

**America's Great Outdoors**  
**Comments from Comment Cards**

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 16, 2010

*President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are comments from the comment cards collected at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.*

Comment Card Questions:

1. What are the most critical conservation challenges facing our nation today?
2. What are the best strategies to address these challenges?

Organization	Source of Comments	Comments
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	General Comments	The conference brings hope for a renewal and re-energizing of the conservation and outdoors movement, with a new focus on people and urban communities. The best way to bring the many elements of this movement, and the many agency programs together is around place - i.e. treasured landscapes. As each agency and partner bring their resources together around a set of aligned interests and goals.
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	Comment Card Challenges Question	Loss of quantity and quality of habitat and natural spaces (rural and urban).
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	Comment Card Strategies Question	1. Landscape approach to connect communities, economy, and people to places. 2. Outdoor programming - CCC, Americorps, new federal leadership, & enviro edu.

City Park Alliance	Comment Card Challenges Question	Urban parks create jobs, spur growth, increase property value, prevent obesity, clear pollution, and build community. Yet they're often dismissed as frivolous in hard times and remain severely underfunded. How can we change the perception that they are not just a "nice thing to have" but an essential part of our urban infrastructure?
City Park Alliance	Comment Card Strategies Question	Developing policies that promote cross sector, cross jurisdictional collaboration and partnerships. There are many innovative public and private partnerships that have been developed to create, restore, and maintain urban parks - and that would serve as great models for replication. City Parks Alliance, a national network of urban parks leaders, looks forward to serving as a resource as The America's Great Outdoors program is developed.
California Wilderness Coalition	General Comments	Very inspiring! I'm very grateful to have been invited. It is truly wonderful to see highly placed officials share such important conservation values.
California Wilderness Coalition	Comment Card Challenges Question	There are many, many problems of course but to me our biggest challenge is to preserve and restore enough wilderness, open space, and other networks of protected lands to provide for the needs of plants and wildlife in the age of climate change.
California Wilderness Coalition	Comment Card Strategies Question	More land protection initiatives in Congress and from the Administration and more partnerships with the private sector, local, and state governments, etc. We also need more funding and volunteers for these lands.
Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife	General Comments	Will - we have helped restore over 1 million acres of BLM lands, and raised tens of millions of private dollars to restore/transplant herds of elk, mule, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose, cougar bear, and wild turkey. Would love to come and meet with you and others in interior. Thanks for this conference.
Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife	Comment Card Challenges Question	An overabundance of predators are causing significant declines in game herds out west. This reduces hunter opportunity, millions in conservation dollars via lost license sales and loss of jobs and rural economies. An exponential problem.
Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife	Comment Card Strategies Question	Thanks for supporting wolf delisting and making sure USFWS supports wolf management efforts by western state game and fish agencies.
The Trustees of Preservation - Massachusetts	General Comments	Great conference - where are the regional listening sessions?
The Trustees of	Comment	The most important challenge is that most people live

Preservation - Massachusetts	Card Challenges Question	in cities and don't have enough opportunities for access or engagement with the outdoors. In particular, young people are missing opportunities to shape their values based on experiences outdoors and relevant to their lives. Combined with sprawling, unplanned development, this problem will only get worse unless steps are taken quickly.
The Trustees of Preservation - Massachusetts	Comment Card Strategies Question	Team all federal, state, and city agencies with the non-profit, community-based organizations to approach each neighborhood and community one at a time, inviting new and non-traditional partners into the work, celebrating success and sharing elsewhere where there is potential.
N/A	General Comments	Thank you, Secretary Salazar, for your vision of unity within conservation for beginning this conversation about community. May it be extended in the Leopoldian sense to include all life forms, not just humans - plants, animals and rivers - engaging all in this reverence toward life. May you continue to be bold and compassionate, at once.
N/A	General Comments	Have never seen this kind of support such a high level for sensible conservation. I appreciate what you have done so far. If there is any way I can help - please let me know.
Cascade Land Conservancy	General Comments	Thank you. The President's remarks renewed my hope that we can conserve our cherished lands.
Cascade Land Conservancy	Comment Card Challenges Question	Loss of forests.
Cascade Land Conservancy	Comment Card Strategies Question	Community Forestry Bands.
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	General Comments	Thank you! Depts of Ag & Interior working together with help of Commerce, CDC, CEQ, & others - great!
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Too much emphasis on iconic landscapes - not enough on local or regional, such as Midwest. Protect special areas and restore what's been lost. Water quality, habitat, climate change. Fragmentation of landscape. Competing goals - biofuels production v. water quality v. habitat.
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Stable conservation program funding; conservation block grants that address the needs not by habitat type but address broad needs. Conservation tax incentives. Trails – connecting people and nature - healthy, economic impacts.

Colorado Division of Wildlife	General Comments	Engaging youth through Youth Corps is too late. These are also short term jobs that youth just see as a paycheck. Need to engage and remain engaged with youth from a young age. Need to create in young people (age 6-10) a conservation environmental ethics.
Colorado Division of Wildlife	Comment Card Challenges Question	Educating our youth that conservation and preservation is important. Start educating youth at a young age. The need of agencies to see instant gratification. Working with kids is a long term commitment.
Colorado Division of Wildlife	Comment Card Strategies Question	Invest in programs that engage youth in the outdoors and teach them about careers in Natural resources and agriculture - start kids young. Take kids fishing.
Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Comment Card Challenges Question	Educating the American people about the relevance of land conservation to their daily lives. Dramatically increasing federal and state funds and tax incentives for voluntary land conservation.
Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Comment Card Strategies Question	Administration should take this show on the road, frequently and long-term. Fully fund LWCF, make expanded tax incentives for donated easements permanent and find new dedicated revenue sources to purchase land and easements. One specific issue: Saving the Blue ridge Parkway. The most visited unit of the NPS is suffering. It's been chronically underfunded, even though it is the economic backbone of the tourism-dependent Blue Ridge Mountains. Manufacturing jobs are gone. Solution: The Administration should support the Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act (S. 2951 and H.R. 4524) which would authorize \$75 million over 5 years to purchase land and easements adjacent to the Parkway. The BRP can add these properties to its boundaries without an act of Congress. Sponsors are Senators Hagan, Burv, Webb, Warner and Reps. Price, Shuler, Kissell, Boucher, Periello.
Conservation Trust for North Carolina	General Comments	In North Carolina (and other states) the Dept of Defense has been an excellent conservation partner. They've worked with land trusts and the state to purchase lands to increase the buffer between bases and encroaching development, and to protect endangered species. Please involve DOD in the AGO initiative (they have a big budget).
The Latin American Youth Center	Comment Card Challenges Question	Involving youth in environmental and conservation issues. The importance of environmental preservation should be infused in our Educational Systems throughout the country. I believe that educators are

		among the worst perpetrators of "de-prioritizing" environmental preservation and encouraging conservation. Programs that allow youth and children to explore the outdoors are constantly cut from school budgets. Physical fitness programs are cut and there are little or no opportunities for organizations or schools to engage youth in exciting outdoor activities that could spark their interest in environmental preservation and conservation activities and initiatives. Youth are easily excited by issues of environment but they don't know what to do now - or how they can contribute.
The Latin American Youth Center	Comment Card Strategies Question	Communities can be a powerful force in implementing environmental and conservation programs. Schools can teach children about these issues through a more intensive curriculum starting in early grades and continuing through college. Dept of Labor can design special training programs that will encourage youth to become stewards of our land. We must go beyond awareness to crafting laws that will support awareness, education, and resources.
The Latin American Youth Center	General Comments	I heard the word "youth" spoken so many times during this conference. It is obvious that there is consensus among the leaders here about the necessity to engage youth in the great outdoor movement. Children and youth will truly value this great American land when they have opportunities to see, touch, smell, and be in environments where they can appreciate the "green" around them. Schools and community organizations need to take responsibility for the teaching of powerful values by teaching and doing. Next we need to train youth to be ready to take jobs in this field. We need to have them become part of the creative problem solving discussion. Engage immigrants who did farming and planting in their countries so that we will be using a "natural resource."
Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)	Comment Card Challenges Question	To connect communities of color, especially youth to the outdoors and science careers. This must be LONG-TERM, FUNDED, and reach more than just youth employment. Education must be included for youth 5-24 - EDUCATION is the priority!
Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)	Comment Card Strategies Question	Fund programs that have a proven track record, like ELK. Allow us the resources to duplicate this successful model nationally.
Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)	General Comments	Must engage younger children! Not just for employment or the corps. We must engage younger children and their families. Many corps members don't

		even know why they are removing trees, doing the work or care. Engage kids younger!!! So when they get their first job it is with a natural resource agency or conservation.
Friends of Acadia	Comment Card Challenges Question	Shared understanding of need, shared commitment, shared priority in face of other demands/emergencies. Time-pace of climate change, development, extinction of species. Cultural beliefs/values - free market dictating abysmal land use for financial purposes, e.g.
Friends of Acadia	Comment Card Strategies Question	Consistent and pervasive messaging and conversation. Listen and share. Commitment to engage communities, states, regions, individuals in conservation. Flexible partnerships with committed funding, leveraging philanthropic participation. Good science - excellent story telling. Thanks, again, to this Administration's openness to discussion and commitment to protecting our environment and Great Outdoors.
NPCA	Comment Card Challenges Question	All of the polls show that most Americans feel that we cannot effectively address climate change. As well, they are pessimistic about how well Carson, the Administration, and other government institutions can address our problems.
NPCA	Comment Card Strategies Question	Many strategies need to be deployed. But one central strategy is to show examples of success. Give the public hope that we can succeed. National Parks are the best places to demonstrate and communicate successful strategies to respond to climate change.
Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Committee/Rancher/Banker	Comment Card Challenges Question	To conserve large "working" landscapes that allow for the traditional productive use of the land while maintaining or restoring its conservation value of plant and animal biodiversity.
Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Committee/Rancher/Banker	Comment Card Strategies Question	The use of public/private partnerships and conservation easements, not fee title acquisition. Funded by LWCF dollars. Offer a term easement, similar to the USDA-GRP program. Fund from CRP funds or those contracts expire.
Forest Society of Maine	Comment Card Challenges Question	Maintaining nation's memory. Open landscape/lands-recognizing they are privately owned and important economically as "working" farms, forests, etc. Conserving lands for people as well as for wildlife and ecology.
Forest Society of Maine	Comment Card Strategies Question	Change from top down to bottom up approach! Harness - turn loose - incredible potential of land trusts and local communities.
Society of American Foresters	Comment Card	Maintenance of forest health and protection of private forest lands; forest adaptation to climate change;

	Challenges Question	reduction in catastrophic wildfire; private lands staying forested; production of forest products to mitigate climate change and create jobs
Society of American Foresters	Comment Card Strategies Question	Comprehensive strategy: tax policy, partnerships to enhance forest health, reduction of administrative barriers to managing forests, creating incentives to keep private forest land forested. TIMOs are not the enemy, they are an important partner.
Appalachian Mountain Club	Comment Card Challenges Question	Climate change. Getting kids outdoors. Protecting special places. Encouraging volunteerism. Actively engaging all ages.
Appalachian Mountain Club	Comment Card Strategies Question	Clearly there are thousands of projects ready to get young people involved directly with the outdoors. The Appalachian Mountain Club alone would have many projects up and down that could get kids to work on trails - trails that are close to home e.g. near major cities but also in more rural remote regions. Some kind of Civilian Conservation Corps - or revitalization would be good. But working with partners rather than creating a standalone project so partner agencies can hold on to these young people and have them become lifelong advocates for the outdoors. Fully fund LWCF as a key funding source. As suggested have secretaries work across agency lines. Help support private landowners that provide access and recreation opportunities in their lands - e.g. Northern Maine where the majority of the land is privately owned.
Maine Forest Services	Comment Card Challenges Question	Conservation of private lands particularly in the eastern U.S. Climate change.
Maine Forest Services	Comment Card Strategies Question	Federal laws on climate change. Create use of regulatory programs that calls for interests to collaborate on developing solutions. Increased flexibility in federal programs and coordination and geographic focus on specific landscapes.
Pres-American Prairie Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	The pattern of each successive generation becoming increasingly disconnected from nature. Decreasing modeling by adults, for children, as to the value of learning about and spending time in nature.
Pres-American Prairie Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Focus all efforts, all strategies, on children. Ongoing PSAs by top government officials promoting value of nature and in getting outdoors. (Make them creative, hip, youth-oriented). Invite at least 100 people under 20 years old to next year's conference (youth infusion). Engage landscape artist Clyde Aspevig's concept of

		"land snorkeling" as a new way of enticing kids back to the outdoors/nature.
N/A	Comment Card Challenges Question	Protecting private lands that serve as watersheds, particularly for unbanned areas. Water, all too soon, will be a limiting resource. Tap into the local food shed enthusiasm to forge policies, incentives for local agriculture, like CSAs.
N/A	Comment Card Strategies Question	Traceable tax deductions with cap, which will protect land if landowners can't use deductions. Competitive LWCF allocations. Farmland easements for farmers, again on exemption basis, that offer watershed protection, public access, or CSAs.
Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife	Comment Card	Private lands conservation for fish & wildlife habitat at a landscape (functional) scale.
Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife	Comment Card Strategies Question	Community-based visioning of values and collaborative implementation. We need to engineer a social evolution of rewarding private landowners for assurances of providing fish & wildlife habitat in the long term. LCC's are a good start to this foundation.
Conservation Pathways	Comment Card Challenges Question	Lack of resources to address the urgent, now-or-never conservation opportunities now facing us.
Conservation Pathways	Comment Card Strategies Question	Full funding LWCF, new funding strategies in accordance with the Secretary's Treasured Landscapes vision.
DU and NFWF	Comment Card Challenges Question	Loss of critical wildlife habitat, migration corridors, etc. A specific example: The native prairies. It's also a piece of Americana.
DU and NFWF	Comment Card Strategies Question	Focus/partner with interested NGOs to put important acreage under conservation easement.
Soil & Water Conservation Society	Comment Card Challenges Question	Nutrient enrichment of waters, from Ag non-point sources.
Soil & Water Conservation Society	Comment Card Strategies Question	Technical assistance, financial incentives. Research & development support for ARS to address cause & effect, and develop treatment technologies.
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Funding, trusting one another, capacity.

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Build trust, prioritize treasured landscapes, collaborate.
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners	Comment Card Challenges Question	Environmental literacy and respect. Moving from a disparate national collection of outdoor resources to a coordinated efficient national system.
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners	Comment Card Challenges Question	Regional (landscape level) interagency planning efforts with local, state, and federal participation (use the LWCF SCORP effort to accomplish this).
Alliance for Community Trees	Comment Card Challenges Question	Making cities more healthy, affordable, and sustainable for all residents. To conserve open lands, we have to make cities better, so they offer residents what they want and need. From a conservation perspective, investing in urban parks, creating additional parkland, ensuring that pocket parks, schoolyard parks, and neighborhood greening will improve quality of life, health, and environmental function.
Alliance for Community Trees	Comment Card Strategies Question	I would like to see a multi-agency urban greening initiative with White House leadership and visibility. This could integrate existing work of USDA, USFS, NRCS, EPA, and others. Greening our communities starts on the landscape at home, in our schools, neighborhood streets, and parks. Forestry and park restoration in cities at a greater scale, engaging volunteers, schools and creating jobs. If there is a CCC revival, urban parks and recreation systems have plenty of work to do as well. Last, I hope the Administration can shift resources from other areas to use up more budget for conservation programs. We would like to see the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Service Programs & Research increase substantially.
Ducks Unlimited	Comment Card Challenges Question	Underfunding is a persistent problem. Having the environment viewed as an impediment to economic interests must be overcome.
Ducks Unlimited	Comment Card Strategies Question	Can the government help the effort with some marketing/human dimension surveys/focus groups to better understand what will "move" people (and youth as a sub-group) to view conservation the way we'd like?
National Forest Foundation	Comment Card Challenges	1. Awareness and appreciation. 2. Communicating effectively: what needs to be accomplished, how to do it, what's being done in progress already. 3. Education.

	Question	
National Forest Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Think big! Create central website. Let our nation know! Volunteer youth of the great outdoors for each school, college, and university. Coordinate as well with the Dept of Education and private foundations. Promote "town hall meetings" everywhere. Create AGO free membership/media campaign. Engage corporate America. Bipartisan unity on this! Set up mentor program. Cross-agency training.
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition	General Comments	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.
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition	Comment Card Challenges Question	Balancing rural traditional cultural continuation with modernization. Inclusion of knowledge from Gullah/Geechees and Native Americans into conservation education. Passing on conservation & land stewardship knowledge to our youth. Keeping traditional fishing practices alive.
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition	Comment Card Strategies Question	There needs to be more focus on input sessions in rural environments that are conducted by those that have lived the traditions in those areas. Also, funding needs to be available for traditional intergenerational exchange and education projects. Policy changes to allow for traditional fishing.
Association of State Wetland Managers	General Comments	This was a wonderful event. I have never seen anything like this kind of commitment to starting a conservation movement since perhaps the first Earth Day. Please keep this going - talking, listening, inspiring people to bring their ideas to the table and try harder when they go back home. I will <u>never forget this day</u> . Thank you.
Ducks Unlimited	Comment Card Challenges Question	Balancing conservation and use (recreation, energy, etc.). Connecting conservation to economic development.
Ducks Unlimited	Comment Card Strategies Question	Invest in science to guide decisions. Invest more in private land conservation (easements). Promote nature-based tourism.

National Science Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	One significant challenge is bringing together, on a local level across the nation, the diverse stakeholders, who can make a true on-the-ground difference to create a shared vision for the future. A vision that reflects and respects the local cultural history and promotes economic development while being sustainable and beneficial to future generations.
National Science Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	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.
National Alliance of Forest Owners	Comment Card Challenges Question	As our private forests, farms, and ranches face additional challenges associated with a changing climate and a growing need for public benefits to serve an increasing population, they also face growing economic pressures as the land they manage for a combination of conservation and economic benefits becomes less economically competitive.
National Alliance of Forest Owners	Comment Card Strategies Question	While strategies to address this need are evolving, the core of any successful approach lies in understanding the economics of private land ownership and the critical need for viable markets and market incentives that keep working lands economically competitive with alternative land uses. Approaches that add costs to maintaining working lands drive down its economic value relative to other land uses and increase the potential for land use conversion. However, approaches that use markets and market incentives to enhance the economic value of these lands will contribute to their long-term viability and continuation on the landscape.
Children and Nature Network	Comment Card Challenges Question	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.
The Conservation Fund	Comment Card Challenges Question	Engaging young people to lead our way back to the outdoors. We need a youth movement that is by and for young people - politically and civically engaged.

The Conservation Fund	Comment Card Strategies Question	In June (19th-25th) we will launch Outdoor Nation in Central Park - the first national youth summit aimed at reconnecting young people and the outdoors. The Central Park summit will kick-off the next American Revolution.
The Wilderness Land Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	To expand the connection between all that conserved lands have to offer and all segments of the population, so there is support for the conservation vital to addressing climate change.
The Wilderness Land Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	To expand support we must maintain the legitimacy of already preserved landscapes. An ongoing program for the acquisition of private inholdings from willing sellers within designated protected areas, such as wilderness, is vital to ongoing legitimacy.
American Society of Agronomy	Comment Card Challenges Question	Lack of scientific understanding of nutrient dynamics in agro and urban ecosystems on watershed and landscape scales.
American Society of Agronomy	Comment Card Strategies Question	Agronomic research, education (K-12, graduate and undergraduate) and outreach education to landowners.
The WILD Foundation	Comment Card Challenges	Loss of wild lands and wildlife habitat decline and fragmentation, worsened by the impacts of climate change and invasive species, disease. Need a shift in thinking and attitude by Americans that wildlands are our natural wealth that should not be squandered and abused. Must develop effective and valid/respected mechanisms for valuing the ecosystem services from wildlands.
The WILD Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	The Wild Foundation is a US 501c3 nonprofit headquartered in Boulder, CO and the only international organization focused on wildlands conservation. Policy development on the topic of wilderness has proven successful. At the recent wilderness congress (see wilds.org) a number of new initiatives were launched. The MoU on cooperation for Wilderness Conservation was signed by the four federal agencies that manage wilderness plus the Office of Environmental Markets and the Commission on Natural Protected Areas of Mexico and Parks Canada. It is the first such multinational agreement on wilderness. Under this MOU, NPS, USFWS, BLM, USFS, and OEM will work with Parks Canada to develop and implement cooperative activities that produce outcomes for transboundary conservation areas, ecosystem service payment schemes, visitor

		<p>experience, ecological monitoring, networking/mentoring/training and managing wilderness. WILD is facilitating the MOU Committee as it creates its three year work plan. Three other WILD initiatives: 1. Private lands with wilderness - Qualify private lands managed for wilderness characteristics according to standards to create additionality. Give private landowners - particularly as pieces of a landscape scale approach - incentive by generating access to carbon, water and biodiversity process. 2. Marine wilderness collaborative - leading a consortium of colleagues to generate a consensus marine wilderness and management agendas. 3. Youth and young professionals network.</p>
Northwest Connections	General Comments	<p>Don't create a map/initiative of special landscape level protections. Do sponsor a funding source/grant program for collaborative multi-stakeholder groups to apply for to nominate their landscape for special protections. Support rural economics to keep people on the land growing food, wood, producing energy, water and open space. Invest in rural.</p>
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	General Comments	<p>Local city parks are the first place and least expensive place to connect urban kids to nature. Stop neglect of urban parks. Great conference.</p>
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	Comment Card Challenges Question	<p>In our city of Pittsburgh, a rustbelt distressed municipality, taking care of the existing 175 park facilities with excellence and finding the money to do this is our biggest challenge. Our private non-profit group is 14 years old and has raised almost \$50 million to improve these parks but the backlog of capital infrastructure repairs required is probably \$100 million more. Things like ecological restoration, attention to a drainage system of terra cotta pipes which is over 100 years old, leaking roofs on facilities, lack of signage, etc. etc. We get no operating support from local government but we partner with them. Our main goal and challenge right now within the city park system is to rebuild the only environmental center in the city which burned to the ground in 2002 and rebuild it to connect our urban children to the natural world through the park in which the environmental center sits. We are planning on raising about \$10 million to accomplish this. With state government now financially challenged and local government challenged financially it would be helpful to have some federal help.</p>
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	Comment Card	<p>Having programs to help urban parks which could be accessed directly by private non-profits which are park-</p>

	Strategies Question	focused. Help is needed for capital repairs as well as programs. Please hold a regional listening session in Pittsburgh. We would volunteer to help any way possible. We have 13,000 names on our database.
Western States Land Commissioners Association	General Comments	While there are significant budget pressures, it is important to continue to build on this Administration's support for key land conservation programs. Land and Water Conservation Fund (DOI, USFS), Forest Legacy (USFS), Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Programs (NOAA), Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (DOD).
Western States Land Commissioners Association	Comment Card Challenges Question	Designate conservation areas that can be administered effectively.
Western States Land Commissioners Association	Comment Card Strategies Question	Address inholdings upfront as part of the designation process by using indemnity selections for states, exchanges, buyouts, conservation easements, leases, arbitration for differences over appraisals (S.2921 is a possible model).
Family Farm Alliance	General Comments	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.
Sustainable Northwest	General Comments	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 the 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.
Sustainable Northwest	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Trust in the federal land managers. 2) Climate change, wildfire, water scarcity, insect and disease. 3) Loss of conservation skills in Rural America. 4) Increasing poverty in rural America, especially adjacent to public lands.
Sustainable Northwest	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) Collaboration. 2) Capacity building. 3) Innovation incentives. 4) Dissemination and learning across agencies, the public, and communities through monitoring.
Outdoor Afro	Comment Card Challenges Question	Engagement with youth and people of color, especially African Americans in ways that are culturally and socially relevant. Social media is an overlooked tool.
Outdoor Afro	Comment Card Strategies Question	Make sure that people of color and youth are trained and exposed to pathways of true leadership and sustainability. Social media is one way to build community and reach audiences of scale and relative ease
Chesapeake Conservancy and No Child Left Inside Coalition	Comment Card Challenges Question	Providing robust and stable federal funding for landscape conservation. Engaging citizens, and particularly our youth, in environmental stewardship and outdoor activities to reconnect them to the outdoors. Enhancing public access to our great outdoors.
Chesapeake Conservancy and No Child Left Inside Coalition	Comment Card Challenges Question	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 access 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 cut 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 programs similar to the safe routes to schools initiative.

		This would link schools of our nation to public lands.
Wildlife Forever	General Comments	Conservation education will determine the future of our outdoor heritage. We must start young to make the connection to nature. By sparking the natural wonder of the outdoors in our youth we will develop stewardship. We have tools (field guides, lesson plans, etc.) as do others. Inventory and select best tools based on results. Share knowledge. Let the work begin...
N/A	Comment Card Challenges Question	Connections: Connections of land use to water. Connecting people, children to the land. Fragmentation of habitat and the need to create connected landscapes.
N/A	Comment Card Challenges Question	Create awareness of incentives and where needed regulation for better land use. Provide access and opportunity to connect people to the land and water resources. Easements, acquisitions and other tools.
NFFC	Comment Card Challenges Question	Big corporate interests who profits seem to rule over the concerns, livelihoods and interests of the rest of us. This includes energy extraction, big ag and housing developers to name a few.
NFFC	Comment Card Strategies Question	Providing CCC type jobs and putting people to work, bringing value (added) to rural and urban spaces which can in turn support these communities. Somehow level the playing field so that farmers, fishers and rural communities can thrive and be the great stewards of the natural resources that they are. Work with regional planners, when available, to develop plans and zoning regulation that support public space that is accessible to, used, and appreciated by the local public. Ms. Sherrod's idea of teaching kids, especially in urban areas, the importance of farming, fishing and ranching families. Link with Mr. Pinkham's notion of teaching tradition, honoring our past. Education involving youth is crucial if we expect to raise more environmentally minded generations in the future "life is more than making money."
Pheasants Forever	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Make sure we have another generation ready for waiting to take over as stewards of our lands 2) Making sure we leave them natural resources worth inheriting.
Pheasants Forever	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) To get the next generation involved-listen to them-recruit them and let them lead and be ambassadors. 2) support grassroots efforts and conservation volunteers
Rails to Trails Conservancy	Comment	The creation of parks, trails, and open space in

	Card Challenges Question	proximity to urban areas. Too many children don't have access to safe places to play to ride their bike or just goof around.
Rails to Trails Conservancy	Comment Card Strategies Question	Shine the spotlight on innovative projects like the Met Branch trail here in DC that seeks to provide safe classes for children, their parents, and grandparents in urban neighborhoods.
Consultative Group on Biological Diversity	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Connecting young people to beautiful places to learn and love. 2) Protection of clean air, water, topsoil, and safe food. 3) The fragmentation of wildlife corridors especially in light of climate change.
Consultative Group on Biological Diversity	Comment Card Strategies Question	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 Lake program and program of TreePeople in LA. 4) Permanent protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
National Environmental Education Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	A lost generation of conservationists – youth who did not have opportunities to have positive outdoor experiences. Inadequate spokespersons to reach nontraditional audiences. Conservation myopia. Too many people assuming that the personal experience they had that engaged them in the outdoors applies to everyone.
National Environmental Education Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Bring new voices into the conversation - voices that might not make traditional conservationists comfortable - rock stars, community activists, the marketing industry to attract new spokespeople who resonate with people who feel conservation is for places they will never see. Bring it home wherever it is. Consider environmental education a conservation tool - a means for engaging all citizens in stewardship of their lands. Too often it is an afterthought when it can bring about lasting change now more than ever.
Trout Unlimited	Comment Card Challenges Question	Thank you for doing this! It is long overdue and deeply appreciated! I love the focus and priority on conserving water and land. And getting people out to recreate in it. The working lands piece is critical too. Excellent! 1) Conserving watersheds and water resources. Water sustains life, our communities, overhunting and fisheries. Sustainable water resources are threatened by climate change, urban development, unsustainable ag practices. 2) Disconnect of Americans from natural resources. You nailed it. It's a major challenge.
Trout Unlimited	Comment Card	1) Water should be a pillar of the AGO initiative! Adopt a sustainable watershed strategy. A. Protect - high

	Strategies Question	value lands for fish/wildlife habitat - acquisition/easements. b. Reconnect - fish passage, wildlife corridors, small dam removal. C. Restore - funds for FWS/NOAA/NRCS restoration programs. 2. Connect Americans to land and water resources. Promote outdoor recreation and education. Build watershed resilience in the face of climate change.
National Wildlife Federation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Conservation is facing a new paradigm with climate change. With a changing system we can no longer simply conserve lands and waters, but manage toward a new equilibrium that is currently only based on models.
National Wildlife Federation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Immediate action to drastically reduce carbon pollution and a dedicated funding stream for natural resource restoration and adaptation is critical to the future of our lands, waters and wildlife. This will also create American jobs on American lands.
Association of Partners for Public Lands	Comment Card Challenges Question	Engaging the next generation -- not only children, but the next tier of conservation and public lands professionals, particularly of diverse backgrounds. Ensuring all people understand, enjoy and care for public lands, wildlife and cultural/historic sites.
Association of Partners for Public Lands	Comment Card Strategies Question	Work through established community organizations, conservation organizations, park and public land support groups. Outreach, awareness and marketing campaigns. Internships within agencies and partner groups.
Watershed Conservation Authority	Comment Card Challenges Question	1. Connecting large urban populations to our parks and forests 2. Preserving sufficient buffer areas around our existing parks 3. Stewardship education.
Watershed Conservation Authority	Comment Card Strategies Question	1. Expand NRA's urban communities programs such as the NPS River, Trails and Conservation Ass't program. 2. Undertake an extensive assessment and plan to identify critical lands necessary to protect our ecosystems. 3. Establish and enhance programs in our schools, communities re: stewardship.
Columbia Land Trust	General Comments	100 years ago Teddy Roosevelt initiated the great public lands conservation system. 100 years from now, let them look at on this as the time that our country accelerated a private land conservation system that leverages public resources while also making connections with rural landowners and urban populations, especially kids.
Columbia Land Trust	Comment Card	1. Managing future population growth to conserve our most important natural resources. 2. Growing the next

	Challenges Question	generation who will know, love and be great stewards of our great natural resources. 3. Managing our public lands and resources (including funding) in ways that respect and engage private landowners and communities (including our forests, ranches and farms).
Columbia Land Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	1. Engage private non-profits in conserving our great privately-owned natural resource lands. 2. Engage community groups in devising and implementing conservation programs in urban settings. 3. Fully fund LWCF; implement increased private landowner conservation incentives; authorize tax-exempt community forest bonds.
Pollinator Partnership	General Comments	With respect to educating youth -- focus on the end product. We determined 5 characteristics that a conservation-minded program would instill: 1. A sense of wonder. 2. An understanding that everything is connected. 3. A realization that nothing is free 4. It's your responsibility to do something (lift a shovel, write a check, plant a tree). 5. Vote (it doesn't matter who -- we advocate only that to vote is an act of conservation -- many land issues are decided by officials of local, state, and federal governments. These 5 concepts can be taught in engaging ways at all levels. Great meeting -- thank you for a terrific START!
California Rangeland Trust	General Comments	Thank you for this invitation! It was inspiring and impressive to see the coordination and passion of the Agency Secretaries, EPA, CEQ and others. Private land conservation is becoming more cost effective and successful than ever. We strongly encourage funding and support for more of this landscape protection.
The Lyme Timber Company	General Comments	1. Allow multi-federal agency grant programs to match each other. For example, why couldn't CELP money (NOAA) be used to match FLP grants to state agencies? 2. Expand the allocation of New Markets Tax Credits for economically distressed rural communities. These tax credits can become a huge incentive for directing private investment to help with landscape scale conservation endeavors. Get the US Treasury into Obama's Green Team.
NCBA	General Comments	Before any more monument designations are made ensure they will work with the ranchers who have lived on and loved the land they steward for generations. Do a cost analysis of the 18 monuments we currently have.
National Association of Wheat Growers	General Comments	In your outreach efforts, I would encourage you to use technology tools like Facebook and Twitter. Educate federal employees of federal resources in this area.

		Incentive-based programs for changes needed on working, private lands. Involve private foundations, family or regional foundations too.
The Webster Group/American Forests	General Comments	Hello. Thank you for putting on this important conference. Here are a few observations you might find helpful. 1) Emails prior to event were helpful. 2) Preregistration was not very professional. 3) My name was on one list, not for the reception. 4) Event folks very nice, cordial. 5) Not sufficient bathrooms/no exact time schedule. 6) Excellent speakers/ topics but 7) Where were Republicans? Talk of bipartisanship, he should have invited a few prominent ones. 8) Great video - but where was call to action? 9) Can the President's speech be sent to us to put on our websites? Just a thought. Excellent gathering -- thank you for all you did to plan it. As an event planner by trade, I know how hard it is!
National Family Farm Coalition	General Comments	1. Helping people who live in rural areas, including farmers and fishers, to make a decent living by receiving fair prices for their product, will help to help them doing what they do best -- making the best use and serving as the best stewards of the land and water resources. (Obviously I don't see Dept. of Interior in charge of farm prices but USDA is an agency that can help and you hope they are listening to the concerns from family-owned farms and fisheries) 2. CRP and NCRS are great programs -- but make sure they are properly funded and the program is managed well so that the right people are rewarded, that it's not an easy gift for non-farmers/non-ranchers who happen to own a lot of land 3. Allowing GMOs (on public lands) is a real concern -- why has the govt. taken this stance, providing one more foothold by Monsanto in agriculture? (Perhaps some of this is state-owned land, but it is still a concern) 4. Local people -- fishers, farmers, teachers, students, etc. -- must be involved at many and different levels to find solutions -- long term and sustainable -- urban and rural must care, young and old, rich and poor -- Pepito's notion of linkages.
Boys and Girls Club of America	General Comments	Boys and Girls Club of America would offer 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.
DELETE ROW	DELETE ROW	DELETE ROW
Greening Youth Foundation	General Comments	As the Executive Director of Greening Youth Foundation, a cooperative agreement holder with National Park Service, one thing that I see that is

		needed is access to fellowship opportunities with the various agencies within the DOI. A fellowship program would be the next logical step for grassroots conservation organizations to connect underserved young adults to conservation careers.
Maryland Environmental Trust	General Comments	I am honored to be included in this important conversation about land conservation and appreciate the opportunity to address the challenges with the 500+ leaders in attendance! Thank you for organizing this event! I look forward to learning about the results and follow up field events. I commend the Administration for bringing this issue to the forefront. We need strong leadership to ensure funding for local land trusts to help protect open space and working lands.
Center for Rural Strategies	General Comments	The kick off film says America is "80% urban." That is incorrect. The nation is 80% metropolitan. (60% suburban and 20% urban). You can't conflate those into 80% urban. Very misleading. It undermines those of us living outside the metropolitan areas, but just as importantly in a country where suburbs are resource rich, it undermines our cities and their needs.
Fuller Park Community	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Developing new stewards of conservation for future generations. 2) The country needs to be more inclusive of who is at the table when setting policy and agenda for our diverse communities.
Fuller Park Community	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) Give direct grants to those organizations that do the work of reconnecting youth and families to the outdoors.
NCBA	Comment Card Challenges Question	Keeping family farms and ranches viable. Sustainable agriculture is key to good conservation.
NCBA	Comment Card Strategies Question	Eliminate the Estate Tax for family farms and ranches so they can pass their places on to their kids. Ensure that BLM and Forest Grazing permits remain intact.
McCluskey Fellow at Yale	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Culture of disconnect where families have no history with the land; and the land in the cities does not speak for itself but rather for crime, pollutions and disinvestment. 2) Dollars.
McCluskey Fellow at Yale	Comment Card Strategies Question	More dollars... nontraditional such as tax credits and cross funding (like ISTEAs enhancement). More coordination and interdisciplinary outreach among agencies. Before you start new programs look at what is out there and think about how to join, leverage,

		deepen and fund partnerships.
HASORLO	Comment Card Strategies Question	Full and dedicated funding for LWCF with an equal share for the stateside program.
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency - Retired	Comment Card Challenges Question	Loss of habitat, Money, Science.
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency - Retired	Comment Card Strategies Question	The Great American Outdoors Initiative. The LCC effort to provide GIS and science and huge partnerships to leverage \$. You are on the right track. Find money.
The Lyme Timber Company	Comment Card Challenges Question	How do human communities grow and have less impact on our natural and cultural resources? Need to find the political calculus to expand LWCF, FLP, CELP, Sect. 6 of ESA, and NAWCA!
The Lyme Timber Company	Comment Card Strategies Question	More federal/state/local government agency partnerships with nonprofit land trust and the private investment community.
California Rangeland Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Funding for private land conservation. Estate taxes. Generational succession of landowners.
California Rangeland Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Collaboration, funding, allowing third parties to hold conservation easements from all funding sources (including LWCF). Incentives for landowners to be part of the solution.
TWS	Comment Card Challenges Question	Climate change. Lack of full appreciation of the value of wildlands.
TWS	Comment Card Strategies Question	Large landscape conservation that extends from wild core areas, through sustainably managed natural resource lands, to environmentally balanced private lands. To do: name some as pilots, work collaboratively across agencies and with communities.
N/A	Comment Card Challenges Question	We need to protect large intact ecosystems through the Wilderness Act -- perhaps a large wilderness omnibus bill -- that includes the Interior. We need to pass America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in Utah. This is a strategy for survival in the wake of habitat fragmentation, biodiversity -- with the threat of climate change.
N/A	Comment Card	Strategies: have wilderness protection and wildlife corridors -- be part of Great Outdoors Initiative. We

	Strategies Question	cannot be bullied by the radical right. The majority of Americans find their own sense of democracy tied to the land. We need to honor the vision: life of Stewart Udall as a great visionary and Secretary of Interior who honored conservation as a bipartisan concern.
Peconic Land Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Continued loss of working farms and natural lands. Loss of food production around urban areas.
Peconic Land Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Federal Estate Tax deferral for working farms and land of conservation value. Permanent Conservation easement tax incentives for farmers.
Maryland Environmental Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Sprawl development that impacts open space and working landscapes. Loss of wildlife habitat and overall disconnect with nature.
Maryland Environmental Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Fund and strengthen land trusts and local conservation organizations. Promote voluntary conservation easements so that landowners can then protect their land for future generations. "Help make conservation a shared value"
Harvard Forest, Harvard University	Comment Card Challenges Question	How do we do landscape-scale conservation that spans public, private, non-profit and tribal land to address measurable conservation objectives (biodiversity/ecosystem services/ certifiable commodity production/amenities)?
Harvard Forest, Harvard University	Comment Card Strategies Question	Exemplary landscape-scale initiatives such as the Blackfoot Challenge, the Malpai Borderlands, and the Wildlands and Woodlands vision for the forests of New England. Also promising are USDOI Landscape Conservation Collaboratives.
South East Tourism Policy Council	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Funding for public lands that can restore staff, construction, and maintenance budgets. 2) Look at policy changes that could make people feel more welcome! (work with private sector).
South East Tourism Policy Council	Comment Card Strategies Question	Omnibus bill for Public Lands and this process which is so overdue. I am very excited about the commitment of this Administration.
Granger Ranches	Comment Card Challenges Question	Climate change. Loss of biodiversity. Open space preservation. Water conservation.
Granger Ranches	Comment Card Strategies	Grass roots partnerships that are inclusive constantly reaching out and finding common ground to tackle issues big and small. These local efforts need to be

	Question	supported at the Federal Level. Trust, communication and flexibility are the keys. The fundamental question that needs to be answered is what are all parties willing to compromise. Energy policy is also important as conservation and energy are on a collision course.
NFWF	Comment Card Challenges Question	Funding, Focus, Vision. The problems are many but having one funding, focus and vision for the Administration across all agencies will ensure success.
NFWF	Comment Card Strategies Question	The Administration would be smart to combine programs to gain efficiency and to then take those funds and focus. Get away from random acts. Make the priorities across agencies.
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Elevating the economic importance of our green infrastructure to a value level equal or greater than the level of infrastructure. We are losing out and falling behind. 2) Given growing urbanization/suburbanization of country, need demographic changes. Not mainstream citizens who will be the majority population cohorts in US. 3) Failure to target all conservation organizations on landscapes that represent the best of all conservation leaders. Why continue to compartmentalize fed parks, with working lands. 4) The continued march of sprawl development.
Republicans for Environmental Protection	Comment Card Challenges Question	Climate change and land preservation.
Republicans for Environmental Protection	Comment Card Strategies Question	Bipartisan efforts that recognize conservation is conservative. Alternative energy/pricing carbon. Full funding for LWCF. Expanded federal agency law enforcement to protect public lands from abuse by OHVs and other illegal activities. New mining technologies and regulations that reduce mining's environmental impact. Particularly important due to demand for rare earth metals for alt. energy. We need to address maintenance costs concerns by increasing wilderness designations, and thus having less infrastructure to maintain. Develop a land acquisition vision that prioritizes areas in greatest need of additional public lands/open space-- with an eye towards keeping development in check.
Virginia Outdoors Federation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Protecting natural and cultural heritage resources for future generations and creating functional human settlement patterns to accommodate population growth.
Virginia Outdoors	Comment	1) Public lands acquisition and voluntary perpetual

Federation	Card Strategies Question	conservation. 2) European densities (>10 residential units per acre) with 75% open spaces (high density/high amenity human settlements) 5% of land can accommodate 90% of population.
N/A	Comment Card Challenges Question	Increasing population with its appurtenant uses. All of which affect the availability and quality of water, wildlife habitat, and land use.
N/A	Comment Card Strategies Question	Local empowerment through the providing of information, tools and regulatory flexibility to reach creative solutions. Focus on watershed level planning that cuts across agencies.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Comment Card Challenges Question	Maintaining a critical mass of Americans who are adequately connected to the outdoors in ways that foster a strong appreciation for conservation and active support.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) Develop and deploy programs and hubs for connecting communities with outdoor recreation and conservation. Bridge the gaps and rebuild community networks of support. Build Youth Conservation Centers. 2) Reach kids and parents, reach schools, engage private landowners. 3) Build programs that will influence large numbers of people.
Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	1) Continuing the protection, restoration and enhancement of private lands for conservation purposes. 2) Targeting public and private lands conservation dollars.
Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) Extensive use of the tax code (i.e. tax credits and estate tax) to further private lands conservation. 2) Extensive use of land exchanges to increase the amount of high environmental value lands and reduce the amount of low environment lands with high economic value.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Creating a conservation and preservation ethic in younger generations and with an increasingly diverse society that is not related to traditional American heritage.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Comment Card Strategies Question	From a cultural heritage perspective: service learning through public private partnerships. Public lands volunteer stewardship programs. Heritage tourism -- telling America's story through its historic cities, town, landscapes and trails. Look at Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit Program as a model of state-based youth engagement in heritage.
Earthwise Productions, Inc.	Comment Card Challenges	The public is uninformed about the existence of our public lands system and therefore are not enjoying benefits of recreation or stewardship. In 2008, African

	Question	American and Latinos said "lack of information" is the top reason they don't visit!!
Earthwise Productions, Inc.	Comment Card Strategies Question	Develop a public information campaign similar to "Smokey the Bear" or the Crying Indian, showing public lands and racial diversity of Americans using them, connecting to their cultural and historical significance.
American Farmland Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Private working lands protection in face of increasing competition for land and increasing demands to produce food, fiber, fuel and environmental benefits.
American Farmland Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	1. National Ag Lands Study. 2. Money for farm and ranch land protection. 3. Money for conservation practices and targeting. 4. Development of environmental markets.
American Farmland Trust	General Comments	Great. Wonderful.
National Hispanic Medical Association	Comment Card Challenges Question	Encouraging our racial/ethnic families/communities to enjoy the great outdoors - parks, beaches, etc. close to home in their urban areas.
National Hispanic Medical Association	Comment Card Strategies Question	We are interested in helping you to serve as spokespersons/champions in your initiatives as well as the other Administration agency initiatives to build healthier communities.
World Wildlife Fund/Outdoor Resources Review Group	General Comments	A terrific launch with great promise. Follow through is critical. Building a constituency among Americans, among Governors, in Congress, and so on is the only way this initiative can endure and achieve its ambitious goals. Thank you for doing this.
World Wildlife Fund/Outdoor Resources Review Group	Comment Card Challenges Question	Ensuring a reliable, predictable funding stream for land/water conservation year to year to encourage better planning, public-private partnerships, multi-year projects, and the like. Overcoming the turf battles/fragmentation in Congress, among federal agencies, among state and local jurisdictions that make coordinated planning, priority setting, investments and management needs impossible.
World Wildlife Fund/Outdoor Resources Review Group	Comment Card Strategies Question	Devote by law a percentage of revenues outside the annual appropriations process from energy development/transmission corridors on public lands, onshore and offshore, with equal shares to federal land agencies and to states with a portion set aside for a discretionary fund to spur innovation, partnerships, and special projects. Create a quasi-public conservation corporation (nonprofit) with dedicated

		funding and broad representation from the spectrum of stakeholders to work with federal land agencies, states, communities, and the private sector -federal nonprofit.
Conservation Alliance	Comment Card Strategies Question	Speak with authenticity to kids. You must be engaged at a grassroots level. Identify the best and scale! I would be happy to assist
Conservation Alliance	General Comments	You have my gratitude. As the board chair of two orgs representing more than 2000 companies worldwide that care and fund conservation and global climate change efforts please reach out and let me help!
Former A/S of DOI FWNPS-my children + grandchildren	Comment Card Challenges Question	Global weather change. Polluted water. Pesticides misuse. Endangered Species-Critical habitat.
Former A/S of DOI FWNPS-my children + grandchildren	Comment Card Strategies Question	Face them-all of them-vigorously with sound science-use more collective time together effectively day by day-precious time.
Everglades Foundation: my children + grandchildren	General Comments	Great concept. Super audience. Outstanding members of the Administration IF the nation can recover financially. The Obama team is the best ever and can change the face of America. I wish them and-collectively-God Speed.
Seminole Capital	Comment Card Challenges Question	Too many dead malls & outdated factories.
Seminole Capital	Comment Card Strategies Question	"TALK, PPIC, or FDIC" like fund to help finance purchase of bad commercial real estate for new urban parks.
Redfields to Greenfields	General Comments	More urban parks, less dead malls. <a href="http://www.redfieldstogreenfields.org">www.redfieldstogreenfields.org</a> . <a href="http://www.moreparks.org">www.moreparks.org</a>
New England Governors' Conference Commission on Land Conservation	Comment Card Challenges Question	The Eastern landscape is the most densely developed, subject to increasing fragmentation and conversion, and divided by political boundaries and jurisdictions.
New England Governors' Conference Commission on Land Conservation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Great regional collaborations act as state jurisdictions as well as the private and philanthropic areas in partnership with the Feds in a new model. Collaborative partnerships up the great, historic rivers with the urban populations, along recognized regional pathways.
New England Governors' Conference Commission on	General Comments	Your leadership on these matters is critical. Thank you, I urge you to continue, to be courageous and risk

Land Conservation		failure, to embrace landscape-scale initiatives of the Great Regional level, and to know there is a great, natural thirst for re-birth of the values you are promoting-landscape scale, innovative collaborations. Thank you very much.
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Comment Card Challenges Question	Habitat degradation, fragmentation & loss. Need for additional dedicated funding for state Fish & Wildlife agencies to meet growing issues & mandates. Disconnection of the American public from the "great outdoors."
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Comment Card Strategies Question	State Wildlife Action plans, national fish habitat action plan, among others, offer threat analysis and strategies to deal with habitat loss. Get the voluntary public access program up and running.
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	General Comments	This was a very encouraging and inspiring day. All of the panelists did a great job--nice mix of thoughtful comments and personal stories from each one
Choose Outdoors	Comment Card Challenges Question	Pine Beetle infestation in the west. Lack of Youth participation in Outdoor activities. Conservation.
Choose Outdoors	Comment Card Strategies Question	High level call to action (the president) bringing together nonprofits/private sector for the "Greatest Good" . Same as above
Choose Outdoors	General Comments	Thank you for putting on this historic conference. The work has just begun, but there is no shortage of people who are willing to help. God Bless America
American Trails	Comment Card Challenges Question	Failure of a large portion of the electorate and many corporate leaders and politicians to understand the vital connection between health, landscapes and their own well-being and the Nation's well-being.
American Trails	Comment Card Strategies Question	Re-Create the CCC and vastly broaden youth, unemployed and senior engagement in Outdoor projects, both wilderness and urban. Expand the urban greenway on trail program with "Grants for Greenways" (over and above and separate from Tea program). Fed. incentives to engage all school students in eco-education + outdoor projects. *Streamline grants program. Tea grants way too bureaucratic!!
American Trails	General Comments	Enjoyed the conference! What is follow-up mechanism to keep this assembly engaged in implementing the steps President Obama outlined? Please distribute the roster of attendees with contact info. Assemble group every two years to mark progress, and assign tasks to achieve goals.
Land Trust Alliance	Comment	Young People are detached from nature. Lack of

	Card Challenges Question	incentives for private landowners.
Land Trust Alliance	Comment Card Strategies Question	Make the federal tax incentives for conservation easements a permanent part of the tax code. Expand funding for conservation especially on private land. Move NRCS Funding to permanent easements.
Northwest Connections	Comment Card Challenges Question	Lack of economic incentives for land protection. Need for green jobs programs.
Northwest Connections	Comment Card Strategies Question	Large initiative to create work around forest, range, marine restoration & management.
National Shooting Sports Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Excise Tax Receipts from Hunting license sales and the sales of firearms and ammunition make up the lion's share of conservation dollars which go to the states. These funds are used to benefit all species, game & non-game alike. Regardless of one's views about hunting & shooting sports, they need to be encouraged and expanded, both as the source of these funds and, equally importantly, as a wholesome & traditional way for families & friends to responsibly & safely enjoy the great outdoors.
National Shooting Sports Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	We must remove barriers to access public lands for these recreational purposes to encourage youth to get outside & go hunting under the guidance of responsible adult mentors, and to ease barriers of entry to hunting & shooting sports for our youth. The NSSF's "Families afield" is one such program.
Eastern Mountain Sports	Comment Card Challenges Question	The lack of close to home outdoor recreation venues available to youth, especially in and/or close to urban areas.
Eastern Mountain Sports	Comment Card Strategies Question	Pass 5.2747 into Law which would provide permanent funding at \$900 million.
Natural Lands Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	Until now, I have never heard any discussion around a national conservation vision and without one, I believe that people will struggle to figure out where they can best play in/contribute/engage.
Natural Lands Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Use this initiative to create a national crusade for conservation that provides a clear and compelling vision, that uses Bill Crown's language around the "conservation of shared values" that elevates

		conservation around the concept of commonality and community and that provides both tax incentives to individuals and financial incentives to communities to actively implement the conservation agenda.
Piedmont Environmental council	Comment Card Challenges Question	Failure to make better land use decisions, which has created a whole host of environmental, economic, and social dysfunctions. Failure to invest in nature and build infrastructure in existing communities.
Piedmont Environmental council	Comment Card Strategies Question	Land conservation incentives for private lands. Reinvestment in urban infrastructure, particularly transit and stormwater. Major investment in metropolitan energy efficiency.
Gulf of Mexico Foundation	Comment Card Challenges Question	Sustaining habitat integrity & associated ecological services. Convincing general public & private landowners that habitat integrity is essential.
Gulf of Mexico Foundation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Comprehensive long-term land use planning. Education outreach; increased education of teachers. Challenge: Property rights of private land ownership.
Outdoor Industry Association	Comment Card Challenges Question	Challenge: make the American people full partners in conservation, stewardship & enjoyment of their public & private resources. Conservation - with and for the American people.
Outdoor Industry Association	Comment Card Strategies Question	Public/private partnerships to define & catalog & promote the multiple benefits of protected place, open spaces, & human connections to nature & the outdoors. OIA is willing to work with DOI/DOA to catalog & promote America's recreation economy.
Sierra Club	Comment Card Challenges Question	A disconnect between Americans, especially children and communities of color, with the great outdoors. People need a sense of place/ownership to appreciate wilderness + nature to serve as future stewards. Climate change- fragmentation.
Sierra Club	Comment Card Strategies Question	Urban Parks, greenways, incentive programs at state, local, federal level to connect children & families w/the great outdoors. Address park deserts. Establish SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS. Funding for programs that connect kids w/outdoors and greening initiatives that green urban areas.
NRPA	Comment Card Challenges Question	Funding for local governments and acquisition of park and green space before they become brown spaces. How to have a bipartisan approach.
NRPA	Comment Card Strategies	Fund permanently Land and Water Conservation Fund. Be bipartisan- recruit Teddy Roosevelt Republicans. Bring in Mayors. Promote clean water.

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Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)	Comment Card Challenges Question	Reconnecting youth to America's outdoors and their hunting heritage. Providing increased access to existing public lands. Reform ESA. In its lifetime it has evolved into a tool to block too many things; i.e. states rights to manage wolves. Increased funding for LWCF.
City of Allentown	Comment Card Challenges Question	Funding, sprawl. Habitat loss. Pollution. Nature deficit disorder(s). Water quality. Connectivity. Highly stimulating entertainment (computers, media, etc.)
City of Allentown	Comment Card Strategies Question	Use creative marketing and advertising strategies nationwide to attract attention to the many challenges we face. Think, "Got Milk?" campaign.
RBFF	Comment Card Challenges Question	Balancing the need to make access to our resources easier with preserving and protecting these resources. Educating parents and individuals on the benefits of outdoor activities. Parents just don't know how to inspire their kids to take advantage of these resources. I can't stress strongly enough the need to provide local outdoor opportunities within 30 minutes of every children's life and the need to reeducate parents on the benefits and "how to" of outdoor pursuits, camping, fishing, hiking, biking, etc. There is a lost generation of parents who have not been exposed to the outdoors; they cannot be expected to teach their children what they themselves do not know. They need the tools + resources. Parents will always be the mentors for outdoor activities. We can't replace them.
RBFF	Comment Card Strategies Question	We have a lot of good programs but we need a coordinated focus by all agencies on youth and educating their parents on outdoor activities "how to" "where to."
Missouri State Parks	Comment Card Challenges Question	We need to get kids off the couch and get them outdoors. We need to protect public lands from external threats (including invasive species).
Missouri State Parks	Comment Card Strategies Question	Innovative outreach-take nature & activities to kids & encourage them to get outdoors after introducing them to the outdoors. In Missouri, our WOW- Wonders Of Wildlife program has been very successful at getting families together outdoors. Our State Park Youth Corps will introduce a new generation to the outdoors this year.
Two Countries, One Forest	Comment Card Challenges	The forest of the Northern Appalachians, stretching from New York to Nova Scotia is one of the largest, relatively unfragmented, temperate forests in the

	Question	world. (80 million acres) protecting and connecting this Eastern wilderness should be a DOI priority.
Two Countries, One Forest	Comment Card Strategies Question	Engage Canadian federal agencies and decision makers on joint efforts to enhance connectivity and landscape conservation in the region. Provide incentives to states to work across borders, states and provinces. Develop policy guidelines on connectivity for states and federal agencies and incentives. Embed connectivity values in the Department of Transportation.
Boy Scouts of America	Comment Card Challenges Question	Our ability to mobilize America's greatest asset-its people-who have invested interest enough the organization missions to support these challenges (Strategic, Plan/Execution).
Boy Scouts of America	Comment Card Strategies Question	Crte a list of conservation projects and build a website with national, regional and local organizations to adopt a project with follow up as in outcome. Make it a true collaboration with federal, state, and city government.
YMCA of the USA	Comment Card Challenges Question	Informing and educating a citizenry that values and supports conservation efforts and that experiences our great outdoors.
YMCA of the USA	Comment Card Strategies Question	Increasing minimum impact access opportunities for children and families.
Back Country Horsemen of America	Comment Card Challenges Question	The impact of recreation on the land and economic impact to local communities.
Back Country Horsemen of America	Comment Card Strategies Question	Working partnerships the land manager and user group education. Youth involvement.
Wildlife Forever	Comment Card Challenges Question	Invasive Species are one of America's greatest threats on conserving our great outdoors.
Wildlife Forever	Comment Card Strategies Question	Education is a proven method to slow the invasion. President Obama should consider an Executive Order to stop the spread on all Federal Lands.
NRPA/McHenry County Conservation District	Comment Card Challenges Question	Great Lakes-Water Preservation. Open Space preservation-climate control adaptation. Leap frog development.
NRPA/McHenry County Conservation District	Comment Card	GIV-Preserving greenways/blueways-Conservation design planning.

	Strategies Question	
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Comment Card Challenges Question	While opening remarks made by Secretary Salazar and The President referenced cultural & historic sites, there was very little mention of these resources during panel presentations. The land includes human stories evidenced by archeological sites, historic farms & ranches.
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Comment Card Strategies Question	The best way to understand our shared American Experience and identity happens outside of the classroom and in the place. The teaching of American history has taken a back seat to the teaching of math + science. They are all important. America's historic places need more funding to address deterred maintenance, better interpretation, and more engagement w/youth. The federal government should play a leadership role in promoting heritage tourism, encouraging more families to visit important places in American history. We need to develop a youth corps to help address the 2 billion in deterred maintenance needed for historic structures in national parks. Provide real experience doing meaningful work in a real place (I wrote this before Secretary Salazar asked his last question and I agree with Bill Cronan's response- human history and natural history are not disconnected and shouldn't be treated as if they are).
National Wildlife Refuge Association	Comment Card Challenges Question	Two-fold: 1) Must reach out to diverse constituencies when they are young to appreciate nature, wildlife, food sources (farms, ranches) b/c in 50 yrs our nation will look completely different-including our congress. 2) must have a cohesive national conservation strategy that lays a clear plan on what lands + waters should be protected in priority order-should focus on climate change, ecosystem services + ability to deliver to underserved communities.
National Wildlife Refuge Association	Comment Card Strategies Question	1) DOI + USDA should partner with D of Education and mandate every American child has environmental education as a core class from K-12. These classes should begin by giving children a "wow" moment with wildlife- seeing manatees or fox kits or raptors, or fishing. As children grow, they learn about clean air, clean water + values conserved lands have on ecosystem services and in high school learn about the economic benefits + drivers in communities of conserved lands. 2) DOI should partner w/other federal departments (DoAg, DoEnergy, DoDefense, DoCommerce, etc...), states and all NGO's to create the "United States Conservation Plan" This would

		incorporate state wildlife action plans, National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans, National Parks, BLM, Forests, TNC Ecoregional plans, Conservation easements, etc...It would incorporate everything and create a map of currently protected lands and waters and show the priority opportunities (regardless of current ownership + its political implications) to provide a roadmap of where we as a nation should go. We don't have to protect everything but people should understand the true value of lands + waters in relation to the following: ecosystem services (cleaning the air + water+ providing storm buffers), wildlife corridors, urban refuges and parks (they are different) places to recreate, show where counties + cities should grow and develop and where they should not. People like plans and they like maps. We need to know where we need to go; only then can we decide if we actually want to go there.
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)	Comment Card Challenges Question	Not everyone is educated about these issues. People in cities get busier and busier with little opportunity to connect with the outdoors.
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)	Comment Card Strategies Question	Programming educating communities & awareness of issues. Incentive to support all kinds of projects.
Grand Canyon Trust	Comment Card Challenges Question	How to protect the largest intact watersheds, acres of wildlife habitat, recreation sites, carbon sites, and other places that keep the ecosystem functioning in the face of climate change and population growth.
Grand Canyon Trust	Comment Card Strategies Question	Wilderness bills and W&S River Bills. New monuments and NLCS units. Redraw NPS boundaries to reflect geography. Fully fund LWCF.
Geological Society of America	Comment Card Challenges Question	Improving the scientific basis for environmental decision-making is one the most critical challenges facing our nation today.
Geological Society of America	Comment Card Strategies Question	The United States needs to increase the scientific capacity of the Nation's natural science agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA. Science and science education should be key components of policies and strategies regarding the environment public lands, and conservation, including the "21st Century Strategy for America's Great Outdoors."
NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation	Comment Card	Getting children outdoors into nature, interacting with plants, animals and the natural elements-soil, water,

	Challenges Question	etc.
NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation	Comment Card Strategies Question	Need to fully fund and program urban national parks such as Gateway NRA and help fund city, county, and state efforts to get kids outdoors, learning and exercising, with federal grants for facilities and programs.
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBE)	Comment Card Challenges Question	Engaging our underserved, minority populations in environmental stewardship.
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBE)	Comment Card Strategies Question	Recognizing, developing, and mentoring community leaders as role models, school based environmental education, community based projects that are fun.
Forestland Group	Comment Card Challenges Question	Habitat loss & the need for more \$ for habitat conservation. Misaligned federal incentives that fuel, rather than increase habitat loss.
Forestland Group	Comment Card Strategies Question	New funding-forest legacy & NAWCA have been outstanding. They should be expanded and used as models. LWCF should be fully funded using additional fees on oil & gas development. These two programs do more to leverage funded dollars than any other.