

July 22, 2013

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

The Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 is the most significant outdoor recreation enactment in our Nation's history. Virtually every county in the United States and a generation of Americans have been touched by the LWCF State-side program, plus thousands of acres secured through the LWCF Federal-side program for public access to our public lands and waters.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the LWCF, we believe there is a need educate the American people about the importance of this Act and commemorate its genesis from the legendary Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission, and the luminary vision of the Act's early proponents including Stuart L. Udall, Laurance S. Rockefeller, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, President John F. Kennedy, and many others. Now, more than ever, we should celebrate the substantial investment in conservation and outdoor recreation that has resulted from the enactment of the LWCF and tout the significant economic, environmental, and health benefits realized by all Americans as a result of this Act.

Thus, we propose that the Department of the Interior establish the 50th Anniversary LWCF Commemorative Cooperative (committee) comprised of DOI staff as well as representatives from outside organizations. The objective and purpose of the committee would be as follows:

1. To increase awareness, alignment, collaboration and effectiveness for the numerous 50th LWCF anniversary commemorative efforts that will take place across the Nation in the next two years and to determine what assistance outside organizations may be able to lend DOI in carrying out those efforts;
2. To collaborate on means to educate our citizens of the wellness benefits gained from outdoor recreation, and to increase active participation and civic engagement in recreation and resource conservation;
3. To begin a discussion about ways in which the LWCF could be strengthened to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Americans for another 50 years.

The 50th LWCF anniversary is special-- a time for celebration and reflection and we hope you will convene this committee to celebrate the program's legacy and begin planning for the next fifty years.

Outdoor Recreation is a Conservation Imperative

Thank you for your consideration.



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Potential Participants in the Cooperative

The Honorable Henry Diamond	The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports
Let's Move	National Governor's Association
U.S. Soccer Foundation	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Congressional Sportsmen Foundation	www.recreation.gov
National Geographic Society	Kaiser-Permanente/Blue Cross Blue Shield
Access Outdoors	Outdoor Industry Association
LWCF Coalition	Conservation Fund
City Parks Alliance	American Recreation Coalition
National Alliance for Youth Sports	American Camping Association
Leave No Trace	American Trails

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