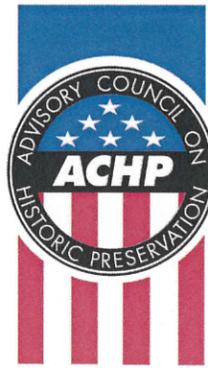


Milford Wayne Donaldson  
Chairman

Susan S. Barnes  
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler  
Executive Director



*Preserving America's Heritage*

September 21, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, I wish to congratulate you on the development of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative on behalf of President Obama, and your progress in response to the Presidential Memorandum issued on April 16, 2010. The commitment of the Administration to developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century conservation and outdoor recreation agenda is inspiring, as has been the outreach to stakeholders, youth, and the general public. The resulting outpouring of public interest and support nationwide through the listening sessions, input to the AGO Web site, and written comments has been impressive, and the content constructive and thought-provoking.

Recognizing that you are charged with submitting a report to the President by November 15, 2010, with recommendations for carrying out the goals of the Initiative, the ACHP membership discussed the subject at its quarterly business meeting on September 16, 2010. The ACHP adopted a motion asking me to convey the importance of fully integrating historic preservation and cultural heritage into the AGO Initiative as it is implemented in FY 2011 and beyond.

The federal programs and public-private partnerships established to carry out the National Historic Preservation Act offer many building blocks that could support the goals of America's Great Outdoors. As policy recommendations are presented to the President and action plans are developed to implement such proposals, the ACHP offers its active and continuing involvement to the Administration to ensure better integration of the following to meet AGO goals:

- Existing stewardship programs for significant historic and cultural resources that form an integral part of many special places on private as well as public and trust lands;
- Historic preservation, heritage education, and heritage tourism assistance like Save America's Treasures, Preserve America, and the National Main Street program that help reconnect people with their heritage as well as the outdoors;
- Partnership programs that support community-led conservation and involvement, and encourage healthy outdoor activity, such as local walking tours, many of the biking, boating, and other active programs in National Heritage Areas, and discovery hikes along National Scenic and Historic Trails;

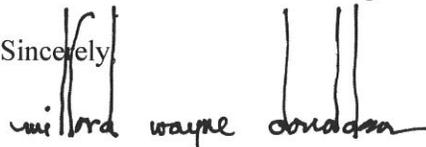
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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- Recognition programs aimed at education and engagement like the Preserve America Presidential Awards that could readily be adapted to AGO goals;
- Approaches for engaging youth in hands-on preservation programs, such as service-learning programs with local schools and federal agencies and their partnership groups, that relate to authentic experience and volunteer activities in places of natural and cultural heritage;
- Programs that engage volunteers in numerous cultural stewardship activities, reach out to diverse audiences, and celebrate ethnic and cultural diversity in ways that support a broader appreciation for both the outdoors and a preservation ethic;
- Integration of community and regional sustainability initiatives, “greening” historic buildings, preserving and improving established transportation infrastructure, reinvigoration of deteriorating urban areas; and
- Balanced support for complementary natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and cultural preservation through full funding of both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund.

All landscapes have a historical and a cultural context, and our appreciation for the outdoors is rooted in both the natural environment and the history, stories, and traditions associated with special places. Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives have always been quite clear about this interrelationship. If we wish to reinforce the connection between people and the outdoors, it makes sense to make the most of this potential.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to development of the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, and we look forward to working with you as part of this Administration’s team moving forward.

Sincerely,  


Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA  
 Chairman

Cc: Secretary of Agriculture  
 Administrator of EPA  
 Chairman of CEQ  
 Acting Director of OMB