



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3323

Subject: Establishment of the America's Great Outdoors Program

Sec. 1 Purpose. As part of the conservation priorities for the United States for the 21st Century, President Barack Obama established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative by Presidential Memorandum dated April 16, 2010. In furtherance of its mission to protect America's natural and cultural resources and heritage, honor our tribal nations and indigenous communities, and supply the energy to power our future, this Order formalizes the Department's America's Great Outdoors Program with a vision of connecting Americans to the outdoors and conserving and restoring America's land, water, and wildlife. The purpose of this Order is to establish formally the America's Great Outdoors Program within the Department of the Interior (Department) and thereby recognize, conserve, and enhance America's landscapes of national significance; urban wildlife and park areas; and America's rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

Sec. 2 Background. The creation of the America's Great Outdoors Program began with the Department working with Congress through the enactment of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, signed into law by the President on March 30, 2009. The 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act embodied a commitment to America's Great Outdoors conservation including the designation of 3 national parks, 4 national conservation areas, 10 national historic sites, 1 national monument, 4 national scenic and historic trails, a cooperative watershed program, 2 million acres of wilderness, and 1,100 miles of wild and scenic rivers. Over 100,000 Americans throughout all 50 States have helped define the America's Great Outdoors Program – including providing input at the 2010 White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors.

In public meetings and through public comments made to the Department and other Federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Labor, Transportation; the Army Corps of Engineers; the Council on Environmental Quality; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Office of Management and Budget, Americans focused on outdoor recreation and conservation as major economic contributors to the American economy. As a corollary, independent studies indicate that outdoor recreation and conservation directly create over 6.1 million jobs and support the creation of another 12 million jobs a year in the United States. The America's Great Outdoors Program also contributes to the health of Americans through bicycling, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other forms of outdoor recreation. The America's Great Outdoors Program continues the conservation legacy of the United States.

In addition to its conservation objectives, the America's Great Outdoors Program seeks to strengthen Federal partnerships with state, local, tribal, and non-governmental entities regarding public access and youth engagement, including support for the recommendations and goals of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation and the creation of a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. The conservation and recreation areas of focus of the America's Great Outdoors Program are:

a. Landscapes of national significance, which include large areas of land and water with the highest conservation and heritage values, such as the Crown of the Continent, the Everglades, the Dakota Grasslands, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Great Lakes.

b. Major urban parks and wildlife areas, which are places that connect people to nature in urban areas, such as Jamaica Bay in New York City; the Memorial Arch and Mississippi River in St. Louis; the Rocky Mountain Greenway in Colorado; and the Millennium Reserve in Chicago.

c. Rivers and other water bodies, which include major river restoration, recreation, and protection efforts, such as the Penobscot River in Maine; the Elwha River in Washington; the Middle Rio Grande in New Mexico; and the Mississippi National River Park in Minnesota. Outstanding rivers and water bodies include special Secretarial designations such as the Connecticut River as the first National Blueway and the Chattahoochee River as a national water trail.

Sec. 3 **Goals.** The America's Great Outdoors Program goal is to promote conservation so that:

a. All Americans have access to quality outdoor recreational opportunities in both rural and urban areas, regardless of where they live, and with a special emphasis on youth;

b. American farms and ranchlands are conserved;

c. National wildlife refuges, national parks, forest lands, and other Federal lands and waters are to be managed for conservation purposes with sound stewardship and a commitment to conserve habitat and fish and wildlife migration corridors;

d. Communities work together to restore and protect clean and healthy rivers, lakes, and estuaries to provide recreational opportunities and to support both human needs and the wildlife that depend on these water bodies; and

e. All Americans are empowered to tell their stories and preserve the sites, structures, and landscapes that represent the cultural heritage of the United States.

Sec. 4 **Authority.** This Order is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior and agencies within the Department, including but not limited to the following:

a. Land Acquisition Authorities

- (1) Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 U.S.C. 4601, et seq.;
- (2) The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 742a, et seq.;
- (3) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, et seq.;
- (4) National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee;
- (5) Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718, et seq.; and
- (6) Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.

b. Grant Program Authorities

- (7) Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. 669, et seq.;
- (8) Dingle-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. 777, et seq.;
- (9) Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. 3951, et seq.;
- (10) Partners for Fish and Wildlife, 16, U.S.C. 3771, et seq.;
- (11) North American Wetlands Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 4401, et seq.;
- (12) Coastal Impact Assistance Program, 43 U.S.C. 1356a, et seq.; and
- (13) Cooperative Watershed Management Program, 16 U.S.C. 1015, et seq.

c. Historic Preservation Program Authorities

- (14) National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.;
- (15) Historic Sites Act, 16 U.S.C. 461, et seq.;
- (16) Antiquities Act, 16 U.S.C. 431, et seq.; and
- (17) Executive Order 11593 Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment.

d. Environmental Restoration Program Authorities

- (18) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.;
- (19) Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act of 2012, Division A, Title I, Subtitle F of Public Law 112-141; and
- (20) Park System Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 19jj, et seq.

e. Conservation and General Authorities

- (21) Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 6101, et seq.;
- (22) Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.;
- (23) Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.;
- (24) National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1, et seq.;
- (25) National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.;
- (26) Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963, 16 U.S.C. 460l, et seq.;
- (27) Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2501, et seq.;
- (28) Federal Lands to Parks Program, 40 U.S.C. 550;
- (29) Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, Public Law 111-11, Title 18, Subtitle F-secure Water Act;
- (30) Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43 U.S.C. 869;
- (31) National Trails System Act of 1968, 16 U.S.C. 1241, et seq.;
- (32) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287;
- (33) Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended;

- (34) Executive Order 13061 Federal Support of Community Efforts Along American Heritage Rivers;
- (35) Take Pride in America Program, 16 U.S.C. 4601;
- (36) Federal Lands Highway Program, 23 U.S.C. 204; and
- (37) Executive Order 13547 Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Sec. 5 Policy. All bureaus and offices within the Department will implement the America's Great Outdoors Program through projects using the applicable authorities set forth in Section 4. America's Great Outdoors projects will: 1) demonstrate strong support from local communities and stakeholders; 2) require collaboration and alignment of resources within the bureaus of the Department and other Federal agencies; 3) leverage Federal resources with public, nonprofit, and private entities; 4) undertake specific land, water, and wildlife conservation and recreation projects that increase public access and engage young Americans; and 5) incorporate sound information, planning, and science.

Sec. 6 Inaugural Projects Designated by the America's Great Outdoors Program. Based on extensive outreach through more than 50 public meetings held around the Nation, over 100,000 comments and consultations with the Governors of all 50 States, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the following Projects have been designated as the inaugural America's Great Outdoors Program Projects:

a. America's Great Outdoors – Landscapes of National Significance

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Gulf of Mexico Coast and Mississippi Delta Restoration | AL, FL, MS, LA, TX |
| Colorado River Restoration and Recreation | AZ, CA, CO, UT |
| Deserts of the American Southwest | AZ, CA, NM |
| California Bay Delta | CA |
| San Joaquin River Restoration and Recreation | CA |
| Klamath River Restoration | CA, OR |
| Connecticut River Watershed National Blueway | CT, VT, NH, MA |
| Chesapeake Bay/Captain John Smith National Heritage Trail | DC, VA, MD, NY, PA, DE, WV |
| Delaware National Bayshore | DE |
| Comprehensive Everglades Restoration | FL |
| Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area | KS |
| Penobscot River Restoration and Recreation | ME |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Great Lakes | MN, WI, IL, IN, MI, OH, NY |
| Crown of the Continent | MT |
| Dakota Grasslands | ND, SD, IA, MT, NE |
| New England Forests and Waters | NH, ME, VT, ME |
| Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge | NM |
| Longleaf Pine Landscape Conservation | SC, GA, AL, FL, MS, TX |
| Elwha River Restoration and Fish Passage | WA |
| Puget Sound | WA |

b. America's Great Outdoors – Landscapes of Regional Significance

| | |
|--|--------|
| Denali State Park Trails | AK |
| Delta Heritage Trail | AR |
| East Central Regional Rail-Trail Project | FL |
| Southern Prairie Potholes | IA |
| Loess Hills | IA |
| Owyhee Land Exchange | ID |
| Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge | IL, WI |
| Dawkins Line Rail Trail | KY |
| Delta National Wildlife Refuge | LA |
| Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration | LA |
| Ozark Trail | MO |
| Mississippi Coastal Heritage Trail | MS |
| Mountain Bog Habitat Conservation | NC |
| Missouri River Forest Restoration | ND |
| Barnegat Bay Landscape and Access | NJ |

| | |
|---|----|
| Aztec Ruins National Monument Trail | NM |
| Grand Lake St. Mary's Watershed Wetland Development | OH |
| Northeast Ohio Wetland Restoration | OH |
| Ohio to Erie Trail Connection | OH |
| Table Rocks Conservation Project | OR |
| Willamette Valley Conservation Plan | OR |
| Paint Rock River Watershed | TN |
| West Galveston Bay Restoration | TX |
| Pacific Northwest Trail - Olympic Discovery Trail | WA |
| Ice Age Trail | WI |
| Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge | WV |
| Devil's Tower Conservation Project | WY |
| Grand Teton Multi-use Trail | WY |

c. America's Great Outdoors – Rivers and Water Trails

| | |
|---|----|
| Kenai River Conservation and Recreation | AK |
| Kachemak Bay Water Trail | AK |
| Dog River Scenic Water Trail | AL |
| Cache River Blueway | AR |
| Arkansas River Trail | AR |
| San Pedro River Conservation and Recreation | AZ |
| Lake Havasu National Bluewater Trail System | AZ |
| Sacramento River Red Bluff Restoration and Fish Passage | CA |
| Yampa River Basin Conservation and Restoration | CO |
| Dolores River Restoration | CO |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Naugatuck River Trail | CT |
| Anacostia River Restoration | DC, MD |
| Nanticoke River - Captain John Smith Chesapeake Connecting Trail | DE |
| Magnolia Creek Watershed Fish Passage | FL |
| Chattahoochee River National Water Trail | GA |
| Lower He'eia Stream Restoration | HI |
| Wailua River Water Trail | HI |
| Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail | HI |
| Big Sioux River Fish Passage and Recreation | IA |
| Yankee Fork Riparian Restoration | ID |
| Pecatonica River Water Trail | IL |
| Wabash River Healthy Rivers Initiative | IN |
| Kansas River National Water Trail | KS |
| Kentucky River Water Trail | KY |
| Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge Paddling Trail | LA |
| Blackstone River Valley Greenway | MA, RI |
| Chester River Captain John Smith Connecting Trail | MD |
| Detroit River Restoration | MI |
| Mississippi National River and Recreation Area National Water Trail | MN |
| Minnesota River Blueway | MN |
| Missouri/Mississippi Rivers Confluence Conservation and Recreation | MO |
| Pascagoula River Water Trail | MS |
| Upper Missouri River Conservation and Recreation | MT |
| Waccamaw River Water Trail | NC, SC |
| Missouri River Pallid Sturgeon Recovery | ND |

| | |
|---|----|
| Platte River Access and Recovery Implementation Program | NE |
| Delaware River Restoration | NJ |
| San Juan River Habitat Restoration | NM |
| Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trails | NV |
| Bronx River National Water Trail | NY |
| Finger Lakes Water Trail | NY |
| Sulphur Springs Stream Restoration | OH |
| Blue River Conservation and Recreation | OK |
| Sandy River Restoration and Recreation | OR |
| Willamette River Blueway | OR |
| Lower Susquehanna River Captain John Smith Connecting Trail | PA |
| Three Rivers Greenway | SC |
| Gimlet Creek Stream Crossing Rehabilitation | SD |
| Harpeth River Restoration and Fish Passage | TN |
| Rio Grande River Watershed Landscape Conservation | TX |
| Escalante River Watershed Partnership | UT |
| James River Captain John Smith Connecting Trail | VA |
| Winooski River – Conservation for Flood Resilience | VT |
| Lower Columbia Water Trail | WA |
| Lake Michigan Water Trail | WI |
| Milwaukee River Restoration and Fish Passage | WI |
| Ohio River Native Mussel Recovery | WV |
| North Platte River – Trapper’s Route | WY |

d. **America's Great Outdoors – Great Urban Parks and Wildlife Areas**

| | |
|--|--------|
| Rio Salado Urban Park and Youth Engagement | AZ |
| Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Trails | CA |
| Rocky Mountain Greenway Project | CO |
| Anacostia Riverwalk Trail | DC |
| Shingle Creek Trail | FL |
| Panola Mountain State Park | GA |
| Boise River Greenbelt | ID |
| Lake Calumet Millenium Reserve | IL |
| Indiana Dunes | IN |
| Urban Recreation Access | LA |
| Memorial Arch and Mississippi River in St. Louis | MO, IL |
| Fort Missoula Regional Park | MT |
| Lorenzi Park Renovation | NV |
| New York City/Jamaica Bay Great Urban Park | NY |
| Harlem River/Roberto Clemente State Park | NY |
| Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Urban Greening | PA |
| Chattanooga Riverwalk | TN |
| San Antonio Missions Urban Park | TX |
| Jordan River Parkway | UT |

Sec. 7 Additional America's Great Outdoors Program Designations. On at least an annual basis, the Department will through a public process seek the nomination of additional projects to be designated as America's Great Outdoors Program Projects. On an annual basis, the Secretary will select projects based upon the recommendation of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks or an appropriate designee by the Secretary who will deliver a list of recommendations in consultation with the Deputy Secretary; the Assistant Secretaries of Policy, Management, and Budget, Land and Minerals Management, Indian Affairs, and Water and Science; and the Directors of the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service,

Bureau of Land Management, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. The America's Great Outdoors Program Projects will be designated based on the policy and principles set forth in this Order and in accordance with applicable law.

Sec. 8 Responsibilities. For each America's Great Outdoors Program Project, the Assistant Secretaries - Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Land and Minerals Management, Water and Science, and Indian Affairs; along with the Directors of the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation; in consultation with the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management, and Budget, will designate a lead bureau within the Department. The Deputy Assistant Secretary - Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition will work with these same officials to prioritize funding and technical resources to implement the principles and projects of the America's Great Outdoors Program.

Sec. 9 Revisions to Departmental Policy. All bureaus and offices will review their existing policies and programs and revise them as recommended to comply with this Order.

Sec. 10 Disclaimer. Nothing in this Order is intended to authorize or affect the use of private property. Nothing in this Order is intended to be the basis for the exercise of any new regulatory authority, nor shall this initiative or any designation pursuant to this Order affect or interfere with any Federal, state, local, and tribal government jurisdiction or applicable law. This Order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Department, and is not intended to create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the Department or any person. Nothing in this Order is intended to lessen any standard of conservation or preservation with regard to lands managed by the bureaus within the Department.

Sec. 11 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever comes first.

Secretary of the Interior

Date: September 12, 2012

Ken Salazar