-go development era, so now many people have to drive to the nearest park. Let's re-establish the walkable park as a goal for every neighborhood.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Give Recreational Anglers Better and More Consistent Opportunity for Input . It is critical that across the federal agencies that have a role in water and fishery resource management, the 60-million-strong recreational fishing constituency be given adequate opportunities for a formal voice in resource management decisions. Currently, this is not being addressed in marine resource management in particular and this needs to change. The main challenge to this goal is inconsistency. There is too great a variety of current interfaces between federal resource managers and the sportfishing public. Some federal entities, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (<http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc/>),<sup>1</sup> give the recreational fishing community a voice in federal resource management decisions. Unfortunately, there are far too few of these opportunities, particularly when it comes to more local and regional decision-making. This is particularly true with respect to marine resource management and the current make-up of regional fisheries councils. What has worked in the past to achieve timely and regular input from the recreational fishing community is to establish formal and well defined input opportunities. The country's recreational anglers are primarily casual, occasional users of the resource. To obtain their perspective, one must bring this constituency into very specific, structured stakeholder-input systems. The federal government can address this challenge by conducting a thorough review of exactly how and where the recreational fishing public is interfacing with resource management decision-making. The next step would be to determine a consistent standard across the federal agencies for both freshwater and saltwater resources. The best tools to be used in a new more consistent approach can be found with the non-governmental organizations that already are tapped in to the sportfishing communities around the country. Vice President, American Sportfishing Association

Passage and Implementation of National Fish Habitat Action Plan. A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken to conserve, restore and enhance aquatic habitats because of their recreational, ecological and economic importance. While there are numerous efforts underway to address the health of aquatic habitat on local scales, there is a need for conservation action on a range-wide scale for these efforts to be successful. Given the diverse array of federal, state, tribal, local and private jurisdictions, the need never has been greater for increased action and improved coordination of fisheries conservation actions across boundaries and jurisdictions. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) is most comprehensive effort ever attempted to conserve, restore and enhance fish habitats throughout the United States. The goal NFHAP is to foster partnerships among conservation groups to achieve coordination of on-the-ground efforts for aquatic systems across the country. Combining the collective energy of state and federal agencies with local partners offers the best chance of success. Legislation to formalize and fully fund NFHAP - the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA) - has been introduced in the 111th Congress. The American Sportfishing Association urges the administration and federal agencies to fully support passage of this legislation. By restoring fish habitat and boosting fish populations, the NFHCA will improve fishing opportunities across the country, helping to ensure that individuals and their families and friends can get outside and enjoy our nation's aquatic resources. -Gordon Robertson, Vice President, American Sportfishing Association

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Recreation and Reconnecting People to Outdoors. The American Sportfishing Association has joined with its partners in the recreational fishing community to focus on disturbing trends in recreational fishing recruitment and retention. Despite the fact that Americans currently have the best access to quality fishing opportunities they have had in over a generation, fewer young people are going fishing and older Americans who have fished in the past are no longer participating. We have a major overarching goal of getting new anglers out and on the water and returning lapsed anglers to the sport. To achieve this goal, which we are pleased to know this administration shares, we believe the federal government should have the additional goal of managing fishery resources to maximize recreational fishing opportunities. The more fish there are to catch, the more fishermen there are and the more funding there is for fishery management. Thanks to bag limits, seasons, catch-and-release, equipment restrictions and other regulatory restrictions, recreational anglers have relatively limited and manageable impacts on a given fishery. Given this, there should be a new commitment to keeping as many recreational anglers fishing as possible while sustaining health fisheries. Vice President, American Sportfishing Association

Create opportunities for urban youth to connect with nature where they live—in the city.. Most urban areas contain some level of "green" space, and we need to develop programs that use these green places to reach out to urban youth and introduce them to the natural world (even if the urban green space is not pristine). For example, through a partnership with the National Park Service, Wilderness Inquiry, the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools and many others, we've created the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures program (UWCA). The UWCA provided enriching outdoor experiences and classroom curricula for 7,500 kids this summer, and it will serve more than 10,000 urban youth annually through canoe trips on the Mississippi River in the heart of the Twin Cities. Most cities in the US have rivers that run through them, and many of these rivers could be used for similar efforts. The key to success for efforts such as this is partnerships. The UWCA enjoys great partners at all levels of government as well as NGO's, private sector and volunteer organizations. We're planning to demonstrate this concept on the Anacostia River in Washington DC in November.

While I agree that we need to minimize development and make smarter land use decisions in the future. Bowhunting would be a viable solution to the problem that already exists - don't spend dollars we don't have.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Support The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund projects. Both the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund are nonpartisan well established organizations with a long history of promoting habitat protection and restoration and using funds efficiently working with the local population to find the practical ways of achieving environmental protection and helping the local economy. As such, I would suggest that the federal, state and local governments work in cooperation with private initiatives like this to maximize the use of tax dollars for the sake of all of us. Our efforts to preserve wild areas, protect air and water quality, reduce species extinction, and promote the overall protection of the environment is not only of value to the rest of life on our planet, but is essential to the preservation of human life on our planet. We need to see the interconnection of all life. Even if we are only selfish for our own future, we must be concerned for the future of all life on our planet. As a family physician, I am firmly committed to the future of all of us. Health for the individual cannot occur outside health of the environment or ecosystem that we live in. It is a simple fact of life.

Do less maintenance and much less closures. This land is the public's land meaning yours and Mine and public lands should NEVER be closed to the public useage.

To manage these trade-offs, we need more and better measurements of ecological services. When a business buys another business, lawyers and accountants diligently review the books, the buyer employs high paid investment bankers to judge what the other business is worth, and, as we know, buyers nevertheless make huge mistakes, for example, Time Warner and AOL. We are less ready to properly judge the value of ecological services. That must be remedied to enable us to efficiently and effectively manage our land.

Another example of the same type of group that works with BLM - Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association - { [Link](http://www.mdhca.org/) } The mission of the Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association is to research and conserve the natural and cultural history of the Mojave Desert region for the purpose of preserving and sharing these resources in perpetuity.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Willingness to Change. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain" and should be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment". The inescapable fact that human manipulation of the land accounts for about sixty percent of America indicates that such designated wilderness areas are indirectly "impaired" by man. Simply because we exist, we are an impediment to the pristine quality that is generally associated with the concept of wilderness. In her essay Wilderness, \_\_\_\_\_ suggests that "Every environmental problem is a human problem. Civilization is the ecology being lost." Instead of emphasizing the importance of conserving the wilderness within wilderness, perhaps we should focus on changing the way we demonstrate our domination of nature in areas that are not deemed "wilderness". Although spending is an incredibly delicate issue when it comes to passing anything on the floor, it is my opinion that the Federal Government would do well to allocate more attention and money to the research and development of alternate energy. With our constant, continuous depletion of natural resources, we are inevitably destroying the environment, much less wilderness. Hydrogen energy, wind energy, solar energy, and other alternative sources already been proven practical methods for potentially bettering the environment, and may, in turn, prolong our impairment of both our immediate surroundings, as well as the distinctive areas defined as wilderness. However, it is not the responsibility of the government to protect us from the self-interested dependency on modernization, or our incessant devotion of power. I believe that these two factors largely influence our inability to change the problems we so readily admit as problems. A motivation to change the way we view our relationship with nature, as well as the willingness to spend some money are necessary in bettering the environment and conserving the wilderness.

Final Solution. Human overpopulation is one of the greatest challenges facing future generations. The world population is expected to reach 10.5 billion by 2050. I propose mass suicide as the only way to ensure the future of our precious wetlands.

Feed poverty with a seed. What better way to improve our communities, while teaching our children beneficial skills and also providing families of poverty a healthier food source which will also help lower childhood obesity. I think our school systems should be open to a program which is similar to the collection of Box Tops, which instead would be seeds of easy to grow, maintain, and inexpensive fruits and vegetables. Im sure some communities have areas where it is unpleasant to the eyes and wasting what could be made into something productive and cost efficient as well. I also think children would be more open to eating something they wouldn't normally eat because they took part in it.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

Link this idea (getting young people outdoors) with using volunteers as teachers/docents/leaders, and giving the volunteers credits toward park and program use. There are a lot of older people with skills who like to work with young people. And it could work the other way, too. Young people could help older people who want to get outside but have trouble navigating on their own. Open up some park areas to habitat gardens, maintained by volunteers. Have community events at parks. We live near a state park which is used by people from all over our county, yet the Governor was ready to close it, rather than enlisting volunteers to keep it open - many of us were ready to work. People want to be involved!

Complete Park and Trail Maps. Maps and Trail system maps and databases are not updated, ie. USDA's National Forest and Park maps do not include all trails in their publications which are distributed to the public. In a publically distributed, Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Trail Location Map. 18 trails are listed, and an additional four trails illustrated. Four trails and an access road are omitted. Sawmill Trail (4556), Buzzard Den Trail (4582), Wright Hollow Trail (4548) Feathercamp Ridge Trail (4550) and Forest Service Road FS287. Recommended Edit: The insertion of SR 731 and SR 605 roads on the map and showing more four trails, the Income Generating Consumers realizes there is more national park located on the north side of Iron Mtn. I'm sure there are 100's of similar maps out there which direct the consuming public away from private businesses which have been encouraged to start with the many economic development programs across rural America.

For all of the land we have lost to wilderness, we need a 2:1 or 5:1 OHV for wilderness. Why all of the selfishness saying we deserve all of the wilderness that we can get, but you deserve nothing? We are not asking for your wilderness here, we are asking for 'other' areas for our use. Oh, I forgot, emotion over intelligence.

For more info on the Friends of McInnis Canyons, see: { <a href="http://mcinniscanyons.blogspot.com/" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> }

For more information on this example of "What Works" see: { <a href="http://www.friendsofbaxter.org/Pages/Baxter\_Action/I0399C849" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> }

I read the first paragraph of this Idea description as a recommendation that government agencies *\*coordinate\** on programs with the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Funds wherever this allows the sum of their joint efforts to be greater than the parts -- call it synergy, efficiency, or something else that saves both tax dollars *\*and\** private donation dollars. I do *\*not\** read this as a suggestion that government cash be given directly to the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Funds to spend as they will...so I can vote to "Promote" without qualms. Please advise if I'm mistaken.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

When we restore our National Mall, I'd like to see only the \*minimum\* necessary area of lawn retained (e.g. for running around, picnics, kite-flying, cultural events, and citizen gatherings for protests, etc.) -- unnecessary lawn should be replaced with sustainable plantings that thrive in the D.C. climate, preferably focused on U.S. native plants and non-invasive plants from around the world (reflecting the diverse origins of our citizens).

(per Comment #9): Perhaps you could recommend where/how horse corrals/campsites could be sited to minimize any real or perceived negative impacts to the environment (e.g. at the \*edges\* of Wilderness Areas, with proper drainage, etc.) while having even greater positive impacts for "America's Great Outdoors," as \_\_\_\_\_ alluded to originally. (By the way, where did she go?) These would probably be single-use sites, given that many "non-horse" people would not want to put up with the "mess" you describe, just as other types of users have single-use sites. (I don't take my tent into campgrounds filled with RV's, for example.) Also, the collection and disbursement of user fees related to this very valuable service would be worth discussing, as they have been for various other recreational uses of our federal lands proposed/defended on this website. Many businesses profit from adjacent public lands -- if their taxes are insufficient to cover the costs they impose in the maintenance/conservation of those lands, then additional user fees \*should\* make up the difference so that they don't profit at \*our\* expense as citizens (i.e. holders of those public lands).

I am going to tentatively promote your idea as long as you add getting rid of the commercial blue crab fishery and institute a quota system using the smaller fisherman. This will not only allow the Bay to recover it will also provide some much needed jobs in this country.

I have an easier solution. It's called culling the herd and putting the venison in my freezer. Venison is a hell of a lot healthier for you than beef anyhow.

Get youth outdoors and "getting to know" local wild spaces through creative arts.. Taking responsibility for the global environment can be overwhelming to youth - but caring about a local greenspace (park, garden, school yard, etc.) is not. Tangible, heart-based connections with nature can be created if children and youth just spend more time in a local greenspace. Even better, they can use creative arts like photography, art, writing, video, etc. to enhance their understanding of local nature. Canadian artist Robert Bateman's Get to Know Program ([www.gettoknow.ca](http://www.gettoknow.ca)) is based on this concept. The program's signature initiative is the Get to Know Contest, which invites youth age 5-18 to submit art, writing, photography and videos based on first-hand experiences in nature. Its "Virtual Hikes", "Natural Treasure" and "Best Practices" resources introduce youth to local wildspaces and help teachers incorporate nature into the curriculum. Some resources are location-specific, but more locations are being added over time. With partners like the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Federation, the program is popular due to its simple philosophy: Something as simple as allowing youth to just be outdoors and connect with local animals and plants, even just for a few minutes a day, through arts or simple observation, can serve as a foundation to them becoming healthy, active adults and engaged citizens who will passionately care about the environment.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Public/Private partnerships. The group I belong to, Friends of McInnis Canyons NCA (non-partisan, 501 (c)(3) has been in existence for over 5 years now and has developed a great relationship with the BLM. The Grand Junction field office has emphasized the "conserve, protect and restore" philosophy embodied in the organic legislation which created this NCA. Our group wishes to see the kind of collaboration present in our relationship with the BLM encouraged by a well defined policy statement from the BLM which would help other units in the NLCS work toward the kind of success we have enjoyed. Many lands are now protected and a healthy Friends/BLM relationship is the beginning of the answer to "now what ?".

Migration Highways through the Madison Valley, Montana. Delineate the centuries old migration highways that animals use to migrate/disperse in and out of Yellowstone National Park through the Madison Valley, MT Hwy 87 and US Hwy 287. Erect effective wildlife crossing signs, reduce speed limits, paint the road with wildlife crossing messaging, erect point of interest signs for travelers to see where these corridors are and what animals use them and where they are going and coming from, create an educational component where school children study these corridors and the wildlife in their area and they develop ways to protect them while crossing the roads, they make suggestions on how to reduce the astronomical number of vertebrates killed on US highways every day (one million).

Restore the Full Jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. Make a national commitment to clean water by restoring the full jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. Pass Congressman James Oberstar's House Bill 5088, the "America's Commitment to Clean Water Act," and restore protections for the streams and wetlands that are the source of drinking water for more than half of America's citizens. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association  
[www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

Improve Access to Waterways. In some parts of the country, access to recreation resources is limited. This is particularly true for water access. As demand for shoreline real estate continues to grow, more and more shoreline is privatized, which closes off public access to our rivers, lakes and coastlines. For example, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, one estimate is that only 2% of the shoreline of the Bay is publicly accessible. In order to promote water-based recreation, we need new and creative ways to provide access. For example, the American Canoe Association, the Chesapeake Conservancy, and several other organizations in the mid-Atlantic have offered a legislative proposal to that would encourage states to provide access at bridges built or repaired with federal funds. This access can often be provided inexpensively, on land already owned by the state or county. This would be one way to increase access without significant public investment. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

**Connect History With Recreation.** Many of our country's most valuable historical sites provide both education and recreation opportunities. They offer Americans a chance to learn about the past, and a chance to spend time in the outdoors, doing things like exploring the Gettysburg National Battlefield, or paddling along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River. For that reason, historic preservation and recreation are closely linked, but we have not always taken advantage of that linkage. Now, more than ever, we need to make the most of this historical-recreational connection, and use each to enhance the other. Making this connection may be an effective strategy for getting young people back outside. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

**Trails Work.** Trails are among the best ways to connect people with the outdoors because they reduce the barriers that keep people inside. A well-designed trail, on land or water, provides people with all the information they need to get outdoors. They tell people where to go, what to expect when they get there, and how to get home safely. We've done great things in this country to develop land-based trails, and we've established many great water trails on the Bay and its tributaries. But we can do more to develop water trails and help people get out on the water. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

**Partnerships and the NPS RTCA Program.** The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service builds partnerships between recreation organizations, state and local government agencies, and federal land managers to develop trails, conserve rivers, and provide valuable close-to-home recreation opportunities for millions of Americans. This small part of the Park Service has been involved in some of the best recreation trail projects across the country, on land and water, but it is chronically underfunded. RTCA is the ideal program for the current budget climate because it has great leveraging value. It makes federal dollars go farther. More funds should be appropriated for RTCA. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

**Give the Land and Water Conservation Fund Full and Permanent Funding.** LWCF is the single best source of funds for both state and federal land acquisition. It deserves a complete commitment. It has never been more apparent than it is right now that the best use of extraction-generated revenues is for protection and restoration of our natural lands and waters. The U.S. House of Representatives has approved full, permanent funding for LWCF. The Senate should do the same, and the Obama Administration should fight to get a full funding bill through the Senate. This cannot wait until the next Congress, because delay will mean defeat. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

**Improve Chesapeake Bay Health.** Attack water quality problems in the Chesapeake Bay head-on by passing the Chesapeake Clean Water Act. This legislation would set science-based pollution limits for the Bay, and would also provide funding for assistance to farmers to implement pollution controls. This assistance will be critical if we are going to succeed in restoring the Bay. If passage cannot be achieved, then EPA must establish a strong and enforceable TMDL for the Bay. Director of Stewardship and Public Policy American Canoe Association [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Water Trails. Water trails - A national water trails program would help expand water-based recreation opportunities in same way our land-based trails programs have done. One advantage of water trails is that they can often be established using existing access points, and without additional land acquisition. [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

I have voted to demote this idea only because as a 4x4 owner I am not willing to use some of my funds without benefit. I like \_\_\_\_\_'s idea of the user fee he has recommended.

My initial vote for this idea would be to promote. But then thinking about what is happening here in the Colville National Forest (CNF) here in NE Washington. The CNF folks are currently evaluating multi-use for some of their roads and trails. They have serious concerns about having ATVs and dirt bikes on the same roads and trails that are actively used by logging trucks. I believe that in some circumstances, multi-use trails are appropriate; in others, definitely not.

Camping and Horse Corrals at Wilderness Trailheads. Provide for a variety of camping alternatives at Wilderness trailheads. Turnarounds and sites large enough for horse trailers, as well as tents, would allow for staging of a wilderness experience. Active family members could to make daily treks into the wilderness, while camping on the fringe of the wilderness with less active family members. Horse corrals at trailheads would encourage family's and friends to rendezvous for horse camping trips into wilderness areas. Horse corrals would also be appreciated by those traveling long distances or arriving late at night to begin a trek.

We need to share the land.

Create master website for US national parks, BLM national parks, US national cemeteries, and World Heritage sites with in the US. This list should be sortable by state, category, size, recreation, campsites, etc. so potential visitors can schedule vacations. My wife and I vacation by zigzagging through states trying to visit as many of these sites as possible. We journal all our travels and very much like the current NPS brochures on each park.. Super sized website listing all NPS, BLM, National Cemeteries, and World Heritage Sites in the US. This website would be sortable by state, category, facilities, recreation, etc. so potential visitors can schedule travel and vacations. My wife and I currently vacation by zigzagging through states to see as many of these sites as possible. That list is about 600 sites long. We've seen about 175 so far.

Why not start or increase a deer hunting program in the park that coincides with the state hunting season. I don't see why stimulus money should have to be used.

Lets not use all our public land for development. Some should be saved for the good of people and wildlife.

How could we have more virgin forests now than 150 years ago when the population then was a fraction of what it is today. With a growing population, even if we open every area wiith roads, eventually won't they become over crowded. That's one good reason to have roadless areas.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Link federal highway and road funds to building/providing biking lanes and trails and hiking /camping areas!!!!. Government has long linked the provision of federal funds, often allocated for infrastructure, to state and local government meeting specific criteria. Let's please use this resource to encourage more municipalities to provide biking lanes and biking, hiking and camping greenspaces for urbanites to enjoy the outdoors free from automobiles!

Use state indemnity selections as an alternative to land exchanges. Improve the Federal-State partnership for newly proposed Federal conservation areas by integrating land exchanges and access for State public land inholdings prior to the time that these proposals are initially announced. These measures can help expedite resolution of incompatible land uses and strengthen landscape-scale partnerships.

Use state indemnity selections as an alternative to land exchanges. Support legislation to allow States to use BLM's indemnity (in lieu) selection process as an alternative to land exchanges to compensate States for their inholdings within federal conservation areas. States have long used indemnity selections of Federal lands to substitute for the specific Federal school grant lands they were due at the time they entered the Union, but which were designated for other uses. Federal and State land managers know this process. There are ample protections and fewer steps than exchanges.

The endangered species act has been abused and perverted to lock out public access to non wilderness lands. It needs to be abolished or rewritten with the public's interest in mind.

Make Your Property A Wildlife Preserve!. Welcome wildlife to your land by growing native plants, providing nesting sites, building a pond, and, if you must have them, by keeping domestic dogs and cats at bay, and strictly controlling livestock grazing. You need not be a large acreage landowner - even an acre or two dedicated to nature can provide great opportunities for local and migrating wildlife. Encourage your neighbors and friends to do likewise (all too often folks have some land and, at a loss as to what to do, literally beat up or remove wildlife habitat, having no clue as to the alternative, namely to enhance nature). This works! With a blessing of wild creatures around you, you'll immensely enjoy your nature preserve!

I'm absolutely not in favor of draconian measures, nor are they needed. How about an education campaign to encourage people to have kids later in life and fewer, and to reduce teen pregnancies, maybe some incentives for folks who limit family size, and, yes, keeping immigration to a level that allows population stabilization? For starters, just having a national commitment would help greatly.

## Discussion Question 4

### **Written & Online Comments**

**(cont.)**

Multi-use Trails. Mountain bikes should be allowed to co-exist on any trail suitable for hiking and equestrians. We should be able to ride in the wilderness trails. Mountain biking is quiet. Riding causes comparable impact & less (in my opinion) than equestrians who leave horse droppings and large holes in moist trails, dangerous to hikers. I have personally donated hundreds of hours as a volunteer attending advocacy meetings and performing trail work to build or repair trails. There are generally a few other mountain bikers at most general trail events in the Santa Clara County (CA) or events of entirely mountain biker labor. To hear some of the prejudiced comments regarding rude mountain bikers who never contribute to trail work prompted me to write. The government should lift bans at city, county, state & federal levels to allow for multi-use on any trail that it is suitable to do so. All users have the responsibility to be courteous stewards of our environment and to leave no trace so that we can all learn to enjoy the resources that belong to the public.

A Strategy for Realizing the Economic Value of Ecological Capital: Innovative Funding Ideas for Conservation. { <a href="http://www.houstonwilderness.org/default/documents/Houston\_Report.pdf" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> }

Provide incentives to cities to build, maintain green spaces. Not only do we need to protect our wilderness areas, we also need to create local, community-based green spaces. I propose that the Fed Govt encourage this by offering financial incentives to cities, municipalities, to build, maintain community green space. I see the benefits to be multifaceted. 1. Parks, P-patches, get people outside more if they exist and are accessible. 2. Not everyone can travel to a national park. Obesity in children is the highest in our poorer populations. This is a group that we should be target with Americas Great Outdoors. [{ <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/05/nyregion/05obese.html]" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> } 3. P-patches teach young and old about growing our own food. 4. Provide programs at these local green spaces for young and old to participate in. Keep it multi-generation focused.

Add Outdoor activity to education curriculum. In this country, we do not incorporate outdoor experiences into our elementary and/or high school curriculum. I propose that the US government require all elementary schools to include an outdoor experience into their school year. This outdoor experience is defined as: 1. One week in length of full immersion. 2. Must incorporate an activity that utilizes the local natural environment, e.g., near a big lake then teach boating or swimming; near a mountain, then take kids skiing, etc. 3. Should begin in elementary schools; this helps build a life long interest in the sport, outdoor experience, etc.

## Discussion Question 4

### *Written & Online Comments*

*(cont.)*

A friend of mine who grew up in a small village in France told me that in elementary school the kids are taken up into the mountains to ski for two weeks each year. This is a part of the school curriculum, as much as, learning math and English. My first reaction is that we (the US) could never do this sort of thing. But why not? I have read that aerobic exercise makes kids smarter. Read this article in the NYT blog: { <a href="http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/phys-ed-can-exercise-make-kids-smarter/" rel="nofollow" target="\_blank">Link</a> } Perhaps exercise can help raise our kids national test scores.

Funding for Multi-use Trail Plans. We need a source of modest funds to encourage states to develop statewide plans for walking/biking trails connecting communities, parks and other destinations. Much trail development now is done on a fragmented basis; it is time to look at the emerging patterns on a state level and identify the opportunities for interconnected trails.

Expand Existing Outdoor Education Programs on Public Land. Getting kids outdoors and reconnected with nature is not only essential to maintaining a healthy society; it also provides expansive benefits for students in our nation's schools. Examples of these benefits include better physical and mental well-being, improved science/math performance through hands-on activities, understanding of public land issues, and deeper comprehension of ecosystem functioning. The question asked in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative is how to improve conservation and get people, especially kids, outdoors more often. Many of us experienced summer camps or outdoor schools that laid the foundation of our love for the outdoors. Outdoor classrooms, especially those on public land, are a crucial component of sparking a child's interest and care of the outdoors, though many programs running such classrooms nationwide lack the funding to contribute to mainstream educational systems. Truly, there are countless organizations running outdoor education sites on public land with the materials, ability, and drive to reconnect our younger generations to the land. The only aspect holding many of these organizations back from reaching more students is a lack of public funding and awareness. Our belief is that further expansion and funding of existing outdoor education programs, as opposed to starting from scratch and spending more time and money creating new initiatives, will provide the outdoor opportunities required to reconnect children with the bountiful and beautiful land of the United States.

The Department of the Interior should mandate that every national park should be shut down at least one year out of every eight on order to have both the wild life and vegetation recover, this would also remove most of the man made pollution. Park rotation would also save millions of taxpayer dollars and bring taxpayer dollars into whatever park region that was open.

We can help keep America special by protecting more Wilderness and quiet recreation opportunities, preserving more habitat and connectivity for wildlife, and permanent protecting remaining old-growth forests.

Please consider the following points as the Administration works to conserve our country's special places:

- As the world's first national park, Yellowstone should be a priority area as the Administration develops strategies to reconnect people to nature and conserve our treasured landscapes.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

A San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area could tackle this crisis. The America Great Outdoors Initiative could be a game changer by acknowledging the problems of the region and recommending the creation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area which would bring in the assistance of the National Park Service as well as more resources and rangers for the area.

Too lazy to hike? Tough luck" Fortunately you only speak for yourself and there are millions of reasonable people with public land ownership rights. That is just plain ignorant nice contribution. This idea presents many issues. The idea that the USFS can not get use plans together in less than a decade now is a substantial problem. I have seen the process in action and it must be incredibly tedious to have to work through. Maybe it would work better if it was done in sections oil and gas one year grazing one year motorized use one year. They need a serious paperwork reduction act too. We do not need thesis writers managing land we need active managers with knowledge first hand knowledge of the lands they are responsible for. Then the apathy of the land managers. Would you want that job though? They have to listen to bleeding heart eco freaks all the time knowing full well from experience that they only bring fabricated problems backed by an agenda. This issue could be cured by making land managers accountable on a local level. We elect the Sherriff we elect county comissioners we elect the school board why not USFS and BLM land managers? In Colorado the Parks board is trying to mis-appropriate some OHV user fees. Shouldn't it just be obvious to people what the funds should be used for? If OHV users pay them they should benefit."

By promoting our National Parks as places to explore through hiking and camping you can also promote Mrs. Obama's Let's Move Initiative to decrease childhood obesity. Families who visit our National parks are strengthening their ties to each other, the environment and their bodies.

In these times of economic stress, I would advocate that you do what President Franklin D Roosevelt did during the Great Depression. He put people to work cleaning up our national and state forests. I have driven through several lately and the fallen trees that are rotting are endangering the trees still standing. That is an environmental issue as well.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these great outdoor palces for better protection and self sustainability.. i would like to see some of these open areas, such as state parks and national areas, that are having a difficult time having enough money to sustain themselves work closely with garden clubs and botanlcal gardens to preserve and protect these areas.. for example our non profit here in the Mississippi Delta would love the opportunity to work closely with a state park or national park and build a public gardens area that would benefit eveyone within the local and state community plus take the financial burden off the state or national budget... we have programs for everyone and would be self sustaining along with being able to provide fresh fruits and veggies to all the low income needy within the local and state community..if just given the chance we really can change the little corner of our world.. with your hellp we can..

Seize the opportunity that the upcoming Park Service centennial provides to renew our national parks. We need a national campaign that will involve people in communities throughout the country in protecting our parks for the next generation.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Seize the opportunity that the upcoming Park Service centennial provides to renew our national parks. The administration should apply the lessons that were learned from the Centennial Initiative to developing a new public-private partnership to prepare our parks for their next century. We need a new national campaign that will involve people in communities throughout the country in protecting our parks for the next generation. --Provide permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Seventeen billion dollars in revenues, primarily from oil and gas leasing, have accumulated during the past several decades in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, unspent for its intended purpose. This money should be spent as originally promised to support parks, seashores, forests, and waterways across the country, rather than just another broken federal promise. What's happening in the Gulf of Mexico reminds us how important it is to keep that promise. --Do more to use national parks to inspire and educate young people. Our national parks are classrooms for discovery and learning for students and teachers. Programs like Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) allows teachers from low income school districts to spend the summer working as park rangers where they develop and present interpretive programs, staff visitor centers, and develop curriculum-based materials which they bring back to the classroom. This program should be expanded. And the Department of Education should work with the Park Service to excite kids with hands-on learning experiences. --Build on programs that work. The National Park Service has tremendous technical expertise and know-how that can help communities preserve their special places and provide recreational and educational opportunities for people. The Park Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program has a long history of working with cities, suburbs, and small communities across the country on conservation efforts and providing expertise to help conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. You already have a great program, but it's under resourced. There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Invest in a model that is working in communities across the country. --We need more parks for people to enjoy. The park system must also evolve to fully represent the history and culture of our diversifying nation. Please evaluate and consider new sites to bring into the system that better represent our changing country, and protect remaining natural areas before we use them all up. --Provide wildlife corridors to ensure that the wildlife in our parks can find the food it needs and reproduce successfully outside, as well as within park boundaries. We need cooperative efforts between federal, state and local agencies and private landowners, because wildlife doesn't understand boundaries on a map. A recent study commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association found that every federal dollar invested in national parks generates at least four dollars of economic value to the public. In 2009, as the recession took its toll on Americans' pocketbooks, national park visitation increased on average by nearly 4 percent, demonstrating the enhanced value of our national parks to our people in difficult economic times. Americans care about the future of these incredible places, so they will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Please remember the importance of protecting national parks and the many programs managed by the National Park Service that improve our communities. National parks are good investments in our future.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Outlaw all off-road vehicles and activities. Period. --Create programs to educate volunteers from the public (from any vocation, not just teachers) to preserve and maintain our parks. Public citizens have a SOVEREIGN birthright to act when and where necessary to protect and maintain public land private lands without unnecessary federal (or state) laws that prohibit them from such actions, as long as they are educated properly. Groups comprised of interested and caring citizens who could volunteer to assist in clearing areas that pose fire hazards should be formed, which would decrease the need for extra government funding for such projects, thereby diminishing the devastating effects of wildfires.

Build on programs that work. The National Park Service has tremendous technical expertise and know-how that can help communities preserve their special places and provide recreational and educational opportunities for people. The Park Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program has a long history of working with cities, suburbs, and small communities across the country on conservation efforts and providing expertise to help conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. --The park system must also evolve to fully represent the history and culture of our diversifying nation. Please evaluate and consider new sites to bring into the system that better represent our changing country, and protect remaining natural areas before we use them all up. --Provide wildlife corridors to ensure that the wildlife in our parks can find the food it needs and reproduce successfully outside, as well as within park boundaries. We need cooperative efforts among federal, state and local agencies and private landowners.

Having been a visitor at many, many of our National Parks I can honestly say that I write to you with first-hand knowledge of the great job the park employees do with such a small amount of money. Just think what they could do if they knew that funding would be available for their current needs as well as future needs.

The times I've spent in our National Parks were (and will be) all the more precious to me, because I'm confined to a wheelchair and access to beauty and nature is not something I can have as easily as my able bodied neighbors. Many of our parks have accessible restrooms , a few campsites and disabled parking in the lots. Some also have a few trails leading away from the tourist shops and visitor center areas. BUT WITH AN EVER INCREASING POPULATION OF PERSONS W/ SEVERE PHYSICAL DISABILITIES IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO 1) HIRE AND DEPEND ON DISABLED ACCESS CONSULTANTS TO WORK WITH AND EDUCATE CONTRACTORS 2) CREATE MORE TRAILS THAT LET SENIORS AND OTHERS W/ PROBLEMS WALKING, REALLY GET INSIDE THE PARKS AND 3) HAVE A RANGER ON STAFF WHO IS A PERSON W/ A DISABILITY. As a long time access consultant and designer, I can tell you that much of the access I encounter in public parks and bldgs. has not been designed or tried out by someone who actually needs the modification. But our parks are so precious and healing for all Americans and

Don't be afraid to raise the park fees to allow for the protection...many can afford much more to see and use these treasures and discounts can be available for those who can not afford them. Even seniors can afford more and should not always be getting a lower price because of age. some seniors are the wealthiest in the nation. i am a senior on a fixed pension although i love the discount i can afford what i want by choosing what is most important me.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

But that is not all. For many, national parks are too far away to be the only source of natural land. Greater efforts must be made to retain wooded areas, swamps, and grasslands throughout our towns. This is the most effective way to educate our children about the great outdoors, and to teach them appreciation for nature. The local level is the only way to do this on a day-to-day basis. Wildlife cannot fully thrive in a cityscape, and must have real forests and other habitat to escape to. Native plant life varies greatly from region to region, and the loss of any part of this diversity is a great loss indeed. Additionally, damage to any piece of the environment only further disrupts the delicate ecosystems. The natural areas dotted throughout the American landscape are often forgotten because individually they are so comparatively small. Yet added up, their land mass is at least equal to that of our national parks. While large nature preserves are undoubtedly important, smaller reserves must also be given legal protection. Please commit to the care of the nation's national parks, but do not forget the smaller parks and woods that are such a significant resource.

Large format signage, informational kiosks with maps in areas of high use to inform the public of the relevant laws and identification of legal routes and areas.

A study of the air quality impacts of OHVs on federal lands and adjacent communities including fugitive dust and green house gas emissions.

A national campaign to designate legal routes, close illegal routes, erect fencing to protect lands off-limits to OHVs and restoration of areas damaged by OHV activity.

"Sting" operations by federal law enforcement agencies on holiday weekends and in areas of high OHV use including the Pacific Crest Trail and lands adjacent to wilderness areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)s, Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA)s and other federal lands including designated wildlife corridors.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Thank you for initiating this dialogue. One of us attended the session on the lawn of Lewis & Clark Community College on August 20, but was one of those for whom there was not time to speak publicly. The other was unable to attend because the session occurred during the work week. So we are submitting our joint comments by email. Challenges Reconnecting to our rivers: Missouri is blessed with many opportunities to connect with the outdoors, but more needs to be done to make those opportunities accessible. We could do more to provide connections with our major river systems. The Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area is a good example of effort to provide access to the great confluence of the MO and MS rivers. But at the same time, that Conservation Area is under threat of a major casino development virtually next door and within the floodplain. More thorough analysis by FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers of all "external" costs of such floodplain developments could help local and state governments to understand the true costs of such developments to taxpayers and society. The MO River from Kansas City to St Louis is highly channelized. That results in a narrow and swift flowing river which limits safe opportunities for visitor enjoyment. Programs such as the Big Muddy Wildlife refuge will provide more varied habitat along the river which will be good for fish and wildlife as well as recreation. More funds and emphasis should be placed on that and similar projects. The topic of reconnecting should also include restoration. We cannot reconnect to what is no longer present. In Missouri many of our grassland, savannah and prairie habitats have been lost. Efforts to restore those habitats on public and private land should be supported. Private Lands: Most of Missouri's grasslands and forests are in private lands. A significant portion of the state is managed for agricultural production. Supporting good conservation practices on private lands is essential for protection of the great outdoors. Initiatives for conservation easements, for example, are a good tool. However, such conservation easements need to be enforced. In Missouri conservation easements have been granted along the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, but not always fully enforced by the National Park Service. Crop Reserve Programs are another way to encourage stewardship on agricultural lands. Our growing population and suburban sprawl constantly put pressure on family farms and forests. We should encourage tax and other policies that enable families to keep their land undeveloped without incurring unnecessary hardship and expense. Public lands: Missouri has many public land ownership levels -- federal, state, county, municipal. All provide levels of access and types of high-quality outdoor experiences. Missouri's outdoors are perhaps best known for our Ozark rivers and streams. We are blessed with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which include stretches of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers and is managed by the National Park Service. That linear park is currently undergoing a revision of its management plan. The process has highlighted some glaring management problems which have been a growing concern for years. The NPS has failed to follow the mission of the Scenic and Recreational Riverways designation and has allowed numerous illegal river access points, unauthorized ATV traffic and excessive equestrian use to mar and pollute the rivers. Due to agency analysis and public input, a goal of the management review now is to focus on improving water quality and river habitat and to provide for appropriate, but not destructive, recreation. Carrying through will be a difficult task. The background message to this experience is that proper manage

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Please stop this proposed pebble mine. The area and its inhabitants does not need to be sacrificed for the enrichment of a few people. Please stop this madness before it begins. Recreation, subsistence fishing and the protection of the waters of Bristol Bay should be given priority.

I am an investor. I have many gold mining investments in many companies around the world. I have been aware of the Pebble Mine project as an investment for many years. When I first learned of the project, I did research regarding its potential resources and its potential environmental impact. I realized at that time that however rich its resources, the price of its potential environmental impact was too high to justify development. The proposed mine is located in a pristine environment that is prone to seismic activity. The proposed environmental impact mitigation and safeguards do not seem nearly strong enough to genuinely protect this delicate habitat and watershed from devastation in the event that there is even the slightest deviation from the expected mitigation conditions. The safeguards need to have far more stringent standards and a far greater safety margin for errors and contingencies before this mine would make sense from either an environmental or investment point of view. We have seen from BP's fiasco in the Gulf the extreme risks of inadequate planning and implementation of environmental safeguards for mineral extraction. It may someday be possible to extract Bristol Bay's minerals safely, but the current plan fails to address these issues sufficiently to warrant approval at this time. I urge you to reject the proposed mine until such time as the standards for mineral development truly reflect the needs and conditions of the local environment. Thank you very much,

Hi, Please support more wild and scenic rivers and better protect our rivers for people, fish and wildlife. Please support the Foothill Conservancy's efforts to Save the Mokelumne with National Wild and Scenic River designation. As a mother of two boys and resident of San Francisco, the wild and beautiful Mokelumne is the highpoint of our summer. My city boy have spent hours fishing, hiking and swimming along the shores of the Mokelumne. They have learned how to ride rapids, catch crawdads and pick blackberries for jam and cobbles. In the day and age of video games I fell blessed that my children have had these opportunities. We are truly blessed to have an opportunity to visit such an untouched wilderness area so near to San Francisco. Please save the Mokelumne.

I want my generation and the next generation to enjoy America's great outdoors. Hey leaders in Washington, expand and protect our shared outdoor spaces including parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness, trails, rivers and monuments and conserve our farms and forests! You also desperately need to open more national parks to off-road bicycling. What better way to environmentally explore the Great Outdoors? You can also go fast enough to outrun BEARS.

Local Stewardship projects are the key to improving forest health. This has been proven time and time again on both private and agency lands where active stewardship has produced better forest health and increased biodiversity over non managed preserves. When the Federal Government gets involved the bureaucracy that follows destroys the original "Good idea".

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

I applaud your Great Outdoors initiative! Every day, but especially in difficult times, we desperately need the great natural world to be accessible to allow us to de-stress, recharge, and find spiritual renewal. Of course the greatest of the great outdoors is our unparalleled system of national parks. Having just returned from Badlands NP (my 16th National Park!), I can give unqualified testimony to the great joy and much needed perspective that comes from spending time in these miracles of nature. As a top priority of your initiative, I urge you to follow the advice of the National Parks Second Century Commission, who have spent more than a year developing a vision for how to protect the parks and connect Americans to them in the next century. Also, provide permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Seventeen billion dollars in revenues, primarily from oil and gas leasing, have accumulated during the past several decades in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, unspent for its intended purpose. This money should be spent as originally promised to support parks, seashores, forests, and waterways across the country. Please don't let this become another broken federal promise. --Do more to use national parks to inspire and educate young people. Our national parks are classrooms for discovery and learning for students and teachers. Programs like Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) allows teachers from low income school districts to spend the summer working as park rangers where they develop and present interpretive programs, staff visitor centers, and develop curriculum-based materials which they bring back to the classroom. --Build on programs that work. The National Park Service has tremendous technical expertise and know-how that can help communities preserve their special places and provide recreational and educational opportunities for people; e.g., the Park Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program. There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Invest in a model that is working in communities across the country. The park system must also evolve to fully represent the history and culture of our diversifying nation. Please evaluate and consider new sites to bring into the system that better represent our changing country and protect remaining natural areas before we use them all up. --Provide wildlife corridors to ensure that the wildlife in our parks can find the food it needs and reproduce successfully outside, as well as within park boundaries. A recent study commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association found that every federal dollar invested in national parks generates at least four dollars of economic value to the public. In 2009, as the recession took its toll on Americans' pocketbooks, national park visitation increased on average by nearly 4 percent, demonstrating the enhanced value of our national parks to our people in difficult economic times. Thank you for considering my comments.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

National Parks are CRITICAL to any Outdoor Initiative. I go to them, and enjoy them, and when I retire, I want to see more of them. It just isn't like going anywhere else, to go to a National Park. If you want people to go outdoors, you MUST fund the National Parks to the GREATEST extent that you can. Make sure that you follow the advice of the committees that plan for the future of the National Parks. The Parks are celebrating a hundred years - I want them to be there - in FULL glory, when it is time for me to retire and enjoy the outdoors, after years of working hard all my life. Why is there money sitting unused for the purposes of keeping up the Parks? Why don't you use them the way they are meant to be used? To keep the Parks accessible and relevant to everybody? I understand there are many millions of dollars that are not being used - PLEASE start to spend that money on keeping the Parks updated and useful. Every time I go to a Park, especially the battlefields, I learn more about my country and the people who made our country. Please do more to make each visit a classroom lesson that makes people better citizens and visitors. The extremely dedicated people who staff our National Parks are the best and they know more about what is needed to serve the public than ANYONE. Beef up all of the staffs across the country, and put more people to work helping us all to enjoy our fabulous country. They know what they are doing - and they love what they do. Get more of them! By the way - we need MORE Parks - not just the ones we have. Everybody should be able to get on a bus, not have to drive across the country, to get to a National Park. One that is protected and is a learning experience. Protect the wildlife in our Parks - it's THEIR homes, not ours! Make SURE they can travel through their lands unimpeded by man. They NEED us to take care of them by leaving them to their natural patterns of living. Make corridors for them to travel, so we don't interfere with them. Since visiting the National Parks, especially the battlefields, is how I choose to spend my money, it is worth it to generate more Parks, and more Rangers, and more sites. More Parks, more jobs, more money spent by the public. It couldn't make more sense. We, the public, DEPEND on YOU to do these things for us - the next administrations aren't going to do it. They haven't in the past. I depend on you to do this for me and my family and friends, as well as all the rest of the people of the country. Of all the things you have to do - this is the simplest to do - to justify - to improve the quality of life in America. Spend the money, improve the Parks, and follow the recommendations of the Parks commissions who make this their lives' work. Thank you

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The SFBPC strongly urges you to utilize the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and its "Take Me Fishing" campaign in implementing AGO. The SFBPC agrees with the Administration's focus on working with or through existing federal and non-federal programs to get more Americans to recreate outdoors. States, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector all have existing programs through which the Administration should coordinate and work. That said, programs with solid mechanisms for evaluating their success should be favored over those that do not have those mechanisms in place. The RBFF was awarded a grant by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to implement the National Outreach and Communications Program (NOCP). Like AGO, both the NOCP and RBFF are aimed at increasing participation in recreational boating and angling and increasing awareness about the need to conserve aquatic resources. Based on the SFBPC's interaction with the RBFF and on our efforts to monitor and evaluate the activities on the RBFF in implementing the NOCP on your behalf, we feel that the RBFF would be a useful existing tool for the Interior Department and other federal agencies as you work to implement the AGO initiative that would leverage an investment of federal dollars which is already being made.

The SFBPC supports efforts by the Administration to identify and maximize programs which protect, enhance and/or increase access to publicly managed resources. Whether through a fully funded Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or a reauthorized Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, the Administration should strive to maintain current programs and create new programs to provide access to the Nation's natural resources. For example, a portion of LWCF dollars could be set aside to create new access for recreational boaters and anglers on public and private lands. Such a program would augment existing programs such as the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program and the Boating Access Program funded through the Sport Fish Restoration Program managed by the FWS. The conservation community, including the SFBPC and our sister FACA committee, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, supports the "Making Public Lands Public" initiative that would dedicate 1.5% of LWCF appropriated dollars (or a minimum of \$10 million annually) for access to landlocked public lands. This could potentially benefit angler and boater access. Access to public lands and waters, and efforts to sustain and enhance populations of aquatic species (which drive participation in nature-based recreation) go hand in hand. The SFBPC therefore is a strong supporter of the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). The NFHAP and the Fish Habitat Partnerships that it has sparked are working to address aquatic habitat conservation on a landscape scale and will ultimately improve fish populations which support recreational angling and boating opportunities. The SFBPC played an instrumental role in the development of the NFHAP concept. We recommend that you strongly support this effort aimed at enhancing aquatic resource conservation.

OHV trails are an excellent use for abandoned strip mines, clear-cut areas, former rural industrial sites, depleted agricultural land, and sites of other environmental disasters. If OHV drivers are willing to develop and use those places, and we designate those places as public parks, I'm fine with that. Please just keep the machines (but not their owners) out of the as yet undamaged areas, or those areas well on their way to some kind of ecosystem recovery.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Partnerships between federal land management agencies and the private sector can be the most effective and efficient way to maintain the public benefits that private working lands can provide. Existing models for such partnership include the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI). This program achieves federal goals through grants to non-federal entities with a clear purpose of protecting habitat for federally-listed species, and maintaining the ability of the military to test and train.

According to the United States Forest Service, the United States is now losing about 2 million acres of natural land per year, or 6,000 acres per day. Not surprisingly, wildlife is impacted. It has been reported that habitat loss and fragmentation is one cause of the decline for about 83% of U.S. species. The viability of wildlife is an indicator of the functionality of ecosystems and, thus, affects the sustainability of our communities, our economies, and the Western way of life.

The Western Governors' Wildlife Council effort to create West-wide and landscape-scale wildlife DSSs will make too is available that would contribute greatly to the goals of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors are goals sought by state governments, as well as the federal government. Support for state wildlife DSSs will help both levels of government to meet these important objectives.

Launch a new, world-class climate science facility located in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that can provide the research capacity, resources and guidance that land managers will need to monitor and safeguard this region in the face of global climate change.

Better models/programs for assessing/forecasting the economic impact of trails, parks and natural areas.

Assessment tools that communities can use to evaluate how well their community is connecting with and protecting its natural resources - rivers, streams, forests, farmland, and open space.

Educational programs that not only teach children and adults about the importance of conservation, but that also engage them in conservation activities in their local communities.

Support and expand use of stewardship contracting as a tool for implementing collaborative forest restoration and stewardship. Stewardship contracting has been one successful and critical tool for foster restoration of our nation's forests and watersheds while creating community benefit. The expansion of stewardship contracting should be should be aggressively pursued.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

Our federal public lands contain historic and cultural resources that are estimated to be in the billions, many of which—such as those in southeastern Utah—attract thousands of visitors each year. However, the vast majority of those lands have not been systematically inventoried for historic and cultural resources, so the location and condition of the resources remains unknown. As a result, development projects are frequently targeted for areas containing significant cultural resources, creating conflicts between development and historic preservation that could have been alleviated through better information and planning. National Historic Trails (NHTs) provide clear examples of the negative implications of this for connecting people with the outdoors. Trail corridors provide a fantastic combination of outdoor recreation and education opportunities and can be havens for native plant and animal species. One hundred communities of 50,000 or more people, including many large cities, lie along NHTs so the trails can directly connect inner-city youth and adults with outdoor travel and education. However, none of the NHTs have been completely inventoried and mapped and agencies do not consistently manage and protect trails from the physical and visual impacts of development. As a result, these great links between cultural and nature, city and country, are slowly being erased. We recommend that funding to survey historic and cultural resources on public lands be significantly increased.

The NPS and BLM use the Challenge Cost Share (CCS) funding program to leverage private funding and program support from groups that share the agencies' missions to preserve natural and cultural resources. CCS grants allow citizen volunteers to do thousands of stewardship projects on public lands and national trails. For example, CCS funds have enabled volunteers to help rehabilitate historic ranch buildings for educational and recreational use at the White Grass Dude Ranch in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, and they have allowed visually impaired youth to experience history by walking portions of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail in Montana. Thus, we recommend that the administration restore funding for the Challenge Cost Share Program for BLM and NPS.

Agencies should complete early cultural resources inventories of areas with high potential to produce utility-scale solar, wind and geothermal energy, as well as oil and gas, in order to avoid impacts to significant cultural resources. If impacts are unavoidable, survey findings can help identify the best measures for first, minimizing and second, mitigating impacts. Early and thorough consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations must be conducted in order to avoid impacts to properties of traditional religious and cultural significance. This will help ensure that the whole range of cultural resources and landscapes are protected and knowledge of sacred natural and cultural places is preserved. Survey potential large-scale energy projects and address Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act at the earliest phases of planning for oil and gas and renewable energy projects on federal public lands.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The designation of the HD Mountains Mule Deer Migration Corridor would have the following effect: 1) a female and fawn start their migration in the rugged peaks of the Weminushe Wilderness and benefit from the protections that wilderness lands provide; 2) they approach US 160 and are led by a wildlife fence to an underpass that delivers them safely onto private land; 3) as they pass through private lands they find safe passage thanks to wildlife friendly fencing and a conservation easement; 4) they then enter into their winter range in the HD Mountains where natural gas drilling operations have been located to avoid important movement areas and activities have been reduced during migration periods; and 5) the Southern Ute Tribe, that has been tracking and studying mule deer for the past 7 years, has agreed not to develop gas resources in the southern HDs to allow the mule deer to survive and start their journey again to their summer range in the spring. All of this would be supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Governors of New Mexico and Colorado thanks to the Western Governors' Wildlife Corridors Initiative.

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) has a unique opportunity to be a leader by creating this new wildlife corridor land designation. AGO can utilize ongoing work, such as BLM's Ecoregional Assessments, to help identify corridors and then create and apply designations through land management plans and executive order. An important component will be inviting partners to join in wildlife corridor protection by providing funding and incentives through the Farm Bill, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Bill, Climate Bill, Energy Bill, and several internal DOI programs such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife.

WHEREAS, some of the most successful and well-accepted conservation efforts in the PPR have been voluntary programs like the Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and Grasslands Reserve Program, and the Department of the Interior's wetlands and grasslands easement programs. These programs have allowed farmers and ranchers to decide if, when, and to what extent they want to participate, and to schedule their enrollment in ways that complement their working land livestock and crop production operations

The bird conservation community has been a leader and proponent of landscape-level conservation for decades. The vision and plans of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas highlight the need to work across political boundaries at the state, regional, national and international level. This community has created model public private partnerships through the bird habitat Joint Ventures. These partnerships can serve as models for AGO as it strives to conserve public and private lands. With over 70% of the US land in private ownership, they are critical if we are to meet the objectives set out for the AGO. We recommend using the bird conservation partnership model to enhance conservation of wildlife on private lands in cooperation with Farm Bill Conservation programs.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

We face unprecedented challenges such as climate change and must ensure that we employ sciencebased management practices. As demonstrated in the Gulf Coast oil spill, if we don't have data and information, we cannot make informed decisions on how to strategically conserve our natural resources for generations to come. The bird conservation community has monitoring programs in place, some of which have operated for decades some of which have an extensive citizen science component. By expanding and strengthening these existing programs and identifying critical new programs, we can efficiently extend environmental quality monitoring while involving more Americans in conservation.

We represent several of the nation's largest regional park districts. Authorized by our respective states, we are independently governed and not directly affiliated with cities or counties. As stand-alone units of government primarily funded by local property tax levies, we are typically referred to as special park districts (SPDs). The goals of the America's Great Outdoors initiative are very relevant to the missions and programs of special parks, open space, forest preserve districts and independent regional park authorities- particularly given that they are typically located in or near urban areas. These include:

- Reconnecting families, especially children, to America's outdoors, including rivers and waterways
- Promoting community-based recreation and conservation
- Advancing job and volunteer opportunities related to the outdoors
- Conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic and cultural resources
- Creating outdoor corridors and connectivity of regional open space

OHPAL is a youth-mentoring program operated in partnership with the OHMVR Division and California Police Activities League. OHPAL capitalizes on the attraction of young people to offhighway vehicle (OHV) activities to forge positive relationships between youth and law enforcement, while at the same time teaching kids to appreciate public lands. Incentive-based, OHPAL is available to youth twelve to seventeen years-of-age who are willing to dedicate time to their academics and model responsible behavior in the communities where they live.

As young people are increasingly losing touch with the natural world, it is critical that public agencies promote healthy recreation and the responsible use of public lands. OHPAL is a fun, physical program encouraging safe and responsible operation of dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Partnering organizations, including the ATV Safety Institute, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, and the California-Nevada Snowmobile Association, provide rider education curricula and expertly trained OHPAL instructors and coaches. OHPAL also incorporates a variety of educational activities created by California State Parks staff and Tread Lightly! to promote positive land stewardship ethics

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

**Urban Parks.** The National Park Service has distinct capabilities to play a leading role in the task of reconnecting Americans to the outdoors close to home. The NPS has extensive experience in creating successful parks to engage urban populations and restore damaged landscapes in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Lowell, Boston, Washington, DC, and Cleveland, for example. Our national parks provide outstanding forums for civic engagement and for learning about how the American experience of the past can guide us into the future. The National Park Service has the capacity to engage diverse populations, especially young people, as the next generation that supports the national park idea throughout the nation.

**Engaging Youth.** The potential connection between our schools and our open spaces is often being lost under the pressures of fiscal constraint, but outdoor learning activities should be considered a requirement rather than an escape from educational basics. The National Park Service has an opportunity to build partnerships with the Department of Education, States, and local school districts to make our great outdoors living classrooms that inspire a new generation. The National Park Service has a long history of success in partnering with organizations such as the Student Conservation Association and NatureBridge to engage youth in memorable park experiences that can transform their lives.

**Rivers and Waterways.** The National Park Service also has a long history of reaching out to communities through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to provide public access to waterways, seashores and lakeshores for recreation. The RTCA program responds to community initiatives to protect river corridors and enhance their contributions to recreation as well as economic vitality. These corridors also link lands needed to sustain healthy wildlife populations. The National Park Service has exceptional capacity to support the revitalization of our waterways to meet the needs of urban and rural populations.

**Strategic Growth.** To meet the challenges ahead as highlighted by the listening sessions, the National Park System needs to grow strategically to be more fully representative of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. We believe that this growth should be considered an investment rather than an expense, and that it should include a wider range of tools and models to manage complex ownership and use patterns in addition to large blocks of public land. Congress also has given the National Park Service models for leadership in our cultural resource programs with a range of tax and other incentives that could be applied to protection of our outdoor resources.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The Tu-iurlo-a Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration Project transformed both banks of the Tujunga channel between Vanowen and Oxnard Streets into a multi benefit facility that addressed flood protection, water conservation, water quality, aesthetic enhancements, and recreational opportunities in a dense urban area. The project created a meandering naturalized stream course along the west bank by diverting water from the main channel and allowing it to gravity flow through its course providing for a sustainable and healthy alternative stream system. The project also provides for public use open space, habitat restoration, native landscaping, interpretive/educational signage, and pedestrian/bike trails along both sides of the channel. The project was completed in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy with funding from the County of Los Angeles, the California State Resources Agency Rivers and Parkways Grant Program, and the Department of Water Resources.

The Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project converted a municipal park into a water conservation, flood mitigation, and water quality treatment multiuse site. Upstream runoff is captured and conveyed through a high-tech underground treatment system which includes trash/sediment separators and media filters. The system continuously monitors the quality of the water via probes and is capable of shutting itself down if poor water quality is detected. The treated water is directed to underground infiltration basins constructed under the park. The project also provides educational opportunities and aesthetic enhancements while increasing the park's functionality. In addition, the project provides flood protection for the community. The project was led by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, TreePeople, Sun Valley Stakeholders Group, and the Department of Water Resources.

The Strathern Wetlands Park Project consists of using an inert landfill for the construction of wetlands to retain and treat flood water from the upstream portion of the Sun Valley watershed in the City of Los Angeles. The storm runoff generated during a 50-year storm event will be conveyed through the constructed wetlands to provide water quality enhancement. The treated flows will then be pumped to Sun Valley Park for infiltration into existing infiltration basins, providing recharge into the groundwater. The wetlands will also enhance native vegetation and create opportunities for wildlife habitat. Recreational trails, soccer fields, and educational signage will also be incorporated into the project. The project will be led by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District with collaboration from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power, Sun Valley Stakeholders Group, and Proposition O.

## Discussion Question 4

### ***Written & Online Comments***

***(cont.)***

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is currently in the process of developing the Compton Creek and Dominguez Channel Flood Risk Mitigation Alternatives Study which will identify, analyze, and rank alternative solutions to address hydraulic deficiencies in Compton Creek and the Dominguez Channel. The Alternatives Study will analyze combinations of alternative solutions to address the flood control issues and incorporate multi-use benefit components, including water conservation , recreational opportunities, water quality improvements, community enhancements, drought-tolerant vegetation, multi-use trails. and stream and habitat restoration. The project will be completed in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. local jurisdictions and agencies, including the Cities of Carson and Long Beach, and watershed stakeholders from the Compton Creek and Dominguez Channel watersheds.

Pennsylvania will be convening working committees on Health and Recreation; Urban Parks; and Green & Playful Parks as follow ups to the Recreation Summit and as implementation strategies for the SCORP. NPS staff participation in these committees would enhance their value.

Look to the lessons learned from the Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Initiative, including recent economic and social analyses, as a model for the Treasured Landscapes Initiative and help develop the field of large-landscape conservation.

DCNR and National Park Service partner on the development of a GIS-based planning tool that identifies and helps target land conservation and public access opportunities in the bay region.

My suggestion is to use funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), or other sources, to provide the stewardship contributions for conservation easements. This would substantially increase the number of easement donors, thus increasing the area of land protected each year. The amount of this subsidy could be capped at \$25,000 per year for each qualifying land trust. A land trust would need to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission to be eligible to receive the assistance. Other details could be worked out to ensure equitable use of the funds.