



Professionals for Managed Recreation

June 1, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Mail Stop 7229
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing to you as retired land managers from both the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and as members of Professionals for Managed Recreation (PMR). PMR advocates sustainable management of public lands. We are following up on our letter to you dated March 17, 2010 regarding the possible designation of 17 monument areas in 9 western states that appears to be part of the broader Treasured Landscape Initiative. In our letter we noted that we were encouraged that in testimony before the Congress, you assured members that it is your intent to foster an open process whereby all views will be considered before finalizing any recommendation you might send to the President for his consideration. It is our belief that open collaborative processes are the best way to move forward on land designations.

We are concerned that some environmental organizations may have had the opportunity to provide input on the Treasured Landscape Initiative, while other stakeholders feel shut out of the process. As former land managers, we understand that it is no easy task to have each impacted interest group satisfied with a process or outcome; however, this should be the goal at the outset. It is also our experience that once a stakeholder or group of stakeholders believes that any other interest is being favored it becomes much more difficult to achieve consensus or even to move forward with the management of public lands. We fear this is the case with the Treasured Landscape Initiative.

While you have indicated that the development of the leaked document was part of a “brainstorming session,” it is apparent that many affected constituencies believe the development of the document was far more than that. As a result, we encourage you to release the full Treasured Landscape Initiative document and any other relevant documents appropriate for release. We are aware that you have already turned over nearly 400 pages, but this seems to have only raised more questions. At present, some stakeholders not only feel that they were not given an opportunity to weigh in, but that there is a “secret” document at DOI that was developed without their input. Keeping the document from public scrutiny will only fuel speculation of impropriety and exclusion, even if it is not warranted.

Again, as former managers we understand that actions or deliberations taken out of context can lead to emotional responses; however, at this point we believe that releasing the full Treasured Landscape Initiative Document is the only way to begin to “restart” the important process of managing our treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Tom Crimmins
On Behalf of All PMR Members