

engage with these partners to help develop a conservation agenda worthy of the 21st Century. We must look to the private sector and nonprofit organizations, as well as towns, cities, and States, and the people who live and work in them, to identify the places that mean the most to Americans, and leverage the support of the Federal Government to help these community-driven efforts to succeed. Through these partnerships, we will work to connect these outdoor spaces to each other, and to reconnect Americans to them.

For these reasons, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. Establishment.

(a) There is established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (Initiative), to be led by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and implemented in coordination with the agencies listed in section 2(b) of this memorandum. The Initiative may include the heads of other executive branch departments, agencies, and offices (agencies) as the President may, from time to time, designate.

(b) The goals of the Initiative shall be to:

(i) Reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways, landscapes of national significance, ranches, farms and forests, great parks, and coasts and beaches by exploring a variety of efforts, including:

(A) promoting community-based recreation and conservation, including local parks, greenways, beaches, and waterways;

(B) advancing job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and outdoor recreation; and

(C) supporting existing programs and projects that educate and engage Americans in our history, culture, and natural bounty.

(ii) Build upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing neighborhood parks; and determine how the Federal Government can best advance those priorities through public private partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies.

(iii) Use science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

SEC. 2. Functions. The functions of the Initiative shall include:

(a) *Outreach.* The Initiative shall conduct listening and learning sessions around the country where land and waters are being conserved and community parks are being established in innovative ways. These 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. Special attention should be given to bringing young Americans into the conversation. These listening sessions will inform the reports required in subsection (c) of this section.

(b) *Interagency Coordination.* The following agencies shall work with the Initiative to identify existing resources and align policies and programs to achieve its goals:

(i) the Department of Defense;

(ii) the Department of Commerce;

(iii) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(iv) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(v) the Department of Labor;

(vi) the Department of Transportation;

(vii) the Department of Education; and

(viii) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

(c) *Reports.* The Initiative shall submit, through the Chair of the CEQ, the following reports to the President:

(i) Report on America's Great Outdoors. By November 15, 2010, the Initiative shall submit a report that includes the following:

(A) a review of successful and promising nonfederal conservation approaches;

(B) an analysis of existing Federal resources and programs that could be used to complement those approaches;

(C) proposed strategies and activities to achieve the goals of the Initiative; and

(D) an action plan to meet the goals of the Initiative.

The report should reflect the constraints in resources available in, and be consistent with, the Federal budget. It should recommend efficient and effective use of existing resources, as well as opportunities to leverage nonfederal public and private resources and nontraditional conservation programs.

(ii) Annual reports. By September 30, 2011, and September 30, 2012, the Initiative shall submit reports on its progress in implementing the action plan developed pursuant to subsection (c)(i)(D) of this section.

SEC. 3. General Provisions.

(a) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of any necessary appropriations.

(b) This memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(c) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Initiative, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Initiative. Each executive department and agency shall bear its own expenses of participating in the Initiative.

(d) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the OMB relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(e) The Chair of the CEQ is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA.

§ 200102. Definitions

As used in this chapter:

(1) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation established under section 200104.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land and water management agency” means the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) **FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.**—The term “Federal recreational lands and waters” has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) and also includes Federal lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Corps of Engineers, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State”, to the extent practicable, as determined by the Secretary, includes Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) **UNITED STATES.**—The term “United States”—

(A) includes the District of Columbia; and

(B) to the extent practicable, as determined by the Secretary, includes Puerto

Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 113-287, § 3, Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3169; Pub. L. 118-234, title I, § 113(a), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2839.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
200102	16 U.S.C. 4601-3.	Pub. L. 88-29, § 4, May 28, 1963, 77 Stat. 50; Pub. L. 96-205, title VI, § 608(c), Mar. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 92.

The words “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” are omitted as obsolete. See note at 48 U.S.C. prec. 1681. For continued application of certain laws of the United States in certain cases, see the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (48 U.S.C. 1801 note), the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Governments of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (48 U.S.C. 1901 note), and the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau (48 U.S.C. 1931 note). The words “as determined by the Secretary” are added to make it clear that it is the Secretary who determines if it is practicable to include the stated entities.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2025—Pub. L. 118-234 added pars. (1) to (3) and redesignated former pars. (1) and (2) as (4) and (5), respectively.

§ 200103. Authority of Secretary to carry out certain functions and activities

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this chapter, the Secretary may perform the functions and activities described in this section.

(b) INVENTORY AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary may prepare and maintain a continuing inventory and evaluation of outdoor recreation needs and resources of the United States.

(c) CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary may prepare a system for classification of outdoor recreation resources to assist in the effective and beneficial use and management of such resources.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance and advice to and cooperate with States, political subdivisions, and private interests, including nonprofit organizations, with respect to outdoor recreation.

(e) INTERSTATE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION.—The Secretary may encourage interstate and regional cooperation in the planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation resources.

(f) RESEARCH, INFORMATION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may—

(1) sponsor, engage in, and assist in research relating to outdoor recreation, directly or by contract or cooperative agreements, and make payments for such purposes without regard to the limitations of section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 concerning advances of funds when the Secretary considers such action to be in the public interest;

(2) undertake studies and assemble information concerning outdoor recreation, directly or by contract or cooperative agreement, and disseminate the information without regard to section 3204 of title 39; and

(3) cooperate with educational institutions and others to assist in establishing education programs and activities and to encourage public use and benefits from outdoor recreation.

(g) COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) cooperate with and provide technical assistance to Federal agencies and obtain from them information, data, reports, advice, and assistance that are needed and can reasonably be furnished in carrying out the purposes of this chapter; and

(B) promote coordination of Federal plans and activities generally relating to outdoor recreation.

(2) FUNDING.—An agency furnishing advice or assistance under this paragraph may expend its own funds for those purposes, with or without reimbursement, as may be agreed to by that agency.

(h) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations of money, property, personal services, or facilities for the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 113-287, § 3, Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3170; Pub. L. 118-234, title I, § 112(c), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2839.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
200103	16 U.S.C. 4601-1.	Pub. L. 88-29, § 2, May 28, 1963, 77 Stat. 49; Pub. L. 91-375, § 6(h), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 776.

In subsection (d), the words “which shall be prepared as soon as practicable within 5 years on and after May 28, 1963” and “Future” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (h), the word “department” is omitted as being included in “agency”.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2025—Subsecs. (d) to (i). Pub. L. 118-234 redesignated subsecs. (e) to (i) as (d) to (h), respectively, and struck out former subsec. (d) which related to formulation and maintenance of a comprehensive nationwide outdoor recreation plan.

§ 200104. Federal interagency council on outdoor recreation¹

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an interagency council, to be known as the “Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation”.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of representatives of each of the following agencies, to be appointed by the head of the respective agency:

¹So in original. Probably should be capitalized as “Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation”.