



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Designation of the White River National Blueway

Whereas: President Obama announced an America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative to achieve lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power the Nation's economy, shape its culture, and strengthen its outdoor traditions.

Whereas: The White River flows for more than 700 miles from its headwaters in the Ozark Mountains to its mouth at the Mississippi River through its 17.8-million acre watershed and is renowned for its scenic beauty; diversity of land forms and habitats; rare and unique fish and wildlife; rich cultural and natural heritage; nature-based recreational opportunities within a large working landscape; and valuable natural resources of water, timber, minerals, and croplands.

Whereas: The White River and its watershed include National Forests, National Historic Sites, National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, National Fish Habitat Partnerships, a National River, a National Scenic Riverway, a Scenic River, National Scenic Byways, USACE Recreation Areas, National Recreation Trails, National Natural Landmarks, units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, important bird areas, and more than 3.1 million acres of public and private lands and waters conserved for the benefit of wildlife and people.

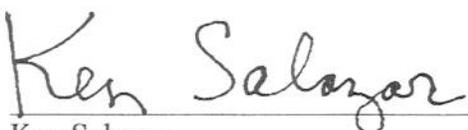
Whereas: The efforts of over 40 partner organizations have benefitted the White River watershed residents and visitors through conservation and restoration of the river and its watershed; protection of over three million acres of habitat in the watershed; expanded environmental education and interpretive efforts; increased economic opportunities; and enhanced recreational access to the river, its tributaries, and public land in the watershed.

Whereas: The Department of the Interior and the States of Arkansas and Missouri through a collaborative process, have demonstrated a sustained commitment to conservation, recreation, education, and sustainable economies in the White River Watershed.

Whereas: The White River meets the criteria required for designation and the designation has been processed in accordance with Secretarial Order 3321.

Therefore: It is with great pleasure that I hereby designate the White River and its Watershed as a National Blueway.

Signed this 8th day of January, 2013



Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior