

Statement on Land and Water Conservation Fund Acquisitions

February 2, 1998

Last spring, in concluding an historic balanced budget agreement with the Congress, one of my highest priorities was ensuring the funds needed to continue our efforts to protect America's natural treasures. With those funds now appropriated, I am pleased that today Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman are transmitting to Congress a list of sites that are particularly precious to Americans and deserving of our stewardship.

Each of the 100 sites on this list represents an important piece of America's natural and historic legacy. With these acquisitions, we will put the finishing touches on the renowned Appalachian Trail and secure critical winter range for Yellowstone's bison and elk. We will rebuild salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest and protect an ancient caldera in New Mexico that is home to one of the country's largest elk herds. We will preserve Civil War battlefields where Americans fought and died. We will safeguard vital swaths of this great land literally from coast to coast.

I am extremely proud of our success in preserving Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe, and the red rock canyons of Utah. The budget I submit today to Congress—the first balanced budget in a generation—will allow us to save even more of America's natural and historic treasures. I am confident that with the bipartisan support of Congress, we can continue not only to protect but to restore nature's magnificent gifts. Together, we can assure that future generations know and enjoy this land in all its true splendor.

Executive Order 13072—White House Millennium Council

February 2, 1998

By the authority vested as me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to announce the formation of a Council to recognize national and local projects that commemorate the millennium, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The White House, the Department of Education, and all executive branch agencies shall lead the country in a national and educational celebration of our culture, democracy, and citizenry. The Federal Government has a special responsibility to inspire the American people to reflect upon and commemorate the achievements of this country's past and to celebrate the possibilities of the future. To carry forward this country's great democratic tradition and enrich the lives of our children and the children of the 21st century, the Federal Government shall encourage Americans to make plans to mark the new millennium in communities across America. By leading this country in a grand educational celebration of the past and future, the Federal Government has an unprecedented opportunity to energize and unite the Nation with a renewed sense of optimism in the accomplishments and promise of America.

Sec. 2. White House Millennium Council.

(a) To enable the White House, the Department of Education, and executive branch agencies to provide national leadership in this historic time, I hereby announce the formation of the White House Millennium Council.

(b) The White House Millennium Council shall be composed of a Director, Deputy Director, administrative staff, and a representative from each of the following:

- (1) Department of State;
- (2) Department of the Treasury;
- (3) Department of Defense;
- (4) Department of Justice;
- (5) Department of the Interior;
- (6) Department of Agriculture;
- (7) Department of Commerce;
- (8) Department of Labor;
- (9) Department of Health and Human Services;
- (10) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (11) Department of Transportation;
- (12) Department of Energy;
- (13) Department of Education;
- (14) Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (15) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (16) Office of Management and Budget;
- (17) Small Business Administration;

- (18) United States Information Agency; and
- (19) General Services Administration.

At the Director's discretion, the Director may request other agencies to be represented on the Council.

(c) The mission of the Council is to lead the country in a celebration of the new millennium by initiating and recognizing national and local projects that contribute in educational, creative, and productive ways to America's commemoration of this historic time. To these ends, the Council shall:

- (1) Mark the 200th anniversary of the occupancy of the White House by American Presidents, the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal capital city in Washington, D.C., and the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of the Congress in the Capitol, celebrating these events in the year 2000 as milestones in our democratic system of government;
- (2) Plan events to recognize the history and past accomplishments of America that reflect upon the present forces shaping society and that encourage thoughtful planning for the future;
- (3) Produce informational and resource materials to educate the American people concerning our Nation's past and to inspire thought concerning the future;
- (4) Encourage communities and citizens to initiate and to participate in local projects that inspire Americans to remember their past achievements, understand the present challenges to society, and make concrete contributions to the next generations of their families, communities, and country;
- (5) Work with Federal agencies, the Congress, elected officials, and all citizens to plan activities and programs that will unite the American people in contemplation and celebration of the next century and the new millennium;
- (6) Make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the provision of assistance from funds made available for Save America's Treasures in the Historic Preservation Fund to public and private entities that are protecting America's threatened cultural treasures. These treasures include significant documents, works of art, maps, journals, and historic structures that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States;
- (7) Encourage Federal agencies to develop programs to commemorate and celebrate the new millennium in ways consistent with their individual agency missions and that advance a more unified America in the 21st century;
- (8) Encourage Federal agencies, through local branches and offices, to reach out into communities and inspire citizens to participate in grassroots activities and to give permanent gifts to the future;
- (9) Work in partnership with private-sector and nonprofit entities that initiate productive and worthwhile national and community-based efforts to commemorate the new millennium and encourage citizen participation, volunteerism, and philanthropy;
- (10) Highlight public and private millennium initiatives that promote the goals of the Council; and
- (11) Cooperate with other nations that are planning millennium events to expand the opportunities for international communication and understanding.

Sec. 3. Administration. To the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall provide such information and assistance as may be necessary for the Council to carry out its functions.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 2, 1998.

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NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 3, and

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Remarks at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico

February 3, 1998

Thank you so much for that warm welcome. Thank you, Secretary Peña, for being a truly outstanding Energy Secretary. Thank you, Senator Bingaman for your long friendship and your leadership. Thank you, Congressman Redmond. I really admire a guy who had enough guts to tell that joke. [Laughter] I wouldn't do it. [Laughter] But you know, the nice thing about that story is everybody knows that 13 doesn't last forever. [Laughter] Unfortunately, 18 comes, and they're gone, and you wish even they were 13 again, you would take.

Thank you, Dr. Browne, for a wonderful, but too brief, review of the operations here at Los Alamos. And we're delighted to be joined today by the directors of the Sandia and Lawrence Livermore Labs, Dr. Paul Robinson and Dr. Bruce Tarter. I thank Attorney General Udall for being here, the chair of the Corporation Commissioners, Jerome Block, Commissioner Serna, the tribal leaders, and others who have joined us. Thank you all.

I am delighted to be back in New Mexico. We landed Air Force One this morning, and then I got on my helicopter to fly up here, and I told them to fly low so I could see it all. And it was a wonderful, exhilarating experience, as it always is when I come here.

I want you to know that among other things in our budget, there is an item of particular importance, I know, to Senator Bingaman, and I am sure is supported by all members of the New Mexico congressional delegation. Congressman Redmond and I talked about it a little today, but Jeff Bingaman told me a good while ago, in no uncertain terms, that we had to move forward to protect the magnificent Valle Grande, 100,000 unspoiled acres near the Santa Fe forest. And in my budget, there is \$40 million to support this project to secure this land.

There is also other money to preserve national monuments, national parks, and other invaluable cultural resources. This is a very unique and wonderful place. I know all of you understand that. And we want to be good partners in preserving the heritage that all of you cherish and are fortunate enough to live with. So when all the children here in this audience have their own grandchildren, it will all still be there for them.

Los Alamos in so many ways is the place that forever changed the 20th century. I came here to talk about what we must do to start a chain reaction of opportunity for all our people in the 21st century. This week we took the most important step toward meeting that challenge when I submitted to Congress the first balanced budget since 1969. Think of how long it has been: You heard the Beatles, "Hey Jude"; 1969 was also the year that Neil Armstrong first stepped on the Moon. Now the balanced budget of 1999 will pave the way for America's next great leap forward over the next 30 years.

It will help keep interest rates down. It will free up capital to spur private investment in new business, in new homes, in new education, in research and development. And because we are doing this the right way, there will be funds necessary to make the public investments we need to make our Nation stronger. In this budget we demonstrate that we can balance the budget and still save Social Security for the 21st century by saving the projected budget surplus from either tax cuts or new spending, both of which would be more popular in the short run. But we shouldn't spend that surplus until we know for sure we have secured Social Security for the 21st century, so that the baby boomers don't bankrupt their children when they retire. It is a moral obligation that should override any short term consideration that any of us have, and I hope all of you will support that.

We can balance the budget and still continue to invest in education. We can hire 100,000 teachers for our elementary schools to lower class size to 18 in the first through third grades, and help to repair or build 5,000 new schools. We can open the doors of college literally to every American with the laws that are on the books now by continuing to