



May 24, 2010

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION ON THE PRESIDENT'S AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

On April 16, at the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors, President Obama signed a memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation agenda worthy of the 21st century and to reconnect Americans with our great outdoors. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level.

Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserving our lands and waters and reconnecting Americans to the outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local governments, and recreation and conservation groups. This will be an opportunity for you to tell us about what you are doing to address the challenges and opportunities surrounding modern-day land and water conservation and ways that you are reconnecting Americans to the outdoors.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 2nd, 9-11 a.m.

WHERE: The University of Montana
University Center
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, Montana

Note: Directions and Visitor Parking Information is attached.

WHO WILL BE LISTENING: Washington, D.C. representatives will be there to hear your thoughts and to participate in a conversation with you about America's Great Outdoors. These representatives will include

- Secretary Vilsack's staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- Secretary Salazar's staff at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI); and/or
- Staff from the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Local leaders from USDA and DOI will also be there to listen to your ideas.

This event is open to the public. Please let us know if you will attend so that we can plan accordingly. You can do that by sending an email with your name, address, and telephone

number to cdavey@fs.fed.us by 10:00 pm MT on Thursday, May 27, 2010. We will contact you if we reach capacity.

In the event you are unable to participate in person, please submit your comments and stories via the America's Great Outdoors website at <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>.

If you have questions, please call Cynthia Manning at 406-329-3240. We hope you will participate and look forward to hearing from you.