THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

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Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries
Heads of Bureau and Office

From: Secretary Ken Salazar

Subject: Implementation of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Background

On April 16, 2010, the President introduced America's Great Outdoors (AGO), an initiative aimed at reigniting the Country's historic commitment to conserving and enjoying the magnificent natural heritage that has shaped our Nation and citizens. President Obama directed four Federal Government agencies to spearhead the initiative. On February 16, 2011, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and I delivered our report on AGO in order to begin implementation of a 21st century conservation agenda.

Inspired by the vision of the American people for a sustainable natural heritage that meets their needs, AGO has identified ten major areas for action, encompassing recommendations for administrative changes, program improvements and expansion, science applications, funding and financial incentives, and best practices. The report includes specific goals to:

1. Provide Quality Jobs, Career Pathways, and Service Opportunities
2. Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities
3. Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors
4. Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors
5. Strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund
6. Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces
7. Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests Through Partnerships and Incentives
8. Conserve and Restore Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands and Waters
9. Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters
10. Make the Federal Government a More Effective Conservation Partner

In order to achieve these goals, the report prescribes a number of specific "action items," the implementation of which is the subject and purpose of this memorandum.

Implementing the Report to the President on America's Great Outdoors.

Within 60 days of this memorandum, Bureau Directors, in coordination with Assistant Secretaries, will:

(a) Review the report and identify which "action items" fall within the bureau's program responsibilities;
(b) Appoint a senior bureau official to determine appropriate next steps for implementing relevant action items; and
(c) Provide a preliminary report to the Secretary on how the bureau intends to implement the relevant action items.

Additionally, the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service shall actively support the establishment and implementation of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR) called for in the AGO Report.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management and the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, is responsible for ensuring the implementation of all aspects of this memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated as appropriate. This memorandum does not alter or affect any existing duty or authority of the individual bureaus.