



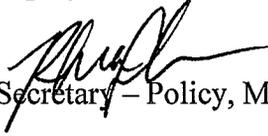
# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 6 2013

## Memorandum

To: All DOI Employees

From: Rhea Suh   
Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: Federal Bike to Work Challenge—May 2013

May is National Bike Month and the Department of the Interior (DOI) is joining communities and organizations across the nation to support bicycling as a way to commute to and from work. Bicycling benefits our health, reduces traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with automobile use. Many DOI employees already bicycle to work and May is the month to show your support and use of bikes.

For over 10 years, the staff have participated locally in popular bicycle commute challenges. These challenges provide a friendly competition to expand bicycling as a method of commuting, and to document support for biking and the need for secure bicycle facilities at offices. Now there is a nationwide bike commute challenge for federal workers, and DOI staff is encouraged to join in the challenge.

The Department has implemented several changes to encourage employees to use this commuting method. New complimentary showers and lockers were installed in the basement of the Main Interior Building, new bike racks have been added to the Main and South Interior Buildings, employees can now park bikes without registering them and we are working on a new bicycle subsidy program to further encourage employees to get out of their cars and on to bikes.

The Federal Bike to Work Challenge, as a national challenge, started in the Pacific Northwest and has grown to over 500 riders representing 20 agencies. In 2012, federal agencies logged over 5,200 bicycle trips and 65,000 miles in the Challenge, saving the equivalent of over 3,000 gallons of gasoline. The White House Council on Environmental Quality selected the Challenge as a GreenGov Spotlight Community because it is an example of Federal Government collaboration to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (<http://epa.gov/fgc/spotlight/bike.html>). For the May 2013 Challenge, let's show DOI's commitment to sustainable commuting practices.

Participation is easy. Employees can log their bicycle commutes on a website. The website tabulates the number of commutes by bicycle, percent of possible commutes, and total miles bicycled for each participant, team of participants, bureau, DOI and the Federal Government. I invite you to visit the greening website at <http://www.doi.gov/greening/transportation/index.cfm> where you will find more information on the Federal Bike to Work Challenge and how to participate in the Challenge.

Thank you for your continued efforts to conserve precious resources, minimize our carbon footprint, and encourage an active lifestyle.