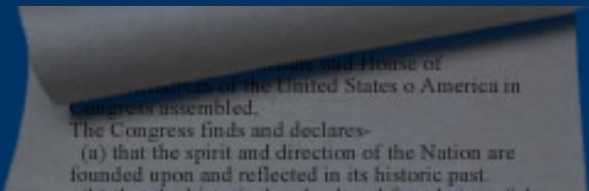


News!

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GREAT OUTDOORS AMERICA PROPOSAL COMING SOON

The Obama administration is expected to propose a comprehensive conservation program that is, in part, a follow-on to the Bush administration's Park Service Centennial Initiative. Details of the America's Great Outdoors initiative are being kept close to the chest, but it is expected to include the Forest Service and several Interior Department agencies as well as NPS.

Conservation and environmental groups are closely watching to see if it addresses an Obama administration promise to provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, if it keeps an Obama promise to protect Treasured Landscapes around the country, and if it recommends the designation of new national monuments on Bureau of Land Management land.

Within the administration the lead architects of the proposal are assistant secretary of Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Tom Strickland, and under secretary of Agriculture, Harris Sherman. Both are from Colorado originally and are close to Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. Salazar, Strickland and Sherman all had a hand in developing the State of Colorado program called Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), established

by constitutional amendment that uses a portion of state lottery money for conservation purposes. Salazar has often referenced GOCO as a model for a conservation program to revive the Land and Water Conservation Fund and/or to protect the nation's Treasured Landscapes. He has also suggested using new offshore oil and gas royalties to pay for a beefed up LWCF but has not mentioned the HPF.

Once the Obama proposal is laid out administration officials are expected to cross the country to hold listening sessions. NCSHPO and our preservation partners will be encouraging preservationists to attend these listening sessions and speak-up for the inclusion of historic and cultural preservation as part of the final proposal.

While a specific rollout date has not been set, one Interior Department official expects it to come in April, possibly during National Park Week scheduled for April 17 to 25.



THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARE IN RECESS UNTIL APRIL 12TH



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- July 28-30, 2010 – NCSHPO Summer Board Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI
- July 29-August 1, 2010 - National Commission Forum, Grand Rapids, MI
- October 27-30, 2010—NTHP Preservation Conference, Austin, TX
- November 10-13, 2010 – NCSHPO Winter Board Meeting, San Diego, CA