

Administration

LANDS LEGACY GAINS GROUND

BY CARL M. CANNON

The Clinton-Gore years sprang to life with a flurry of inaugural balls. 11 in all, and none was a more hopeful occasion for liberals than the first-ever Environmental Ball. There, in the Sequoia Restaurant, Bill and Hillary Clinton mingled with some 2,000 commuted Greens.

"Carbon emissions is going to become an issue again," Lester R. Brown of Worldwatch Institute predicted confidently. Newly sworn-in Vice President Al Gore, Earth's most prominent critic of carbon emissions, seconded that sentiment, adding, "I need your help when the choice comes between the hard right decision and the easy wrong decision for our country." The rapture was especially sweet for those whose passion is protecting the wilderness and conserving public lands in the vast American West.

Was the environmentalists' faith in Clinton and Gore well-founded? On the issue of global warming, not much has happened that environmentalists praise, but on the more emotional and, for millions of Americans, more immediate issue of Western lands, President Clinton is working feverishly to protect tracts of federal lands so vast that his efforts will put him in the pantheon of the most ambitious conservation-minded Presidents—a list that includes Theodore Roosevelt and Jimmy Carter.

On Feb. 17, 1995—less than a month after his inauguration—Clinton unveiled a budget that proposed raising \$1 billion over five years from royalties made on Western land use. The grazing fee on federal lands, then \$1.86 per month per cow, would be tripled. The royalty on minerals such as gold and silver would go from nothing to 12.5 percent, the figure for offshore oil. As for logging on federal land, the U.S. Forest Service announced that it would no longer subsidize logging operations that cost the government more in road-building than it reaped in timber royalties—mean-

ing some 58 percent of logging. "I see us as the department of the environment," Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt explained in a speech in his home state of Arizona.

Clinton urged Congress not to pick his economic proposal apart. But then, following the lead of Democratic Senators from the West who were guided by Montana's Max Baucus, the White House backed off the whole package.

That was the wake-up call to the environmental community. "I don't think I've ever seen a white flag get put up so fast," said Michael Francis, the director of the Wilderness Society's forest program. A few days later, Clinton and Gore sought a middle ground on the spotted-owl issue. Their solution—Gore was the driving force behind it—gave the logging companies some timber rights while preserving some of Oregon's old-growth forests.

Still reeling from the grazing and mining capitulation, environmental leaders were suspicious. In hindsight, they told one another, we should have paid more attention back in December, before the Administration took office, when Gore vowed to block the opening of a polluting, \$160 million hazardous-waste incinerator in Ohio—but was overruled by Clinton. Or they should have listened to the grouching of some of their young staffers who wondered why they had to pay \$125 a ticket to an inaugural "environmental" ball sponsored by such outfits as the American Mining Congress and Waste Management.

"We heard that one loud and clear," Robert Dewey, the Defenders of Wildlife's vice president for government relations, says of the grazing and mining retreat. The environmental community decided it would have to cajole and bolster this new Administration—or else be content with happy memories of the Environmental Ball.

These days, environmentalists tend to think of Clinton's first two years—the only time he had a Democratic majority in Con-



BRUCE BABBITT: During Clinton's first land use initiative, he called interior the department of the environment.

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press—is the wasted years, when initiatives that required congressional action failed because the White House couldn't muster the support. "They had good intentions, but failed to deliver," says Daniel J. Weiss, the political director for the Sierra Club. "In the overall eight years, though, what they've managed to do is rather profound. And if you put it into a political environment—they've been dealing with a hostile Congress—what they've managed to accomplish is a stunning achievement."

That hostility only increased after the 1994 GOP takeover of Congress. But then came phase two of Clinton's record on Western lands.

Instead of pushing for new initiatives, the Clinton White House began playing defense, primarily against unwelcome riders attached to appropriations bills. Here, too, it took Clinton a while to learn the game. In the summer of 1995, he signed an appropriations bill that contained a rider inserted by Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash. The rider was advertised as allowing loggers to salvage trees already damaged by fire or bug infestations. In reality, the measure reopened old-growth forests to aggressive logging, even of healthy trees, in tracts that the Administration itself had set aside for protection. Clinton knew what the measure would lead to, but apparently hoped it would help him politically in economically depressed towns. Instead, liberals in pro-Clinton areas were incensed. When he visited Seattle, Clinton was met by more than a thousand protesters infuriated over the clear-cutting of 1 million acres of public lands.

It was a mistake Clinton never made again. In 1995, he shut down the government rather than accept a spending bill that would have opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. "He found his stride opposing some of these environmental riders," Dewey says.

As he did so, it became evident to White House pollsters and operatives that Clinton's defense of the environment was a winner politically. In his 1996 campaign, Clinton made it a signature tactic. Bringing out of mothballs a 1906 law called the Antiquities Act, the President stood on the spectacular South Rim of the Grand Canyon and, with a stroke of a pen, designated some 1.7 million acres of Utah land a national monument.

The Utah land, now known as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, is home to American Indian art carved into canyon walls, cliff dwellings, and other artifacts. But the real prize, some critics pointed out, would be the electoral votes in Arizona.



LOGROLLING: The Headwaters Forest in California is now in public hands, but disputes over logging continue.

If this was Clinton's strategy, it succeeded. In 1992, Clinton and Gore—both Southerners—broke the Republicans' so-called Electoral College lock by carrying the Western states of California, Oregon, and Washington and by stealing Colorado, Montana, Nevada and the bellwether state of New Mexico as well. In 1996, they held the West Coast but lost Colorado and Montana, in part over mining and grazing. They offset that loss by adding Arizona to their side. Something else happened that day at the Grand Canyon, according to well-placed sources in the environmental community: Clinton loved the feeling of setting aside that land, and relished the fact that he didn't need to talk to any Republicans or members of Congress to do it.

"He was using his own tools of authority instead of working through the frustrating congressional process," says Rindy O'Brien, the vice president for policy at the Wilderness Society. "It really geared him to use his legacy powers."

This tactic defined phase three: legislating essentially by executive order. Clinton has used the Antiquities Act to set aside 328,000 acres of sensitive land in Sequoia National Forest in California. Last week, Babbitt sent Clinton information on four more sites, in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon,

and Washington, totaling some 100,000 acres. If Clinton goes ahead with the preservation—and no one doubts he will—he will have used the law to set aside nearly 4 million acres of Western land at 10 sites, including a 1 million-acre expansion of Grand Canyon National Park itself.

Other Clinton actions praised by preservationists include:

- His support and 1994 signing of the California Desert Bill, which designated about one-third of California's 25 million-acre Mojave Desert as wilderness.

- A land swap in 1996 that precluded a Canadian mining conglomerate from opening a controversial gold mine upstream from Yellowstone National Park.

- The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone in 1994.

- His support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Clinton calls his Lands Legacy. It designates \$900 million a year from offshore oil royalties for environmental cleanup and protection.

- An ongoing review by the Forest Service to see which national forest areas can be designated roadless. A draft recently recommended banning road construction on some 43 million acres currently without roads. The 16 million-acre Tongass National Forest in Alaska was not included, however. Gore said two weeks later that he wants the Tongass included, along with a ban on logging there. Texas Gov. George W. Bush suggested the Clinton plan went too far; his criticism put Clinton in the middle and highlighted the fact that Clinton has managed to ensure his relevance right up until Election Day—or maybe beyond.

"There's a lot of mischief they can do before they shut out the lights and close the doors," says Melinda Pierce, a Sierra Club lobbyist. She laughs as she says it. She believes she knows what is coming: The President plans to designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. That just might solidify his reputation. Four years ago, when the President went to the Grand Canyon, Robert Redford was there to watch him. Redford had mentioned Grand Staircase to Clinton three years earlier and then never heard a word about it until a few days before the event at the South Rim.

A reporter at the event asked Redford if he considered Clinton a good environmentalist. The famous actor smiled and replied, "He is today."

House likely to pass sprawling conservation bill

Measure appeals to many interests, from hunters to soccer moms

By Traci Watson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — With little public fanfare, the House of Representatives is soon likely to approve one of the biggest, most expensive conservation bills of the past few decades.

Even critics say the \$39 billion Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which would benefit Americans ranging from soccer players to farmers threatened by development, is likely to pass when the full House votes on it, probably Wednesday.

The bill has 316 co-sponsors, which gives it support from nearly three-quarters of the House.

The legislation would be a windfall for conservation and recreation across the USA. It would direct that nearly \$3 billion a year, from the time the bill passes through fiscal year 2015, be spent on environmental programs and other projects, mostly by state and local governments.

"This is one of the most (important) environmental bills in the last 25 years," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who, along with Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, has led the fight for the bill, H.R. 701. "People can nitpick this bill ... (but) the fact is, this is one of the broadest coalitions we've been able to put together in the House."

Passage in the Senate will be difficult because of opposition from budget hawks and some Western senators who are strong supporters of private-property rights. The White House favors the legislation's goals but has some major objections to it.

The bulk of the money — \$1 billion a year — would go to coastal programs, particularly in Alaska and Louisiana, where there are major offshore oil-drilling operations. The money could be spent on anything from coastal restoration to infrastructure to replacing sand on eroded beaches.

The next biggest chunk, \$900 million a year, would go to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program supporting government land purchases and other conservation and outdoor recreation spending. In the past, the fund has financed federal acquisitions including land along the Appalachian Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia, and hundreds of

acres of red-rock country near Sedona, Ariz. The bill would give half the money to the states and half to the federal land program.

Another billion dollars would be divided among a hodgepodge of different causes, not all of them harmonious. Money would go to protection of endangered species and to hunter education; to recreational facilities such as hockey rinks and city parks; and to restoring both degraded ecosystems and crumbling historic buildings. The act also calls for spending on open-space protection and incentives for landowners to protect rare species living on their property.

Soccer moms, governors, county officials, some environmental groups and many others are wildly enthusiastic about the bill. Asked who was generating the bulk of the letters, calls and e-mails in favor of the act, Michael Henry, a staffer for the House Committee on Resources, joked, "It's about a 100-way tie."

Even so, the bill has also generated serious opposition from private-property activists, fiscal conservatives and some environmentalists — groups not often found on the same side of the fence.

"We should be focusing that money on Social Security, the military and various other priorities," says Rep. Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho, who led the House fight against the bill. Why buy more



Miller: Broad coalition of support.

land, she asks, "with the federal government already owning 30% of (U.S.) land and not being able to take care of what they have?"

Some environmental groups don't like the provision requiring Congress to approve all federal land purchases. Nor do they like the bill's open-ended language, which would allow

money for coastal protection to be spent on docks and highways. Some environmental groups have told the administration they'd prefer to see President Clinton veto the bill if the provisions they object to aren't changed.

The White House shares some of the environmentalists' concerns, plus another: "The current bill is not paid for," says George Framp-ton, acting chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

The money would come out of royalties from oil drilling off the U.S. coast. A 1964 law created the Land and Water Conservation Fund and mandated that it automatically receive \$900 million a year. Later, Congress directed that oil royalties be deposited in the fund. However, legislators have never devoured as much money to the fund as required. Supporters say the new bill rights that wrong. "This is redeeming a promise Congress made to the public," Miller says.

A bill identical to the House version has been introduced in the Senate.

Our Values Are Etched in the Landscape

By Secretary Bruce Babbitt

Walk with me a while. Leaving my office, we stroll past portraits of Stewart Udall on the left wall, James Watt on the right, and the mighty Harold L. Ickes gazing down a corridor filled with my predecessors. Impressive. But the art we seek is of another sort: the New Deal murals of artists who sketched the core values of Interior's history. They are frozen, halftime snapshots that provide a good measure of where we have been and how far we have come.

At the sixth floor's north end mural, one man harvests salmonids in nets, the other stocks fry from a milk can. Classic New Deal stewardship, based around hatcheries, as we spread coldwater fish for harvest around the world. In a time of bounty, of seemingly unlimited resources, we saw fisheries as produce to be quantified.

Assuming those fisheries were indestructible, we ground their product by the millions into feed and fertilizer. Assuming them interchangeable, we dumped European browns into Rainbow habitat, Rainbows into Cutthroat streams, Lake trout into brooks, Brook trout into lakes. The result was very nearly catastrophic. Hybridization diluted genetically pure strain stocks. Exotic fish, even sportfish, preyed on native species of trout, amphibians, and insects for the first time. Hatcheries helped spread whirling disease and other pathogens.

Today we strive to restore native trout and salmon, but as wildlife, not commodity. We deemphasize the role of hatcheries beyond recovery of rare species and spend more resources improving habitat. And we ensure that distinct strains are preserved and protected by barriers, so that a given stock can take root once again. We seek a quality, more than quantity, of fish.

One floor below, we stop at a mural of the Oklahoma Land Rush. Men and women on horseback, wagon, locomotive, and bicycle--armed with flagged stakes--are pouring off the start line to claim their plots of free land. It embodies America's boundless energy, growth spurts, and hunger for cheap soil.

The trouble today is where that hunger has led to sprawl, massive traffic congestion, and extinction of native wildlife. The Endangered Species Act gives us responsibility to deal with the crisis. How? We answer with creative new plans which fuse "habitat" and "open space." For example, Los Angeles and San Diego have expanded toward each other like two magnets pointed end to end, eradicating the coastal sagebrush ecosystem that separates them. When the California gnatcatcher was listed as threatened in 1993, we could have proceeded straight to the laborious, time consuming process of drawing "critical habitat" lines on the map.

We chose not to, because we had a better idea: unite adversaries toward a common goal on the front end to build consensus. Biologists taught us the components of coastal sage habitat, what made it unique, and how it functioned. Urban planners assessed growth and infrastructure issues before getting committed to the maps. Economists assessed how land values would be affected by different alternatives and how to finance the \$100 million land acquisitions.

The outcome was a series of habitat conservation plans, which collectively comprise 210,000 acres in San Diego and Orange Counties. It is the most comprehensive and imaginative urban habitat plan in U.S. history, encompassing an area larger than Yosemite Valley and twice as large as Central Park; space for critters and people. Our ancestors, those Oklahoma Sooners on the wall, would have been proud.

Down another floor, the murals show New Deal pipe welders involved in mining or oil drilling, another shows the gas stations, heavy machinery, and modern benefits that stem from it. We would not have beat the Depression or won World War II without minerals management.

Now, however, we face the legacy of that industrial boom. In the wake of Exxon Valdez and other spills, we must decide where offshore (and onshore) oil development is safe and appropriate and where it is not. We also seek a fair return on hardrock mining beyond \$5 an acre, because prospectors no longer carry a pick and shovel.

A third floor mural 's pantheon of 19th century conservationists--Henry David Thoreau, Daniel Boone, James Audubon--are surrounded by flourishing fish and wildlife they have nurtured back to health. I might paint John Wesley Powell, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, and Wallace Stegner up in that firmament, for they each led us closer to the realization that "stewardship" was less about wildlife manipulation than about restraining human excess, keeping our collective wants in check. If we protected whole, integrated watersheds, that landscape will nurture and "manage" wildlife on its own.

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It was these latter visionaries who showed us how we should focus less on individual charismatic creatures than on their connections within creation. Their writing,

respectively, revealed relationships: between aridity and culture, between livestock and wild glacial valleys; a mountain, its wolves, deer, and vegetation; chemicals, soil, earthworms and birds; and between wilderness and the undomesticated American spirit.

On the second floor a mural shows four men swinging shovels, hoes, axes and picks in a united effort to suppress a wildfire that is raging in the background. Wildfire fighting became institutionalized in the New Deal. Postwar, it became a skilled, seasonal, standing army, whose common enemy was fire and whose policy was containment.

For nine decades we suppressed all fire with disastrous results. By depriving forests of fire's slow, natural spread from lightning, we starve the forest, choke it, spread insect damage and disease. We wipe out native diverse vegetation and wildlife. Now we know that Smokey the Bear may have gone too far. Today, we use terra-torch, drip-torch, flamethrower, flaming ping pong balls, and fuses to "Fight Fire with Fire." Where property, lives, and homes are not at risk, a new policy encourages firefighters to carefully watch, monitor, or set prescribed fires.

A facing wall shows the Civilian Conservation Corps at work, carefully planting trees. A noble intention, but again, with unintended results. We turned forests into tree farms, homogenized mixed conifer into monoculture. We once thought clearcuts created "edge habitat" for ungulate game. Now we better understand the affects of sunlight and erosion on ground exposed without a canopy and unanchored by roots. We once pulled logs out of streams to improve their aesthetic flow. Now we topple trees back in, and anchor logs and root wads for fish habitat.

There is also, on the south end of this corridor, a mural of the New Deal's heroic age of dam building. Six decades ago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes, toured the country to dedicate dams, new dams, powerful dams, including four of the largest dams in the history of civilization.

They built dams for barge traffic, for electricity, for irrigation, for drinking water, for flood control. For most of this century, politicians have eagerly rushed in, amidst cheering crowds, to claim credit for the construction of 75,000 dams all across America.

The public is now learning that we have paid a steadily accumulating price for these projects in the form of: fish spawning runs destroyed, downstream rivers altered by changes in temperature, unnatural nutrient load and seasonal flows, wedges of sediment piling up behind structures, and delta wetlands degraded by lack of fresh water and saltwater intrusion. Rivers are always on the move and their inhabitants know no boundaries; salmon and shad do not read road maps, only stream currents. Now we are using sledgehammers, jackhammers, and heavy machinery to dismantle the old, obsolete, and destructive dams.

One floor up, we find a mural of some of the newly protected national parks. Today, some

say these parks are being 'loved to death,' so we should limit people. We answer that you can't love a park too much. The problem is not too many but too many cars all packed together. We need to give them more opportunities and more space to stretch out. Air pollution knows no local boundaries, and soon, the car gassing up in the mural may have to park outside national parks like Zion, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon, and take cleaner mass transit into the park.

Also, we will secure concessions and fee reform for visitor values at our national parks and other public lands. For decades, parks bled much of the revenues earned at entrance gates and other services, while depending on Congress for supplemental handouts. With these reforms in place, we keep 80 percent of fees and a greater percentage of concessions in the parks themselves, making them far more self-sufficient and rewarding experiences.

A south wing, fourth floor mural depicts encounters between caucasian, or Easterners, with Native Americans and Alaska Natives. One is clad in cavalry uniform, another in buckskin, another in civilian clothing. There is a peace pipe, but in each case it is clear who is teaching, lecturing, dictating to whom.

Since its founding, the Interior Department has carried out trust responsibilities for Native Americans. Unfortunately, for much of that history the relationship has been paternalistic, barely protecting Indian water rights and sovereignty--as Washington saw fit. We have begun to restore integrity and authority and sovereignty to tribal governments, both through statutory authority and economic development. At its core, our policy moves toward self-determination for tribes and in the process, shrinks the federal BIA bureaucracy.

And consider this: A President uses his authority under the Antiquities Act to create a federally protected national monument. Western Congressmen howl. The Governor fumes about the loss of "job-creating industries," now that mining, logging, and other extractive practices will be "locked out" of "potentially vast, unlimited" resources. Senators complain about "arrogant acts" of the executive branch. The law stands. Then quietly, visitation soars, bringing a steady infusion of cash to rural economies. Years pass, and soon former opponents claim credit for creation of the monument in their next campaign.

President Clinton's Grand Staircase-Escalante in 1996? No, Teddy Roosevelt's Grand Canyon in 1904. It may seem like things haven't changed very much. That there is nothing new under the sun. But take a closer look. You'll see that this latest monument isn't managed by the National Park Service, but by the Bureau of Land Management with a comprehensive outreach plan that includes the people and living heritage in the visitation plan. And ecological resources play as strong a role as aesthetic considerations.

I often reflect on these changes. The contrasts between then and now are manifest. Science has led us to a broader, deeper understanding of our natural, cultural, and historic heritage. Our decisions appear better informed, more sensitive.

Yet I wonder. In the next century, Interior Secretaries may look at our values, frozen in photographic images--dam destruction, salmonid habitat restoration, wolf reintroduction, prescribed fires, bioinvasive species control, amphibian protection, pollinator preservation--shake their heads at how primitive our understanding was, and take pride in how much further they have come.

I hope that is the case. Each day informs the next. What we realize in our tour of the murals is that stewardship of the American landscape is not just a fixed point in time, or some place outdoors, or even an "issue" to be "handled" by one party or another. It is a tradition that endures only through our labor, an opportunity that lasts as long as we fight for it; part of our collective heritage, passed on like a torch; a job that brings all of us together under a common purpose.

Now let's get outside, where our values are etched in the landscape. That is our enduring legacy. And let's get back to work.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON'S LANDS LEGACY INITIATIVE

Forging a Conservation Vision for the 21st Century

January 12, 1999

President Clinton, in the FY 2000 budget he will submit to Congress, is proposing a \$1 billion Lands Legacy initiative to expand federal protection of critical lands across America, help states and communities preserve local green spaces, and strengthen protections for our oceans and coasts.

This landmark initiative -- a 125 percent increase over FY 1999 funding -- represents the largest one-year investment ever in the preservation of America's lands legacy. It includes \$900 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), marking the first time any Administration has requested full funding from LWCF, which draws revenues from federal offshore oil sales.

The Lands Legacy initiative continues the Clinton-Gore Administration's vigorous efforts to save America's natural treasures. And, by providing significant new resources to states and local communities, it forges a new conservation vision for the 21st century -- one that recognizes the importance of preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen.

Lands Legacy will be administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), \$579 million; the Department of Agriculture (USDA), \$268 million; and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), \$183 million. It will be coordinated with the \$1 billion Livability Agenda announced by Vice President Gore of January 11 through interagency cooperation and consultation.

In addition, the President is calling on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres in 17 national parks and monuments, including Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountains and Cumberland Gap.

Saving America's Natural Treasures

Federal Acquisitions - The initiative increases federal land acquisition funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 26 percent to a total of \$413 million (\$295 million for DOI, and \$118 million for USDA). In recent years, the Administration has dedicated LWCF funds to protecting Yellowstone National Park from mining, saving ancient redwoods in California's Headwaters Forest, preserving Civil War battlefields, completing the Maine-to-Georgia Appalachian Trail, and acquiring more than 100 other natural and historic sites across the country. Priorities for FY 2000 include acquisition of over 450,000 acres in California's Mojave Desert, 100,000 acres for addition to New England wildlife refuges and national forests, and lands critical to the ongoing restoration of Florida's Everglades.

Protecting Our Parks - The President also is calling on Congress to grant permanent wilderness protection to over 5 million acres within Arches, Big Bend, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Crater Lake, Glacier, Grand Teton, Great Smoky Mountains, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone and Zion National Parks; Cedar Breaks, Colorado and Dinosaur National Monuments; Assateague Island National Seashore/Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge; and Cumberland Gap National Historic

Park. Granting these areas the highest level of federal protection available would, in the words of the Wilderness Act of 1964, recognize them as areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Helping States and Communities Preserve Green Spaces

Land Acquisition Grants - Lands Legacy includes \$150 million through LWCF for matching grants to state, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit land trusts, for acquisition of land and easements for urban parks, greenways, outdoor recreations, wildlife habitat, and coastal wetlands. The DOI program retools the LWCF state grants program for "smart growth" and open space preservation. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, with priority going to projects consistent with statewide "smart growth" plans.

Open Space Planning Grants - The initiative proposes a new \$50 million program of matching grants to states to develop open space preservation and "smart growth" strategies. States would use a variety of data and tools to identify priority areas for urban development, farmland, and conservation. The program, administered by DOI, would award grants competitively, with priority going to proposals that tie state plans to regional strategies for managing the economy, job growth, and infrastructure development.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - The initiative proposes \$80 million -- a \$66 million increase -- for state and local land acquisition to protect threatened and endangered species. By supporting Habitat Conservation Plans and other flexible tools under the Endangered Species Act, the Fund promotes collaborative strategies that sustain both wildlife and economic development. The program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Forest Legacy Program - To protect private forest land that provides critical wildlife habitat and is threatened by development, the initiative proposes \$50 million -- an increase of more than six-fold -- for matching grants to states for the purchase of permanent conservation easements. Use of protected lands for forestry and compatible activities is permitted. The program is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the proposed funding would protect roughly 135,000 acres.

Urban and Community Forestry - The initiative proposes \$40 million -- a 29 percent increase -- for matching grants to states and communities to establish, maintain, and expand urban and community forests and related green spaces. The program, administered by USFS, operates in partnership with 8,000 volunteer organizations in more than 10,000 communities. The proposed funding would support 75,000 projects in more than 10,000 communities.

Farmland Protection Program - To protect farmland and sustain rural economies, Lands Legacy would provide \$50 million in matching grants to states, communities, tribes and land trusts for the purchase of permanent conservation easements on farmland threatened by development. The program, administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was created by the 1996 Farm Bill. Through mid-1998, \$35 million in federal funding had leveraged an estimated \$230 million in easements, protecting about 127,000 acres.

Smart Growth Partnership - Lands Legacy proposes a new revolving loan program to support

acquisition of land and easements in rural areas. The Partnership, administered by USDA, would make loans to intermediate borrowers (state, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit corporations), which in turn would loan funds to rural businesses, land trusts and other nonprofit organizations. Proposed funding of \$10 million would support \$50 million in loans. Priorities are supporting "smart growth" strategies and helping owners of underproducing forest land at risk of sale improve forest productivity.

Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery - The initiative proposes \$4 million in matching grants and technical assistance for the restoration of parks in economically distressed urban communities. The program, administered by the National Park Service, awarded over 1200 grants from 1978 to 1995 but has remained unfunded since 1995.

Protecting Our Oceans and Coasts

National Marine Sanctuaries - Lands Legacy proposes \$29 million -- a 107 percent increase -- to strengthen protections at 12 marine sanctuaries off California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and American Samoa, and to plan for future marine sanctuaries. The funding will allow NOAA to accelerate the adoption and implementation of management plans for existing sanctuaries and expand outreach activities with coastal communities.

Coastal Zone Management Act Program - To help promote "smart growth" strategies along America's coasts, the initiative proposes \$90 million, a 55 percent increase, to help states implement Critical Coastal Area Management and Restoration Plans. The matching grants can be used to acquire lands or to undertake other efforts to protect wildlife habitat, protect life and property from coastal hazards, and revitalize ports and urban waterfronts.

National Estuarine Research Reserves System - The initiative proposes \$19 million, a 375 percent increase, to expand a network of critical estuaries representing all the biological regions along America's coasts. NOAA provides guidance and matching funds to states to acquire land, protect resources and conduct research and education. Twenty-two reserves in 19 states and territories manage about 500,000 acres. The proposed funding would double the protected acreage.

Coral Reef Restoration - Lands Legacy proposes \$10.3 million -- a \$10 million increase -- to protect fragile coral reefs from pollution and other human impacts. NOAA, in conjunction with DOI, would restore injured reefs in Puerto Rico, Florida, Hawaii and U.S. territories, and develop a coral nursery to grow donor material for restoration projects.

Coastal Dredge Area Restoration - The initiative proposes \$10 million for NOAA to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use material dredged from ports and shipping channels to restore coastal habitats. Dredging is critical to keep shipping lanes open and deepen channels to accommodate larger ships. Reusing dredge spoils benefits the environment and reduces disposal costs.

Fisheries Habitat Restoration - To restore declining fisheries, the initiative proposes \$25 million for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service to acquire and protect critical habitat. Efforts would focus on Northeast and Middle Atlantic coast, the Gulf Coast, the West Coast, Alaska, and other regions that participate in the National Estuary Program or have multiple threatened or endangered species.

PRESERVING OUR LANDS LEGACY

A Record of Accomplishment

Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, federal efforts over the past six years have protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands. Accomplishments include:

- ✓ ***Protecting Yellowstone*** for future generations by reaching a landmark agreement to halt the massive New World mine three miles outside Yellowstone National Park, protecting the area from toxic runoff and other threats.
- ✓ ***Preserving Utah's Red Rock Canyons*** by creating a new national monument protecting 1.7 million acres of spectacular red rock canyonlands, artifacts from three ancient cultures, and the most remote site in the lower 48 states.
- ✓ ***Restoring Florida's Everglades*** with a comprehensive plan to acquire and protect critical lands and to ensure clean, plentiful freshwater supplies for the Everglades and for South Florida's families and farms.
- ✓ ***Preserving Scores of Natural and Historic Sites*** around the country by securing over \$1 billion through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of threatened lands. Priorities include completing the Appalachian Trail, protecting Civil War battlefields, and providing critical winter range for Yellowstone bison.
- ✓ ***Working to Save Ancient Redwoods*** through an historic agreement to acquire California's Headwaters Forest, the largest privately held grove of old-growth redwoods. Trees up to 2,000 years old would be saved, protecting critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.
- ✓ ***Launching a New Agenda for National Forests*** placing greater emphasis on recreation, wildlife and water quality, while reforming logging practices to ensure steady, sustainable supplies of timber and jobs.
- ✓ ***Forging Conservation Partnerships With Private Landowners***, completing 243 major habitat conservation plans (HCPs) protecting 6.2 million acres and dozens of threatened and endangered species. These voluntary agreements protect habitat while providing landowners the certainty they need to effectively manage their lands.
- ✓ ***Providing Farmers With New Conservation Tools*** by proposing and signing a Farm Bill that authorized \$2.2 billion in additional funding for conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve. Created new federal-state partnerships that targeted over \$1 billion -- in partnership with the states of Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Washington -- to provide incentives for farmers and ranchers to voluntarily remove lands from production to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

COLORADO

'Lands legacy' funds preserved

By Dan McLaughlin

Denver Post Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's effort to leave a "lands legacy" survived a critical test Thursday when the House rejected Republican efforts to restrict federal spending on nine of his recently proclaimed national monuments, including southwestern Colorado's new "Canyons of the Ancients."

Forty-six Republicans joined Democrats to assure unrestricted federal funding for the new monuments, which Clinton created by executive order. Western Republicans, one calling the president's action "the biggest land grab since the invasion of Poland," sought to reprimand the president by curbing spending on the new monuments.

Democrats countered that Clinton was following a precedent set by Re-

publican President Theodore Roosevelt, who was the first of many chief executives to invoke the 1906 Antiquities Act to create what have become some of the nation's premier national parks.

Democrats also complained that the GOP messengers, drafted by Rep. James Hansen, R-Idaho, was so drastic it would prevent federal law officers from stopping vandalism on the new monuments. Hansen claimed that wasn't the case.

He maintained that the monuments, all of which were created on federal lands, could continue to be administered as they had been before the president's declaration. While most Western Republicans followed Hansen, the GOP could not hold a bloc of moderates.

They joined Democrats to back an amendment by Rep. Norman Dicks, D-Wash., stripping the spending restrictions from the Interior Department ap-

propriations bill for 2001. In a vote that had been strongly lobbied by national environmental groups, Dicks won by a vote of 213-177.

Rep. Mark Udall, D-Boulder, spoke against the GOP move. He said that Montezuma County officials, who had opposed the new Canyons monument, were now fearful that the GOP proposal would curb their efforts to help plan for the 164,000-acre preserve.

Colorado lawmakers split their votes, with Republican Scott McInnis of Grand Junction joining Democrats Udall and Diana DeGette to oppose the spending restrictions. Republicans Joel Beffley, Tom Tancredo and Bob Schaffer voted for the restrictions.

A conservative, McInnis had denounced the GOP effort well before the vote, saying it would interfere with efforts for the orderly start-up of the new

monument, located in his western Colorado district, 9 miles west of Mesa Verde National Park.

Schaffer, who has opposed a number of Clinton's land initiatives, joined in the GOP assault. He said it was a question of the president "infusing and abusing" his powers "in a blatantly political manner."

Hansen came under fire during the debate for having removed the Grande Staircase-Escalante Monument, which Clinton created four years ago in Hansen's district, from the spending limits.

"Take the dang thing," Hansen snapped at Democrats, urging them to put that monument under same restrictions Democrats rejected his move, saying they wanted the public to have access to that monument as well as the nine others Clinton had created.



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Stephanie Hanna (O) 202/208-6416

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 1999

INTERIOR SECRETARY TO PROMOTE COLORADO'S LANDS LEGACY Babbitt on Wheat Ridge Greenbelt to support Colorado's share of Conservation Fund

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt will join Congressman Mark Udall and Colorado's Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Greg Walcher on Friday, October 8, on the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (near Prospect Park) to discuss his strong support for the Lands Legacy proposal.

"I have been traveling around the country talking to Americans about land conservation in their communities and they want the Lands Legacy initiative funded in this year's FY 2000 budget," Babbitt said. "They want more green space, parks and recreation areas, more wildlife habitat, and they see a real need to set aside buffer lands to combat urban sprawl."

Lands Legacy would be funded by an annual \$900 million appropriation from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This fund was created by Congress in 1965 for states and the federal government to purchase conservation lands. It is derived from a portion of the offshore oil and gas receipts resulting from oil production in federal waters. The Land Legacy initiative would divide the annual appropriation equally between state grants and federal land acquisition.

"With support from effective leaders like your Congressman Mark Udall, this money could become available to state governments this Fall at no taxpayer expense simply by using an existing fund with vast unfunded balances for the purpose it was created," Babbitt added. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to fully fund annual LWCF appropriations. **Key acreage linking parks within the Greenbelt was purchased with LWCF funds during the 1970's.**

Since the 1980's, appropriations from the LWCF have drastically declined and no money has been appropriated for state land conservation. Materials available at Monday's briefing will show specific projects in Colorado as well as satellite images prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey showing the impact of sprawl on the Denver metropolitan area. Other Lands Legacy materials can be accessed using <http://www.doi.gov/iga/landslegacy.htm>.

WHO: Secretary Babbitt, Rep. Udall, DNR Exec. Dir. Walcher

WHEN: Friday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Wheat Ridge Greenbelt at lake near Prospect Park (Pavillion) parking lot.

Directions: From Denver take I-70 West to Kipling Exit. Turn left on Kipling (south) for 1/4 mile. Turn right (west) on 44th Avenue for 1/2 mile. Turn left (south) on Robb Street past tennis courts and Prospect Park parking area, past lake to south end to small parking lot (at Pavillion) for trail access for Greenbelt.

-DOI-



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 1999

Stephanie Hanna (O) 202/208-6416
Tim Ahern

BABBITT CALLS FOR LANDS LEGACY FUNDING THIS YEAR

The fight to increase funding for state and federal land purchases through Lands Legacy will be the subject of a media briefing by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and John Berry, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget on Monday, October 4.

"I have been traveling around the country talking to Americans about land conservation in their communities and they want the Land Legacy initiative to be funded in this year's FY 2000 budget," Babbitt said. "They want more parks and recreation areas, more wildlife habitat, they want to save Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields before they fall under the bulldozers of development and they want to set aside buffer lands to combat urban sprawl."

Lands Legacy would be funded by an annual \$900 million appropriation from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This fund was created by Congress in 1965 for states and the federal government to purchase conservation lands. It is derived from a portion of the offshore oil and gas receipts resulting from oil production in federal waters. The Land Legacy initiative would divide the annual appropriation equally between state grants and federal land acquisition.

"This money could become available to state governments this Fall at no taxpayer expense simply by using an existing fund with vast unfunded balances for the purpose it was created," Babbitt added. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to fully fund annual LWCF appropriations.

Since the 1980's, appropriations from the LWCF have drastically declined and no money has been appropriated for state land conservation. Materials available at Monday's briefing will show, on a state-by-state basis, specific projects and unmet conservation needs by states. There will also be video and still satellite images prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey showing the impact of sprawl on many of America's major cities.

Materials from the press conference will be available on Interiors Office of Intergovernmental Affairs web site beginning later in the afternoon of October 4. The Lands Legacy web site address is <http://www.doi.gov/iga/landslegacy.htm>.

-DOI-

Estimates of State-Side Land and Water Conservation Fund Under Various Funding Approaches

October 4, 1999

State	S. 25	H.R. 701	H.R. 798	Traditional LWCF	
				Full Funding	
Alabama	3,332,367	4,350,615	5,077,054		7,288,980
Alaska	2,328,212	11,159,621	2,206,000		3,701,695
Arizona	3,559,025	5,248,686	5,049,515		8,051,566
Arkansas	2,810,957	4,023,139	3,685,194		5,412,039
California	13,024,672	11,260,314	26,585,173		41,778,037
Colorado	3,362,357	5,015,669	4,678,930		7,300,547
Connecticut	3,187,500	3,489,836	4,307,558		6,841,019
Delaware	2,369,396	2,943,905	2,294,909		3,860,658
Florida	6,799,145	6,348,645	12,876,658		19,504,642
Georgia	4,192,476	5,035,491	7,396,557		10,322,343
Hawaii	2,531,395	3,100,659	2,664,708		4,484,906
Idaho	2,467,317	4,200,345	2,645,824		4,189,420
Illinois	6,027,874	5,912,991	11,038,680		16,970,411
Indiana	3,816,673	4,440,475	6,296,602		9,007,532
Iowa	2,941,825	4,144,768	3,966,871		5,912,561
Kansas	2,909,896	4,466,847	3,748,926		5,811,131
Kentucky	3,154,619	4,111,152	4,767,839		6,660,252
Louisiana	3,426,211	4,281,940	5,147,079		7,633,270
Maine	2,455,639	3,467,350	2,707,195		4,174,431
Maryland	3,769,315	3,909,767	5,697,843		8,825,566
Massachusetts	4,138,098	4,083,920	6,509,827		10,276,521
Michigan	5,002,062	5,479,638	9,243,976		13,379,271
Minnesota	3,522,039	4,839,958	5,357,943		7,965,005
Mississippi	2,826,221	3,988,696	3,852,784		5,489,741
Missouri	3,721,073	4,823,185	5,919,722		8,700,212
Montana	2,378,977	5,055,037	2,415,290		3,881,597
Nebraska	2,625,417	4,205,416	3,018,770		4,780,125
Nevada	2,664,688	4,664,605	2,934,582		4,838,339
New Hampshire	2,448,052	3,130,617	2,634,022		4,156,367
New Jersey	4,833,777	4,447,290	7,981,940		12,746,815
New Mexico	2,663,351	4,864,808	3,056,537		4,866,562
New York	8,082,843	7,038,918	16,000,276		24,478,616
North Carolina	4,000,332	4,901,019	7,391,836		9,684,312
North Dakota	2,320,204	3,905,739	2,235,112		3,691,164
Ohio	5,563,275	5,562,773	10,504,439		15,266,805
Oklahoma	3,111,174	4,416,696	4,309,918		6,515,824
Oregon	3,089,259	4,785,792	4,202,126		6,383,231
Pennsylvania	5,715,242	5,802,514	11,229,087		15,806,175
Rhode Island	2,478,912	2,984,335	2,509,707		4,281,447
South Carolina	3,127,297	3,935,501	4,620,706		6,603,368
South Dakota	2,338,368	4,023,243	2,304,351		3,750,031
Tennessee	3,616,251	4,413,499	5,866,220		8,273,652
Texas	8,120,266	10,265,560	16,462,918		24,144,201
Utah	2,800,609	4,350,138	3,265,827		5,364,507
Vermont	2,279,955	3,023,542	2,191,051		3,542,744
Virginia	4,112,098	4,653,826	6,937,849		10,021,403
Washington	3,839,090	4,809,081	6,003,911		8,989,143
West Virginia	2,567,291	3,482,570	3,169,050		4,533,438
Wisconsin	3,630,041	4,574,683	5,761,575		8,351,108
Wyoming	2,289,485	4,278,705	2,108,436		3,448,219
Puerto Rico	2,736,111	3,578,482	3,443,798		6,558,320
Guam	2,175,487	2,807,820	555,434		158,908
Virgin Islands	2,168,004	2,797,064	516,881		121,502
Samoa	2,160,521	2,786,624	478,327		55,820
Marianas	2,160,826	2,788,579	0		51,729
Dist. of Colum	2,350,829	2,884,171	2,166,660		1,092,772
Tribes/Corps	2,237,185	4,150,988	0		0
Micronesia	0	22,291	0		0
Marshall Island	0	13,627	0		0
Palau	0	5,948	0		0
Discretionary	0	0	150,000,000		0
Subtotal	204,381,580	263,539,111	300,000,000		450,000,000

DOI FY 2000 LWCF
(\$ in thousands)

Bureau of Land Management

Project Name	State	FY 2000 Pres. Request	House Mark	Senate Mark
BLM TOTAL		48,900	15,000	17,400
Acquisition Management/Land Exchange Processing		3,000	3,000	3,000
Emergency/Inholding		1,000	500	900
Line Item Projects		44,900	11,500	13,500
President's Line Item Requests				
California Desert (Catellus)	CA	28,900		8,000
Cerbat Foothills	AZ	500	500	
La Cienega ACEC	NM	1,000	1,000	1,000
Otay Mt./Kuchamaa HCP	CA	500	1,000	500
Santa Rosa Mts. NSA	CA	500	1,000	500
Spring Gulch	WY	5,000	5,000	
Upper AR River Basin	CO	2,500		2,000
Upper MO Nat'l W&SR	MT	5,000		
Upper Snake/S. Fork Snake R	ID	500	500	500
West Eugene Wetlands	OR	500		500
Subtotal, Pres.' Line Item Requests		44,900	9,000	13,000
Congressional Add-Ons for BLM				
Crafton Preservation	UT			250
Rock Creek Watershed (Escure Ranch)	WA		2,500	
Soda Mt. Wilderness Study Area	OR			250
Subtotal, Add-Ons			2,500	500
Total, BLM Line Item Projects			11,500	13,500

DOI FY 2000 LWCF

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(\$ in thousands)

Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Name	State	FY 2000 Pres.' Request	House Mark	Senate Mark
FWS TOTAL		73,632	42,000	56,944
Acquisition Management		9,772	7,665	9,026
Emergencies/Hardships		1,000	1,000	1,000
Exchanges		1,000	750	1,140 ^{ii/}
Inholdings		1,000	750	750
Line Item Projects		60,860	31,835	45,028

President's Line Item Requests

Archie Carr NWR	FL	2,750		
Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR	TX	1,000		1,000
Austin's Woods Unit, Brazoria NWR Complex - WT	TX	2,000		
Balcones Canyonlands NWR	TX	4,000	2,000	1,500
Blackwater NWR	MD	1,500		750
Buenos Aires NWR	AZ	1,500	1,500	
Canaan Valley NWR	WV	500	500	
D. E. San Francisco Bay NWR (Bair Island)	CA	1,678		1,678
Great Meadows NWR	MA	2,700		500
Hakalau Forest NWR	HI	3,632		
Harris Neck NWR	GA	400		
JN Ding Darling NWR Complex	FL	4,000	4,000	1,500
Kodiak NWR	AK	1,050		
Lower Rio Grande NWR	TX	2,000	2,000	2,000
Moapa Valley NWR	NV	1,000		
North Dakota Prairie Project	ND	2,500		500
<u>Northern Forest</u>				
Silvio Conte NWR (Nulhegan Basin)	VT	3,200	500	1,500
Unspecified NWRs in N. Forest area		10,000		
Lake Umbagog NWR	NH		3,000	2,000
Moosehorn NWR	ME		2,000	
Northern Tallgrass Prairie Project	MN/LA	700		700
Oahu Forest NWR (proposed)	HI	1,000		1,000
Oregon Coastal NWR Complex	OR	800		800
Pelican Island NWR	FL	2,000	2,000	
Petit Manan NWR	ME	250	250	250
Rachel Carson NWR	ME	3,000		1,500
Rappahannock River Valley NWR	VA	1,100	1,100	1,100
Rhode Island Refuges Complex	RI	500		1,000
San Diego NWR	CA	3,100	3,100	1,500
Togiak NWR	AK	1,000		
Trinity River NWR - WT	TX	1,000		500
Western Montana Project	MT	1,000		1,000
Subtotal, Pres.' Line Item Requests		60,860	21,950	22,278

ii/ \$140,000 included to facilitate land exchanges in Alaska.

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DOI FY 2000 LWCF
(\$ in thousands)

Project Name	State	FY 2000 Pres.' Request	House Mark	Senate Mark
<u>Congressional Add-Ons for FWS</u>				
Ace Basin NWR	SC			1,250
Atchafalaya NWR	LA		1,000	
Back Bay NWR	VA			2,000
Black Bayou NWR	LA			3,000
Boyer Chute NWR	NB			1,000
Clarks River NWR	KY			1,000
Cypress Creek NWR	IL			1,000
EB Forsythe NWR	NJ		800	800
Emiquon NWR	IL			1,000
Grand Bay NWR	AL		1,500	1,000
Great Swamp NWR	NJ		700	
Key Deer NWR	FL			500
Lake Wales NWR	FL			500
McKinney NWR (Calves Island)	CT			2,000
McKinney NWR (Great Meadows)	CT			500
Neal Smith NWR	IA			1,500
Nisqually NWR	WA		850	
Ohio River Islands NWR	WV			500
Ottawa NWR	OH			500
Patoka River NWR	OH			700
Red Rock NWR (Centennial Valley Project)	MT			1,000
Shiawassee NWR	MI		835 ^{b/}	
Stewart McKinney NWR	MA		2,700	
Waccamaw NWR	SC		1,500	1,500
Walkill NWR	NJ			1,500
Subtotal, Add-Ons			9,885	22,750
Total, FWS Line-Item Projects			31,835	45,028

^{b/} Funding contingent on a signed agreement stipulating that the visitors center will be built and equipped entirely with non-Federal funds.

DOI FY 2000 LWCF

(\$ in thousands)

Project Name	State	FY 2000 Pres.' Request	House Mark	Senate Mark
NPS TOTAL		172,468	132,000	108,225
Acquisition Management (Systemwide)		9,000	8,500	9,000
Emergency, Hardship, Deficiencies & Relocation		4,000	3,000	3,000
Inholdings/Exchanges		4,000	1,200	2,000
State Grants Administration		1,000	500	500
State Grants (Traditional)			30,000	20,000
Line Item Projects		154,468	88,800	73,725

President's Line Item Requests

Antietam NB	MD	2,000	2,000	2,000
Apostle Island NL	WS	250	250	250
Blue Ridge Parkway	NC/VA	225	225	
Cape Cod NS	MA	2,850	2,700	500
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	MD	800	800	800
Cuyahoga Valley NRA	OH	2,543	1,000	
Ebey's Landing NHR	WA	1,000	1,000	500
Everglades Ecosystem				
Big Cypress NPres (and Addition)	FL	11,800	11,800	11,800
Biscayne NP	FL	600	600	
Everglades NP	FL	20,000	20,000	20,000
Everglades Acquisition Management	FL	2,000		1,000
Grant to State of Florida	FL	45,600	10,000 a/	
Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania NMP	VA	6,300		3,000
Gettysburg NMP	PA	5,700	3,525	2,000
Golden Gate NRA	CA	2,300		
Golden Spike NHS	UT	400		
Haleakala NP	HI	500		1,500
Hawaii Volcanoes NP	HI	3,500		1,500
Keweenaw NHP	MI	2,450	1,750	1,700
Lake Clark NP & P	AK	1,000		
Manassas NBP	VA	400	400	
Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS	GA	5,000	5,000	
Mojave N Preserve (Catellus property)	CA	7,100		7,100
Monocacy NB	MD	1,500	1,500	500
North Cascades Complex	WA	1,000		
Olympic NP	WA	2,500	2,500	
Pecos NHP	NM	1,800	1,800	1,800
Prince William Forest Park	VA	1,000	1,000	
Saguaro NP	AZ	2,800	2,800	1,000
Santa Monica Mts.	CA	5,000	2,000 a/	2,000
Stones River NB	TN	4,300	3,000	1,000
Virgin Islands NP	VI	4,050	3,000 b/	2,000
War in the Pacific NHP	Guam	2,000		1,575
Weir Farm NHS	CT	2,500	2,500	2,500
Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P	AK	1,700		
Subtotal, Pres.' Line Item Requests		154,468	81,150	66,025

a/ Subject to non-Federal matching funds.

b/ Gibney Bay



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary
For Immediate Release
Sept. 30, 1999

Contact: Tim Ahern (202) 208-5089

BABBITT URGES PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE IN GEORGIA

ATLANTA - Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, in a visit today to the Chattahoochee River, advocated creation of a permanent fund so government can protect important open spaces from development. Georgia would receive almost \$10.3 million a year from the Land and Water Conservation Fund(LWCF) if it is fully funded.

"Atlanta is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and protecting open space in the region, and the rest of the state of Georgia, would likely be a very high priority of the President's Lands Legacy initiative, if it is approved by Congress," said Babbitt. "If there is one thing Congress can do to help stop the negative effects of urban sprawl such as over development, air and water pollution, it is to approve the President's Lands Legacy plan for protecting open space."

The Lands Legacy program, announced last January, would provide almost \$1 billion in federal money to protect a variety of sites, historic spaces, and open lands across the nation. At the same time, the President said he would work with Congress to enact annual full funding of the LWCF. The fund, created in 1965, includes money from the sale of federal offshore oil and gas leases.

Babbitt's comments came as he visited the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area with Gov. Roy Barnes, who has advocated protecting more open space along the river.

Georgia has received \$66.5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965. Among the areas protected in Georgia with LWCF money are the Cascade Springs Nature Preserve, Arabia Mountain nature preserve, Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area, and the Sweet Water Creek State Park.

Babbitt said since 1980, Georgia has received very little from the LWCF because Congress has not released funds as promised.

"The promise of the Land and Water Conservation Fund has never been fully kept," said Babbitt. "It was set up to provide almost \$1 billion a year through direct federal purchase and through grants to states that could then be used to protect land and open space. But rather than have these funds flow automatically, Congress has required that it appropriate the money every year. Unfortunately, Congress has usually approved less than one-third of the money available."

(More)

Georgia and the Land and Water Conservation Fund

GEORGIA STATE-SIDE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND TOTALS

(Federal dollars granted to States or localities for land acquisition and other needs)

All projects funded (1965-1995)	\$66,589,549
Total State would receive per year if State-side LWCF were funded at \$450 million (under current law)	\$10.32 million

Significant Past State-side Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Cascade Springs Nature Preserve: The 1979 grant of \$490,000 helped to acquire this 115 acre nature preserve located in the Atlanta area. A subsequent grant assisted in the development of trails and support facilities. The site is characterized by steep slopes, two creeks and hard-woods. Also significant is the result of a cultural survey that reflects early domestic and civil war sites on the property.

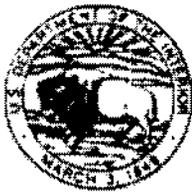
Arabia Mountain: The 1971 LWCF grant in the amount of \$342,000 helped acquire this 500 acre nature preserve. Sixty percent of this unique environment consists of granite outcroppings. This park sometimes called Little Stone Mountain, contains two endangered and threatened plants that live in shallow pools on top of the mountain.

Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area: The 1974 grant in the amount of \$1.7 million helped acquire over 10,000 acres of 14,000 acres that make up this site. A variety of recreation opportunities exist from hunting, wildlife viewing, trails, hiking fishing, and camping, all while protecting the delicate natural resources of the site.

Sweet Water Creek State Park: A 1972 grant of approximately \$1.4 million was used to acquire 1,400 acres of the total 1,900 acres that make up this state park. Located minutes from downtown Atlanta, it features natural and cultural resources including the ruins of the New Manchester Manufacturing Company, a civil-war era textile mill.

Unmet Recreation Needs:

Chattahoochee River - The Chattahoochee River Land Protection Campaign is a coalition of federal, state and local governmental bodies, local businesses and NGO's. The campaign seeks to create a nearly continuous corridor of green space running 160 miles across the state along the Chattahoochee River. This would protect remaining forests, wildlife habitat, selected cultural resources and water resources while enhancing communities by providing additional open space. The State is seeking to develop a significant presence at selected highly visible sites along the corridor, particularly to the south of Atlanta. This additional land protection would provide opportunities for river access by people and wildlife, hiking trails, as well as a place for school children to come and learn about the river. A protected, healthy Chattahoochee River will also provide safer, cleaner drinking water and ensure long-term biodiversity for generations to come.



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

For Immediate Release: Sept. 17, 1999

Contact: Tim Ahern (202) 208-5089

BABBITT VISITS LOS ANGELES' "LAST OPEN SPACE" DISCUSSES NEED TO CURB OVERDEVELOPMENT WITH PERMANENT FUNDING SOURCE

WASHINGTON - Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt visited Los Angeles' Baldwin Hills today and advocated establishing a permanent fund so government can protect important open spaces from development. California would receive almost \$42 million a year from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) if it is fully funded.

"The Baldwin Hills are Los Angeles' last open space, and a critical addition to this recreation area would likely be one of the first purchases of the President's Lands Legacy initiative, if it is approved by Congress," said Babbitt.

"If there is one thing Congress can do to help stop the negative effects of urban sprawl like over development, air and water pollution and destruction of wildlife habitat, it is to approve the President's Lands Legacy plan for protecting open space."

The Lands Legacy program, announced last January, would provide almost \$1 billion in federal money to protect a variety of sites, historic spaces, and open lands across the nation. At the same time, the President said he would work with Congress to enact annual full funding of the LWCF. The fund, created in 1965, includes money from the sale of federal offshore oil leases.

California has received \$233 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965. Many of the state's natural areas and parklands were protected with money from the fund, including: El Matador and El Pescador Beaches within the Robert H. Meyer Memorial State Beach Park in Malibu, Point Dume State Beach in Los Angeles County, and the Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area at Baldwin Hills.

Babbitt said under plans currently advocated by Congress, California would receive very little from the LWCF.

"The promise of the Land and Water Conservation Fund has never been fully kept," said Babbitt. "It was set up to provide almost \$1 billion a year, both through direct federal purchase and through grants to states that they could then use to protect land and open space. But rather than have these funds flow automatically, Congress has required that it appropriate the money every year. That has meant that Congress has usually approves less than one-third of the money available."

"Congress has broken its promise to the American people. That promise in 1965 was that the money from using offshore lands for oil and gas would go to purchase recreational, scenic and environmentally sensitive land for future generations. But it has never happened on a regular basis."

-more-



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary
For Immediate Release
Aug. 26, 1999

Contact: Tim Ahern (202)-208-5089

Babbitt Supports Protection for Brandywine, Paoli Battlefields, Says Congress Should Pass President's Lands Legacy Program

PHILADELPHIA - Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt today toured the Paoli and Brandywine Revolutionary War battlefields and urged Congress to provide money to permanently protect the two battlefields in the Philadelphia suburbs.

"These two sites are the very top of my list as important Revolutionary War sites," Babbitt said. "These sites tell us about our history and help explain the unique story of America. We need to protect these places, not only for our children, but also for all future Americans."

Congress is now considering legislation to acquire the 40 acres of the Paoli Massacre at Malvern, along with 477 acres of the Brandywine Battlefield.

But beyond individual bills, Babbitt said Congress should enact President Clinton's Lands Legacy program, which will provide a permanent funding stream from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy land and protect open spaces.

"All over this nation, there are dozens of places which need to be protected, including sites from our history such as the Revolutionary War or Civil War, or unique and wonderful places such as some the places we see in the West," Babbitt said. "All our public lands are being heavily used and we need to provide more places for our people to go, whether those places are parks or historic sites. Protecting these special places is one of the greatest legacies we could leave for the future."

"Since the Land and Water Conservation Fund was first created 35 years ago, it has never been permanently funded," Babbitt said. "Now, at the beginning of a new millennium, we should provide a way to protect our lands and historic sites for all time. This should be one of the first priorities of Congress when it returns to session next month."

-DOI-



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary
For Immediate Release: September 3, 1999

Contact: John Wright
202/208-6416

Wilderness: Gifts to Us All

The Act that created the National Wilderness Preservation System Turns 35 Years Old

A statement by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt

"Today marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System and is responsible for preserving and protecting more than 104 million acres of federal public lands. It is one of the most important environmental laws of the past half-century. Anyone who loves the outdoors, wildlife and pristine wilderness must agree.

"The fundamental premise of the Wilderness Act is that the process of building roads is a death sentence for an ecosystem. There are all kinds of scientific studies which show that roads' fragment habitat in a way that leads to the disintegration of the ecosystem. The grizzly bear is a great example. The grizzly cannot tolerate a fragmented habitat.

"The result of this extraordinary Act speaks for itself. The nation's wilderness system includes 624 areas containing more than 104 million acres of breathtaking landscapes which are now protected in perpetuity for future generations. The preservation of these areas accounts for about four and a half percent of the U.S. landmass. Wilderness areas are the most protected landscapes in the federal system. These fabulous lands are managed for the use and enjoyment of the American people, large enough to be refuges for plants and animals. Moreover, they have become refuges for both wildlife and people. We give these areas a chance to survive by leaving them wild, untamed and unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

"There has been very little action to approve wilderness areas in the last two sessions of Congress. We have made almost no progress, but the protection of these gifts to each and all of us, are more crucial now than ever before in the history of this country. Urban growth and development have made it essential for us to look hard at wilderness areas and other green spaces as they dwindle before our very eyes. Each day we lose more and more of our outdoor freedom and solitude, along with some of our mental and spiritual refreshment that potential wilderness areas and green spaces offer to us.

"Earlier this year President Clinton proposed an historic Lands Legacy Initiative to open the new century with an unprecedented commitment to preserving our most precious lands for all time. In this Initiative the President proposes a record \$1 billion to protect natural treasures and provide new resources to states and communities to preserve farms, urban parks, wetlands, coastlines, and working forests. I urge the Congress to work with the President and approve funding for this important Initiative and create a permanent fund to preserve our treasured areas for future generations to enjoy."



NEWS SUMMARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications

PICK-UP IN ROOM 1063

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1999

INNER VOICE

JULY/AUGUST 1999

BABBITT'S FEAST

An activist Interior Secretary lays plans for a legacy.

By Kathie Durbin

With scarcely a year and a half remaining for the Clinton administration, U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is quietly laying plans for a spate of actions that would protect public lands throughout the West. If he succeeds, through a combination of executive orders and legislation, the administration could leave a rich conservation legacy for the 21st century.

Interior officials are keeping mum on what conservationists call the "Babbitt initiative" as they work behind the scenes to build political support for designation of new national monuments and other special areas. "I know of no imminent monument designations," said Larry Finzer, national spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management. "I think what they're going to do is wait and see what happens with legislative efforts. The idea that there is a master plan or list is not true. It would be difficult to put a lid on that."

But in fact, high-level Interior officials have been meeting for weeks with environmentalists and BLM officials to refine a list of potential national monuments and other special areas, from a rare California grassland to remote Arizona canyonlands to a spectacular Oregon high desert landscape.

Oregon BLM Director Elaine Zielinski recently met with top Interior officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss special designations for two Oregon sites. In California, the administration is working with members of Congress to establish two special areas legislatively. And in Babbitt's home state of Arizona, the Interior secretary has endorsed national monument status for remote wildlands north of the Grand Canyon. Though the details of these designations remain to be worked out, it's likely such high-impact activities



California's Carrizo Plain may soon be a national monument.

as grazing, mining, logging, and off-road vehicle use would be restricted.

The politics of the new effort differ from state to state. In Oregon, Democratic members of the state's congressional delegation could reach consensus on protecting two areas — Steens Mountain and Soda Mountain — providing political cover for the administration. But in Idaho, where conservative Republicans have a lock on the delegation and the statehouse, conservationists who hope to build support for an Owyhee Canyonlands national monument are pinning their hopes on the Clinton administration's willingness to defy state political leaders.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows the president to establish national monuments by executive order. Early in this century, the act was invoked to protect national jewels such as the Grand Canyon, Washington state's Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rushmore. President Carter used the act to protect vast tracts of Alaska wilderness in 1978, after Congress failed to act. More recently,

in 1996, President Clinton used the law to designate 1.7 million acres of Utah's redrock canyon country as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Clinton's action enraged the Utah delegation and conservative politicians throughout the West.

This March, in an effort to head off similar moves in other states, Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, introduced the National Monument Public Participation Act. Craig's bill would prohibit the president from declaring any public land a national monument without congressional assent and full public participation as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. (Establishment of national monuments by executive order does not require NEPA compliance.) "The people of Idaho deserve our respect to have their say when we're talking about land management decisions," Craig said in a prepared statement. "No one wants the President, acting alone, to unilaterally lock up enormous parts of any state. We certainly don't work that way in the West." U.S. Rep. J. H. Hansen, R-Utah, has introduced a similar bill in the House. Like Craig's, Hansen's bill would require the government to comply with NEPA before designating a national monument, but it would not require congressional approval.

Neither bill is given much chance of passing or surviving a presidential veto. But they do signal that Babbitt might face retaliation from powerful committee chairmen if he tries to do in other states what he did in Utah. To keep confrontation to a minimum, informed observers say, Interior officials are trying to build congressional support where possible before creating new national monuments by fiat.

Recently, however, the Clinton administration has demonstrated an increasing willingness to act unilaterally to accomplish what it cannot win legislatively in a Republican-

Bureau of Land Management

controlled Congress. Establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument is only one example. In the past few months, the administration has imposed an 18-month moratorium on new road construction in most national forests, withdrawn the Rocky Mountain Front from mineral leasing, broadened protection for Alaska's Tongass National Forest, and adopted policies that would limit the scope of open-pit mines on public lands.

Here's a sampler of areas where discussions between the administration and conservationists over potential special designations are under way:

• In southern Oregon, a group called the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council is promoting a national biological area designation for a unique region encompassing more than 50,000 acres in southern Oregon and Northern California. Plant communities of the Cascade Mountains, the Siskiyou Mountains, the Klamath Basin, the Northern Great Basin, the California chaparral, and inland valleys converge in the Soda Mountain area. In 1995, the BLM designated most of the Oregon portion of this ecological crossroads the Cascade-Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area and imposed a 10-year moratorium on commercial logging within it. As a national biological area, it would be expanded to include adjacent lands in Oregon and California. Commodity extraction would be banned, public roads decommissioned, and only nonmotorized recreation allowed.

Council chairman Dave Willis traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring to lobby members of the Oregon delegation and high-level Interior officials for this heightened level of administrative protection. "The Soda Mountain area is on Bruce Babbitt's radar," he announced in a recent newsletter. "The present congress will not designate the Soda Mountain area as wilderness until hell freezes over. So we've been asking the Interior Department to give some sort of national special place administrative protection to the Soda Mountain area ... Secretary Babbitt is more than listening." In an interview, Willis

said that "Democrats in the Oregon delegation are now faced with the wonderful opportunity of being able to support land protection effectively as a minority party. All they have to do is give Babbitt the green light."

• In southeastern Oregon, the Oregon Natural Desert Association and other groups hope Babbitt will establish a Steens Mountain national monument to protect the imposing fault-block mountain and the surrounding high desert from overgrazing. A BLM management plan proposes designating the mountain a national conservation area, with little or no change in current levels of livestock grazing. BLM field manager Miles Brown, who oversees the area, said that a citizens advisory council has taken on the task of defining the conservation area's borders. But only Con-

The administration has demonstrated an increasing willingness to act unilaterally to accomplish what it cannot win legislatively in a Republican-controlled Congress.

gress can establish national conservation areas, and they can be anything Congress wants them to be.

Bill Marlett of the Oregon Natural Desert Association said his main goal for Steens Mountain is to remove cows from BLM allotments. Any special designation that leaves the present grazing system in place, he said, would hardly be better than the status quo. Still, he's optimistic: "Babbitt could set up some kind of a grazing retirement program. He won't call for a cow-free monument. But we're fortunate to have a president and a secretary of the Interior willing to use the Antiquities Act."

• Chuck Wassinger, assistant director of the Oregon BLM office, said he

knows of no plan for a Steens Mountain monument, but added, "That is always an option. They haven't taken it off the table ... The secretary has made it clear he is interested in highlighting those areas in the West that deserve some special designation." It's more likely, he said, that a bill establishing a Steens Mountain national conservation area will be introduced, possibly as early as next year. "I'm hearing nothing but broad-based support for some kind of special designation," Wassinger said.

• In Idaho, The Wilderness Society and the Committee for Idaho's High Desert are working with Oregon and Nevada conservationists to complete a detailed proposal for an Owyhee Canyonlands national monument and to mobilize support from rafting enthusiasts, backpackers, and outfitters who visit this remote, nearly pristine area. Craig Gehrke of The Wilderness Society's Boise office said the biggest threat to the Owyhee canyon country is uncontrolled off-road vehicle use. The Idaho office of the BLM confirmed that agency officials have met with environmentalists to discuss special protection for the Owyhee country. But Idaho BLM spokesman Don Smurthwaite flatly denied that the agency is considering any type of special designation for the Owyhee or any other public lands in Idaho.

• In Arizona, Babbitt has proposed establishing a 400,000-acre Shuywits Plateau national monument in a remote area of rugged cliffs and canyons north of the Grand Canyon that holds rich archaeological sites and harbors peregrine falcons, bald eagles, trophy mule deer, and desert bighorn sheep. The plateau has been overgrazed, and private inholdings in the area are vulnerable to mining. After touring the area in November, Babbitt called it "the most pristine area in the Grand Canyon system." A recent public meeting in Flagstaff drew 600 people, mainly from the Flagstaff area. Opposition came primarily from ranchers, miners, and off-road vehicle users.

• In California, the Interior Department and the BLM are finding rare bipartisan congressional support

for their efforts to protect two special areas, said Jan Bedrosian, assistant director of the BLM's California office. The Carrizo Plain, a 250,000-acre grassland, is all that's left of the San Joaquin Grasslands, which once covered more than a million acres between San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield. The prairie, presently managed by the BLM in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game, is home to endangered species, including the Mohave ground squirrel, and to reintroduced tule elk and pronghorn. A bill introduced in May by Democratic Rep. Lois Capp with strong bipartisan support would designate the prairie a national conservation area and withdraw it from mining claims, though it would still be open to oil and gas leasing and limited livestock grazing.

• The Santa Rosa Mountains, west of Palm Springs, would become a national monument under a bill being drafted by Rep. Mary Bono, a Republican. The scenic desert range, which is in mixed ownership, is home to peninsular bighorn sheep, recently listed as a threatened species. It would be managed jointly by the BLM, the San Bernardino National Forest, the Agua Caliente Indian tribe, and California state agencies.

• In Utah, Gov. Mike Leavitt and the Clinton administration have agreed to support congressional wilderness designation for more than 1 million acres of federal land in Utah's West Desert — far less, however, than the 2.6 million acres sought by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which mounted a national campaign for sweeping wilderness protection in Utah.

How much protection these designations would actually confer is an open question. But for now, western conservationists are trying to make the most of the unexpected opportunity to gain long-sought protections for some of the uncut jewels of the West. †

Kathie Durbin last wrote for Inner Voice about efforts to protect Montana's Rocky Mountain Front from mining.



NEWS SUMMARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications

PICK-UP IN ROOM 1063

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1999

JULY 22, 1999 THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

Babbitt commends La. for bringing coastal wetlands into the limelight

By Mark Schreiner
Staff Writer

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said Wednesday that Louisiana's adoption of a far-reaching, long-term plan for restoring coastal wetlands, known as Coast 2050, has elevated solving the state's wetland loss problem to the national agenda, alongside restoration of the Florida Everglades.

Babbitt stopped at Lakefront Airport for a news conference after a three-day, three-state tour of the lower Mississippi River. He was accompanied by Joseph Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army, who oversees the Corps of Engineers.

When he first came to the state in April 1998 after being appointed Interior secretary, Babbitt said, "the data remained a well-kept secret, even though it's every bit the equal, if not greater than" the Everglades.

"We talked about the need to launch it into the national consciousness, and I think you're at the take-off point now," he said. "The delta is not a household word in Nevada, but you're getting there." The next step, he said, is to create money from Congress for several big-delta projects in the \$14 billion Coast 2050 plan. While the 8-year-old federal Brown Act, which provides about \$40 million a year for wetlands projects in Louisiana, has proved helpful, Babbitt said passage of legislation such as President Clinton's Land Legacy Act could pro-

vide the money needed for larger projects over a longer period of time.

The Land Legacy Act would take offshore oil revenues and distribute it to a variety of natural resources projects. It is being considered in Congress now, along with competing legislation proposed by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., that would provide as much as \$250 million a year to Louisiana by redirecting a larger share of federal offshore mineral royalties to coastal states.

Landrieu's bill has 18 Republican and eight Democratic co-sponsors, said Landrieu spokesman Rob Masters.

Both plans, and a third proposed by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., still must compete for scarce dollars in next year's budget with Republican leadership proposals to cut taxes in anticipation of a \$1 trillion budget surplus, Masters said.

Babbitt also announced the appointment of Capt. Robert Innes, recently retired chief of administration for the 8th Coast Guard District in New Orleans, to a newly created position of American Heritage River Navigator.

Innes seems to enjoy duty in the Coast Guard but reports to the White House Council for Environmental Quality. He will act as a go-between for community groups and local governments that want to develop economic, environmental and historic preservation projects along the Mississippi River including eight parishes in Louisiana be-

tween Baton Rouge and the mouth of the river, and the city of Metairie, La.

Other parishes in Louisiana and counties in Arkansas have not yet agreed to participate in the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, he said.

Among the projects he will assist are a proposal by New Orleans to develop a National Museum of the Mississippi River; a proposal in Donaldsonville to attract retail and tourism business; and a Tulane Law School research project dealing with law of the beavers, the bird on the riverside of levees.

Innes will work out of offices in New Orleans and Metairie.



Joseph Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army, joins Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt as he answers questions during Babbitt's tour of the lower Mississippi River. Babbitt praised Louisiana for drawing attention to the delta.

AP PHOTO

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: A HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OUR LANDS

January 12, 1999

Today, at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., President Clinton and Vice President Gore announce a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative -- the largest one-year investment ever in the protection of America's land resources. This FY 2000 budget proposal -- a 125 percent increase over FY 1999 -- expands federal efforts to save America's natural treasures, and provides significant new resources to states and communities to protect local green spaces. In addition, the President calls on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres within 17 national parks and monuments. This landmark initiative charts a new conservation vision for the 21st century, reconnecting people with the land by preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen.

Saving America's Natural Treasures. At the start of this century, President Theodore Roosevelt called on Americans to save the best of our natural endowment for all time. His legacy is seen across the country, in our parks, our forests, and our wildlife refuges. President Clinton has continued to fulfill this vision by protecting Yellowstone Park from mining, creating a 1.7 million-acre national monument in Utah's spectacular red-rock country, and forging a historic agreement to save ancient California redwoods. The Lands Legacy Initiative expands these efforts with \$442 million for federal land acquisitions. Priorities include:

- **Mojave Desert** - Acquiring 450,000 acres within and around Mojave and Joshua Tree National Parks.
- **New England Forests** - Acquiring additional land within national forests and wildlife refuges in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York.
- **Everglades** - Acquiring lands critical to ongoing federal-state restoration efforts.
- **Lewis and Clark Trail** - Protecting the explorers' historic route along the Missouri River.
- **Civil War Battlefields** - Acquiring lands within Gettysburg, Antietam and other battlegrounds.

Protecting our Parks. In addition, the President is calling on Congress to grant permanent wilderness protection to over 5 million acres within the backcountry of Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountains, Cumberland Gap and 12 other national parks and monuments, giving these lands the highest level of federal protection available.

A Conservation Vision for the 21st Century. A new century poses new conservation challenges. Beyond saving America's "crown jewels," we must work as well to preserve natural wonders in our very backyards that grow scarcer every day. Protecting local green spaces helps improve air and water quality, sustain wildlife, provide families with places to play and relax, and make our communities more livable. Lands Legacy, to be coordinated with the Livability Agenda announced yesterday by Vice President Gore, provides \$588 million to state and local governments, private land trusts, and other nonprofit groups for:

- **Land Acquisition Grants** - \$150 million in matching grants for land or easements for urban parks, greenways, outdoor recreation, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.
- **Planning Grants and Loans** - \$50 million in matching grants for open space planning, and \$10 million to support \$50 million in low-interest loans to rural areas for "smart growth" planning and development.
- **Farmland Protection** - \$50 million for easements on threatened farmland and open space.
- **Urban Parks and Forests** - \$40 million to maintain and expand urban and community forests, and \$4 million to renovate parks in distressed urban neighborhoods.
- **Forest and Wildlife Protection** - \$50 million for easements to protect critical forest habitat, and \$80 million for habitat conservation plans to protect endangered species.

Protecting our Oceans and Coasts. Lands Legacy includes funds for federal and state efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources: \$29 million to expand and protect national marine sanctuaries; \$90 million to states to protect and restore coastlands; \$19 million to states for estuary protections; and \$45 million to restore coral

reefs, fisheries and marine habitats.



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary
For Immediate Release: November 6, 1998

Contact: John Wright
202/208-6416

Potomac River Selected to be Part of President's American Heritage Rivers Initiative

The Potomac River is one of 14 rivers designated

Congressional and federal representatives joined the Friends of the Potomac today at Mount Vernon, the historic site where George Washington lived, to celebrate the designation of the Potomac as part of President Clinton's American Heritage Rivers Initiative.

A ceremony commemorating the designation of the Potomac River was originally scheduled for July 30, but was postponed until November 6, because of the tragic shooting of two Capitol Hill Police officers. On hand for today's celebration to mark the historic event was a host of supporters, local Congressional delegations, and government representatives from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and federal agencies. The Initiative, first announced by President Clinton during his 1997 State of the Union Address, offers special recognition to outstanding stretches of American rivers by selecting them to be American Heritage Rivers. The Initiative helps local communities to restore and protect their rivers and river fronts. Designated rivers receive federal assistance in the form of refocused programs, grants, and technical assistance from existing federal resources.

Last summer, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore traveled to the New River in North Carolina, to announce the names of the 14 rivers designated as part of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative on July 30, 1998, while Secretary Babbitt took part in a ceremony in Springfield, Massachusetts, naming the Connecticut River.

"Rivers nourish our soils, carry our commerce, sustain our wildlife, and quench our thirst," Vice-President Gore said. "Working together as partners we can clean up America's rivers, create new jobs, and strengthen the communities along them for generations to come."

"It's Initiatives like this that moves our communities from mere preservation and protection, to watershed restoration," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "As a community comes together to restore the river that runs through it, that river, in turn, restores the community itself."

The Potomac River is one of 14 rivers designated out of 126 nominations from 46 states that competed for the Presidential designation. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative focuses on three

main objectives: economic revitalization, natural resources and environmental protection, and historic and cultural preservation. The Initiative helps communities of designated waterways to revitalize their rivers, river banks along them, historic buildings, natural habitats, and help celebrate their history and heritage.

National Park Service Director Robert Stanton, representing the President at today's ceremony, applauded the determination and support of The Friends of the Potomac, the basin-wide coalition that nominated the river. "Our waterways connect our cities together and help to restore our rich heritage," said Stanton. "Efforts such as this help safeguard our national treasures for future generations to enjoy."

The Friends of the Potomac will serve as liaison with federal agencies and provide coordination as local communities and organizations implement projects designed to enhance and restore the river. For each river designated under the Initiative, a federal employee will be assigned as "river navigator," to help communities identify federal programs and resources to help carry out their projects.

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) used the designation celebration ceremony to announce a \$5.9 million FY 1999 grant for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative that supports the President's American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Under the grant, OSM will provide \$150,000 to the Maryland Bureau of Mines to help control pollution from abandoned coal mines along the North Branch of the Potomac River.

Designations

The designated rivers are:

Potomac River --the river basin extends over 14,670 square miles in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. It includes 383 miles of the Potomac and major tributaries such as the Shenandoah, the South Branch, the North Branch, the Cacapon, Conococheague Creek, the Monocacy River, and the Anacostia River.

New River --The 250-mile long New River, which also flows through parts of Virginia and West Virginia, has witnessed residential and commercial developments along segments of its route, and supporters of the designation are looking for federal help to integrate and guide further development.

Connecticut River -- Interior Secretary Babbitt joined officials from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont on July 30 to officially designate and celebrate the selection of the Connecticut, New England's longest river, is 410 miles long with a diverse watershed encompassing 11,260 square miles.

Blackstone and Woonasquatucket Rivers -- flow through 26 communities with more than one million people before merging to flow into Providence Harbor in Rhode Island.

Willamette River -- watershed consists of approximately 11,500 square miles in northwestern Oregon. The mainstream of the Willamette runs 187 miles through cities such as Eugene, Corvallis, Salem, and

Cuyahoga River -- the river supports one of the most densely populated and industrialized urban areas in America. In 1969, the Cuyahoga River became a stark symbol of water pollution when oil slicks on the river caught fire. The burning river became a rallying point for passage of the Clean Water Act.

Detroit River -- the 32 mile-long river links St. Claire, Michigan to Lake Erie and is part of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway.

Hanalei River -- located on the Island of Kauai, drains a 24 square mile watershed as it descends 16 miles to sea-level, terminating in a brackish estuary which is a nursery habitat for a myriad of commercially important marine species.

Hudson River -- the river moves through 19 counties from its source at Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows in New York Harbor, 315 miles to the south.

St. Johns Rivers -- the Florida river is 310 miles long and drains approximately 8,700 square miles. It evolves into a series of connected lakes, and flows north past Orlando to enter the Atlantic Ocean at Jacksonville.

The Lower Mississippi River --including the stretch through Memphis, Tennessee and Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

Upper Mississippi River -- from Bemidji, Minnesota to St. Louis.

Rio Grande River -- separating Texas from Mexico, the designation covers the stretch that includes the cities of El Paso, Laredo, Brownsville, as well as Big Ben National Park, Amistad National Recreation Area, Falcon Reservoir, and Laguna Atascosa.

Upper Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers -- of northeastern Pennsylvania form two of the most scenic valleys in the country. During the 1800's, the region produced large amounts of coal that helped fuel the country's emergence as an industrial power.

- DOI -

Administration Lists 100 Land Buys Worth \$328 Million

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

In one of the biggest spurges in public lands acquisition in years, the Clinton administration has decided to fund a \$328 million wish list of improvements for national parks and wildernesses, including a new safe haven for embattled Yellowstone buffalo and a \$15 million property purchase along the Appalachian Trail.

The projects are among 100 high-priority purchases that the White House intends to complete using special funds appropriated in last year's budget agreement, senior administration officials said yesterday. The list covers 35 states and ranges from Civil War battle-

fields to barrier islands on the Atlantic Coast.

The extraordinary number of projects is a bonanza for sportsmen's groups and other parks boosters who have been clamoring for some of the improvements for years. But unlike past acquisitions by the White House, it was not expected to generate serious controversy, as most of the projects are relatively small and the funding has been approved.

The 100-item priority list was to be presented to Congress in a letter today, just as President Clinton submits a fiscal 1999 budget that will include a request for another \$290 million in land purchases.

"This list includes areas that are prized nationally and some little-known backyard wonders," said an administration official. "Each represents a prime opportunity to preserve a piece of America's natural and historical legacy."

In last year's budget deal, Congress earmarked an exceptionally large sum, \$700 million, for special "high priority acquisitions," using money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is fed by royalties from oil and gas leases. About half of the \$700 million will be used to cement a pair of high-profile land acquisition deals negotiated by the White House: a buyout of the proposed New World Gold Mine, near the border of Yellowstone National Park, and the purchase of a rare

private grove of old-growth redwood trees in California's Headwaters forest.

Among the highlights of the list:

- \$15.1 million to purchase the last privately owned sections of the Appalachian Trail. Although most of the famous hiking trail is on federal lands, there has been a long-standing push to secure the remaining privately owned parcels, most of which are in Virginia, Maryland, Vermont and Maine.

- \$13 million to buy a safety zone for Yellowstone National Park's bison. Nearly half of the park's 3,000-head buffalo herd died last winter from starvation or were shot after wandering off parklands. To prevent the loss of more animals, the administration intends to purchase land or easements in the 13,000-acre Royal Teton Ranch, which borders the park to the north.

- \$86 million to purchase land and demolish one of two dams along Washington state's Elwha River. The administration intends to eventually destroy both dams to help rebuild the salmon fishery.

- \$20 million to purchase part of New Mexico's scenic Baca Ranch wilderness. This unusual grasslands area near Santa Fe is home to one of the largest elk herds in the country, and the administration hopes to eventually incorporate the entire 95,000-acre ranch into the adjacent Santa Fe national forest.

- \$11.1 million to purchase private holdings in six Civil War battlefields, including Antietam and Monocacy in Maryland, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania in Virginia, Gettysburg in Pennsylvania and Stones River in Tennessee.

- \$6.4 million to purchase private holdings in the Cumberland Island National Seashore, a barrier island off Georgia. The island is home to wild horses, wild boar and panthers.