



MARY F. HANLEY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (202) 456-6224
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502 FAX (202) 456-2710

**A History of the President's Council on Environmental Quality
During the Clinton Administration
1993-2001**



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PROTECTING AMERICA'S NATURAL TREASURES

At the beginning of the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated our Nation to "the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

At the dawn of a new century, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are fulfilling this vision, and ensuring that future generations of Americans have the resources to carry on this legacy in the years ahead. Under their leadership, the Administration has strengthened protection for millions of acres of federal lands; saved and restored natural treasures from Florida's Everglades to California's ancient redwoods; helped hundreds of communities across the country protect parks, farms, and other local green spaces; and forged partnerships with landowners to restore and preserve the natural values of America's private lands.

With the President's announcement to protect roadless areas within our national forests, the Administration has protected more land in the continental United States than any Administration since the time of Teddy Roosevelt.

Creating Monuments for All Time

One of the tools that can be used to preserve America's natural heritage is the Antiquities Act, which authorizes the President to create national monuments on federal land to protect "objects of historic and scientific interest." The Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt, who created the Grand Canyon National Monument -- the core of what later became Grand Canyon National Park. President Clinton has employed the Antiquities Act to protect more land in the lower 48 states than any President in history, creating or expanding twenty one national monuments:

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah - 1.7 million acres of some of the most remote country in the continental United States, with spectacular red rock canyons, stone arches, brilliantly colored cliffs, and the remnants of three major prehistoric cultures.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Arizona - Just over 1 million acres of deep canyons, mountains, and buttes on the north rim of the Grand Canyon containing ancient artifacts and diverse wildlife, including rare species such as the California condor and desert tortoise.

Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona - A 71,100-acre site featuring some of the most extensive prehistoric ruins in the American Southwest, including spectacular petroglyphs, terraced agricultural areas, and rock pueblos once inhabited by communities of several thousand.

California Coastal National Monument -- A biological treasure encompassing thousands of islands, rocks and reefs off the California coast that provide critical feeding and nesting grounds for marine mammals and seabirds, including the threatened brown pelican and southern sea otter.

Pinnacles National Monument in California - A 7,900-acre expansion of the Pinnacles Monument to help preserve its unique geologic formations, its watershed, and important habitat for species including golden eagles, prairie falcons, and red-tailed hawks.

Giant Sequoia National Monument in California – A 327,769-acre site containing magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world's largest trees, interspersed within a great belt of coniferous forests, jeweled with mountain meadows, rare and endemic plants and animals, and important paleontological and archaeological sites. Today, they survive in only about 70 groves on the western slopes of the Sierra. Thirty-four groves are protected in the new national monument.

Abraham Lincoln – Soldiers' Home National Monument in Washington, D.C - President Abraham Lincoln and his family spent many of the warm summer months in residence at Anderson Cottage here and completed drafting the Emancipation Proclamation at this site. Several presidents, including Presidents Buchanan, Hayes and Arthur used it. Its name is taken from Major Robert Anderson, the commanding officer at Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War. It is managed by the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Retirement Home in consultation with the Department of the Interior, and has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado – A 4,000 acre treasure of ancient culture in the Four Corners region, nine miles west of Mesa Verde National Park. It contains the highest-known density of archeological sites anywhere in the United States, with rich, well preserved remnants of human history going back thousands of years. Designation: June 9, 2000

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon – A 52,000 acre site in southern Oregon that includes Soda Mountain and surrounding lands rich in plant and animal life. At the convergence of the Klamath and Cascade Mountains, its biological diversity is unmatched in the Cascade Range. Designation: June 9, 2000

Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho – This 661,000 expansion of the current monument, takes in almost all of the features of basaltic volcanism, including the craters, cones, lava flows, caves and fissures of the 65-mile long Great Rift, a geological feature that is comparable to the great rift zones of Iceland and Hawaii. It comprises the most diverse and geologically recent part of the lava terrain that covers the southern Snake River Plain, a broad area made up of innumerable basalt lava flows that erupted during the past five million years.

Hanford Reach National Monument in Washington – This 195,000-acre area straddles one of the last free-flowing stretches of the Columbia River in south central Washington. A critical area for spawning salmon, it contains a wealth of wildlife and remnants of human history spanning more than 10,000 years. Designation: June 9, 2000

Ironwood Forest National Monument in Arizona – 129,000 acres located in the Sonoran Desert 25 miles northwest of Tucson, the monument contains rich stands of ironwood trees – which can live more than 800 years – and a stunning diversity of bird and animal life well Santa

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in Arizona – This 293,000-acre monument is a geologic and historic treasure, covering 293,000 acres. Located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, the monument is a geologic and historic treasure, covering the Paria Plateau and the Vermilion Cliffs and ranging in elevations from 3,100 to 7,100 feet. Humans have explored and lived on the plateau and surrounding canyons for thousands of years, since the earliest known hunters and gatherers crossed the area 12,000 or more years ago. Designation: November 9, 2000

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The Upper Missouri River Breaks is in central Montana and spans 149 miles of the Upper Missouri River, the adjacent Breaks country, and portions of Arrow Creek, Antelope Creek, and the Judith River. It covers approximately 377,346 acres of federal land, including the Missouri Breaks country north of the Missouri River. The Breaks is the only major portion of the Missouri River to be protected and preserved in its natural, free-flowing state. It is also the premier segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Pompeys Pillar is on 51 acres of federal land along the Yellowstone River in central Montana, 28 miles east of Billings. Its geologic distinction as the only major sandstone formation in the area has made it a celebrated landmark and an outstanding observation point for more than 11,000 years of human occupation.

Carrizo Plain National Monument. Carrizo Plain is located in central California, just off the southwest edge of the San Joaquin Valley, between San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield. It covers approximately 204,107 acres of federal land, with elevations ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 feet above sea level. Dramatically bisected by the San Andreas Fault zone, the area is the largest undeveloped remnant of this ecosystem, providing critical habitats for the long-term survival of the many endemic plant and animal species that inhabit the area.

Sonoran Desert National Monument. The Sonoran Desert National Monument is located in south central Arizona, approximately 60 miles from Phoenix. The area is a magnificent example of untrammeled Sonoran Desert landscape. It encompasses a functioning desert ecosystem with an extraordinary array of biological, scientific, and historic resources. The most biologically diverse of the North American deserts, the monument consists of distinct mountain ranges separated by wide valleys, and includes large saguaro cactus forest communities that provide excellent habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. The outer boundaries of the area encompass approximately 486,149 acres of federal land.

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. The Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is located in north central New Mexico near Santa Fe. It is a remarkable outdoor laboratory, offering an opportunity to observe, study, and experience the geologic processes that shape natural landscapes, as well as other cultural and biological objects of interest. Rich in pumice, ash, and tuff deposits, the light-colored cone-shaped tent rock formations are the products of explosive volcanic eruptions that occurred between six and seven million years ago. The monument includes approximately 4,148 acres of federal land, and elevations within the monument range from about 5,560 feet to about 6,760 feet above sea level.

Minidoka Internment National Monument. The Minidoka Internment National Monument is located in south-central Idaho, in Jerome County approximately 20 miles northeast of Twin Falls. The monument includes portions of the Minidoka Relocation Center, a World War II-era Japanese-American internment camp. The monument includes approximately 73 acres of federal land currently managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

U.S. Virgin Island Coral Reef National Monument. The U.S. Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument includes 12,708 acres of federal submerged lands within the 3-mile belt off of St. John, including Hurricane Hole and areas north and south of St. John. The area contains all the elements of a Caribbean tropical marine ecosystem. This designation furthers the protection of the scientific objects included in the Virgin Islands National Park.

Buck Island Reef National Monument (expansion). The Buck Island Reef National Monument expansion includes 18,135 marine acres of federal submerged lands off of St. Croix, within the 3-mile belt around Buck Island. Buck Island Reef National Monument was established on December 28, 1961 by Presidential proclamation just north of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The 1961 proclamation describes Buck Island and its adjoining shoals, rocks, and undersea coral reef formations as "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea," which are of "great scientific interest and educational value to students of the sea and to the public."

Defending the World's First National Park

Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872, is known around the world for its spectacular wildlife and geysers. But a massive gold mine proposed not far from the park threatened Yellowstone with toxic runoff and other environmental harm. In 1996, President Clinton announced a \$65 million agreement with Crown Butte Mines that halted the proposed New World Mine, ending the threat to Yellowstone.

Last year, the President announced another major step to protect the greater Yellowstone ecosystem: acquisition of the 9,300-acre Royal Teton Ranch adjoining Yellowstone. Protection of these lands preserves critical winter range for the park's bison and protects underground geothermal resources that feed the park's world-famous geysers.

Restoring Balance to Our National Forests

In 1994, the Clinton-Gore Administration broke the long stalemate over the Northern Spotted Owl with the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan, striking a balance between the preservation of old-growth stands and the economic needs of timber-dependent communities. Building on that success, the Administration has worked to improve management of all our national forests with a new science-based agenda that strengthens protections for water quality, wildlife and recreation while reforming logging practices to ensure steady, sustainable supplies of timber and jobs.

In a major step to preserve some of America's last wild lands, President Clinton directed the Forest Service in October, 1999 to develop a rule to protect more than 40 million acres of pristine "roadless" areas within the national forests. On January 5, 2001, President Clinton announced a comprehensive strategy to protect 58.5 million acres of pristine forestland – nearly one-third of America's national forests. In addition, the Forest Service has proposed:

- A new roads policy to better manage existing roads within the national forests system, making them safer, more responsive to public needs, and less environmentally damaging.
- A comprehensive planning rule to guide the national forests as they periodically update their management plans to ensure sound stewardship for future generations.

Saving California's Ancient Redwoods

When a family-owned timber company in Northern California was taken over, and the new owners accelerated the logging, the world's largest unprotected stand of old-growth redwoods was suddenly threatened. The Clinton-Gore Administration forged an agreement, and secured \$250 million in federal funds, to preserve the 7,500-acre Headwaters Forest – saving trees up to 2,000 years old and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. The agreement also provided for a comprehensive plan to protect wildlife habitat and ensure sustainable logging on the company's surrounding timberlands.

Restoring the Florida Everglades

In 1996, Vice President Gore launched a long-term strategy to restore an extraordinary but endangered natural treasure – the Florida Everglades. In close partnership with the state of Florida and other stakeholders, the Administration has worked to develop a comprehensive restoration plan, acquire and protect critical lands, improve water quality, restore endangered species, accelerate scientific research, and increase fresh water flows to Everglades National Park. The effort represents the most ambitious environmental restoration project ever attempted.

In 2000, the Administration, working with the state of Florida and all interests, including urban, agricultural, environmental and tribal representatives, successfully obtained congressional approval of the Administration's Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. This \$7.8 billion plan to rebuild the region's water system to more closely mimic nature's design, would nearly double the amount of fresh water available in South Florida, ensuring clean, plentiful flows for the Everglades and adequate supplies for cities and farms.

Restoring the San Francisco Bay-Delta

In 1995, the Administration reached a landmark agreement with the state of California that is laying the groundwork for a lasting solution to the state's perennial water conflicts. Under the CALFED agreement, the federal and state governments are undertaking interim measures to restore San Francisco Bay and the adjoining Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, while ensuring adequate water supplies for cities and farmers. Since 1997, the Administration has secured \$190 million in federal funds for environmental restoration through the Bay-Delta program. On August 28, 2000, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, EPA, NMFS and the Corps of Engineers signed the Record of Decision on the final CALFED Bay-Delta program with representatives of the State of California. This program will build on the extensive work done to date by the State-federal CALFED partnership to improve water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration, and levee stability for the San Francisco Bay- San Joaquin/ Sacramento River Delta. The program calls for investments of more than \$8.5 billion, with California paying at least half of the costs, in what would be the largest restoration effort in the nation. It will improve water supply and reliability in agricultural and urban areas, protect the drinking water quality of over 22 million Californians, and protect over 450 fish and wildlife species.

Protecting and Restoring Our National Parks

As Americans visit their national parks in record numbers, the Administration is undertaking new initiatives to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy them in all their splendor.

On Earth Day 1999, Vice President Gore announced a long-term strategy to restore pristine skies and unspoiled views to national parks and wilderness areas by reducing pollution from power plants, cars, and factories hundreds or thousands of miles away. In several major parks, new transportation plans emphasizing the use of public transit and clean fuels are helping to reduce congestion and pollution. A clean-fueled shuttle bus system at Acadia National Park carried over 140,000 passengers in its first summer of operation, and similar shuttles will soon be introduced at Zion National Park.

In Yosemite Valley, a new master plan will ease crowding and restore developed areas to natural conditions. At the Grand Canyon, new rules for sightseeing flights will help restore the natural quiet, and a planned light rail system will ease congestion. Throughout the park system, entrance and recreation fees are now being reinvested directly in the parks to help meet critical maintenance needs and put our national parks on firmer financial footing.

Protecting the California Desert

The California Desert Protection Act, signed by President Clinton in 1994, provided new or enhanced protection for 6.6 million acres of spectacular landscapes in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of Southern California. The new law created the 1.4 million-acre Mojave National Preserve; expanded Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments, and redesignated them

as national parks; and provided wilderness protection for 3.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands.

Preserving Natural and Historic Sites

Over the past seven years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has protected scores of natural and historic sites around the country by securing over \$2.5 billion through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Much of the funding has been used for federal acquisition of threatened lands, and the remainder has gone to states and communities to help them protect local green spaces. Major priorities have included completing the Appalachian Trail, protecting Civil War battlefields, and preserving New Mexico's majestic Baca Ranch.

To continue these efforts in the years ahead, the President won bipartisan approval for guaranteed conservation funding, totaling \$1.6 billion for 2001, growing to \$2.4 billion in 2006. This more than doubles existing funding for these purposes. Up to two-thirds of this funding will be made available to state and local governments for their conservation efforts.

Stemming the Loss of Precious Wetlands

Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining wildlife, filtering pollutants from our water, and protecting communities from flooding. Yet more than half the historic wetlands in the continental United States have been lost.

To help reverse this loss, the Administration has undertaken major reforms of wetlands regulation. New "nationwide permits" adopted this year by the Army Corps of Engineers require rigorous review of any project affecting more than half an acre of wetlands. Apart from protecting wetlands, the new permits will substantially decrease development within floodplains, preventing serious threats to life and property. In large part due to these policies, the rate of wetlands loss reported for the mid-1980's to mid-1990's has decreased by 80 percent from the previous decade to an annual average of 58,000 acres.

In addition, the President's Clean Water Action Plan sets a nationwide goal of a net increase 100,000 acres of wetlands a year beginning in 2005.

Forging Conservation Partnerships with Farmers

Most of the land in the United States is in private hands, and the nation's economic and environmental well-being rests in part on keeping these lands healthy. Through a range of initiatives, the Administration has forged innovative partnerships with farmers and other landowners to encourage voluntary conservation efforts and strengthen rural economies.

The Wetlands Reserve Program provides technical and financial assistance to property owners who enter into permanent or long-term agreements to restore and maintain wetlands. The Conservation Reserve Program provides annual payments to farmers who remove

environmentally sensitive lands from production and improve them by restoring wildlife habitat, planting windbreaks, or creating streamside buffers. The Administration's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program greatly expanded these efforts by encouraging states to commit matching funds targeted to urgent conservation needs, such as restoring Chesapeake Bay and Pacific Northwest salmon. Agreements have been signed with Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, and others are in the works.

Through these programs, the Administration has helped stabilize farm income while securing conservation improvements on more than 32 million acres of private land nationwide. In this year's budget, the President's secured over \$2 billion for the coming year to significantly expand conservation partnerships with farmers, ranchers and other landowners.

CLEAN AIR, SAFE WATER, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Thirty years ago, city skylines were disappearing behind a veil of smog, and many of America's rivers were open sewers, so polluted they sometimes burst into flame. In barely over a generation, we have reversed decades of degradation. Tens of millions more Americans now have clean air and drinking water. Twice as many of our rivers and lakes are now safe for fishing and swimming. We have cut lead levels in our children's blood by 70 percent, and toxic emissions from factories by nearly half.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have launched a new generation of environmental and public health protections to continue this progress and to meet new challenges unforeseen in 1970. Under their leadership, the Administration has adopted the toughest clean air standards ever; strengthened drinking water protections; accelerated toxic waste cleanups; expanded our communities' right to know about toxic releases; and taken special steps against environmental health risks to children.

Together, these measures are helping to move America closer to the day when we can fulfill every citizen's right to clean air, safer water, and a healthy neighborhood.

Cleaning Up Auto Emissions

In December, 1999, President Clinton took the boldest steps in a generation to improve air quality and protect public health by reducing pollution from cars and trucks.

Although air pollution has been cut 30 percent since 1970, even as economic output has more than doubled, these gains are threatened because Americans drive more than ever and increasingly favor higher-polluting SUV's, minivans and other light-duty trucks. To keep America on track to meeting its air quality goals, the President announced tough new tailpipe emissions standards that will produce the cleanest cars ever -- and for the first time require SUV's and minivans to meet the same pollution standards as passenger cars. The new measures, to be phased in from 2004 to 2009, also will reduce sulfur levels in gasoline by 90 percent.

When fully implemented, these measures will result in cars that are 77 percent cleaner and light-duty trucks that are up to 95 percent cleaner than those on the road today -- the equivalent of

removing 164 million cars from the road. Improved air quality will prevent up to 4,300 premature deaths and 173,000 cases of childhood respiratory illness each year.

In December, 2000, President Clinton announced a program that will set tough, new standards for heavy-duty trucks and buses, reducing smog-causing emissions from trucks and buses by 95 percent beyond current standards – the equivalent of eliminating air pollution from 13 million of today's trucks. This major action will reduce the sulfur content of diesel fuel by 97 percent, or from 500 to 15 parts per million.

Tough Standards for Soot and Smog

In 1997, after exhaustive scientific study, the Administration adopted strong new national standards for soot and smog – two air pollutants that pose significant health risks for millions of Americans. Soot, or particulate matter, comes largely from power plants and industrial facilities. Smog, or ground-level ozone, is the haze of chemicals from car exhausts and smokestack emissions that shrouds many cities on hot summer days. The new standards set broad national goals to guide other federal air quality efforts and to guide states in developing strong, enforceable air quality plans. The standards could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions who suffer from respiratory illnesses. Although the new standards have been delayed by litigation, the Administration continues to pursue the case in court.

Safeguarding our Drinking Water

Americans enjoy the safest drinking water in the world. Ninety-one percent of Americans receive tap water from drinking water systems meeting federal public health standards. To ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water, President Clinton proposed and signed legislation in 1996 to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act. In implementing the new law, the Administration has:

- required America's 55,000 water utility companies to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water;
- required improved filtration and monitoring of water systems nationwide to protect against *cryptosporidium*, E. coli, and other disease-causing microbes, preventing up to 650,000 cases of waterborne illnesses a year;
- secured funding for the new Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which has provided \$3.6 billion in low-interest loans for system construction and upgrades, and for preventing contamination of rivers, lakes and streams that are drinking water sources; and
- proposed tough new standards for high-risk contaminants, such as arsenic and radon.

Accelerating Toxic Waste Cleanups

The Clinton-Gore Administration has dramatically accelerated the cleanup of the nation's worst toxic waste sites, freeing scores of communities from environmental threats and economic blight. Having inherited a flawed Superfund program mired in litigation, the Administration instituted

three rounds of reforms to make cleanups faster, fairer, and more efficient. Since 1993, 604 cleanups have been completed -- more than three times as many as in the previous 12 years. Cleanup is completed or underway at more than 92 percent of all Superfund sites. In this year's budget, President Clinton secured \$1.4 billion to continue progress toward the Administration's goal of cleaning up 900 Superfund sites by 2002.

Strengthening the Public's Right to Know

One of the most powerful tools against pollution is information – letting people know what is being put into their environment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has taken several steps to expand communities' right to know about toxic releases to air, water and land.

The Administration has nearly doubled the number of chemicals subject to reporting, and expanded by 30 percent the number of facilities that must report. Last year, reporting requirements were strengthened for 27 “persistent bioaccumulative” chemicals like mercury, dioxin, and PCBs, which are especially risky because they do not break down easily and are known to accumulate in the human body. In addition, the Administration forged a partnership with the chemical industry and the environmental community to develop better data on the potential health effects of the 2,800 most widely used chemicals.

Ensuring Clean Waters Across America

President Clinton launched a major Clean Water Action Plan in 1998 to help fulfill the promise of the Clean Water Act – clean, healthy water for all Americans. To help clean up the almost 40 percent of America's surveyed waterways still too polluted for fishing and swimming, the plan targets the largest remaining threats to water quality: polluted runoff from farms and city streets. The five-year plan encourages community-based cleanup strategies and provides new resources to states, local governments, and landowners to help implement them. Over the past two years, the President has secured \$3.9 billion to implement the plan.

In July, 2000, the Administration also took action to finish the job of cleaning up 20,000 polluted rivers, lakes and bays across the United States through pollution budgets called “total maximum daily loads.” Under this new program, states will be required to develop plans that fit the needs of each individual waterway and its surrounding community. These plans will make waters healthy again, and will address the greatest remaining threat to America's waters – polluted runoff. In developing these new plans, States will have full flexibility in deciding how reductions in water pollution can best be achieved.

Making Children's Health a Priority

Children are particularly vulnerable to environmental health threats. Their bodies are still developing. Pound for pound, they eat, drink, and breathe more than adults. And their play puts them in close contact with the environment.

President Clinton signed an Executive Order in 1997 to ensure that these added risk factors are closely scrutinized. The order directs agencies to coordinate their research priorities on children's health, and to ensure that health and safety standards they adopt take into account special risks to children. The Administration has launched outreach campaigns to educate parents, teachers, and health providers about environmental health risks to children. And, to develop better science, the Administration has awarded grants to eight universities to establish children's environmental health research centers.

Improving Food Safety Standards

To ensure that America's food supply remains among the safest in the world, the Administration has made reducing food-borne illness a national priority. New steps include improved safety standards for meat, poultry, and seafood products, as well as for fruit and vegetable juices. Research, education, and surveillance efforts also have been greatly expanded. In 1996, President Clinton signed the landmark Food Quality Protection Act, setting strict new standards for pesticide residues in food – including the first pesticide standards aimed specifically at protecting children. The Administration is on track to completing reviews for the pesticides posing the greatest potential risk by the end of this year.

Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning

Despite bans on lead-based paint and lead in gasoline, lead remains one of the greatest environmental health threats to children. Nearly one million children under six – one in 20 – have elevated levels of lead in their bodies, posing a risk of serious nervous system disorders such as reduced intelligence, reading and learning disabilities, and behavior problems.

Through grants that help state and local governments identify and remove lead-based paint in older, privately owned, low-income housing, where hazards are most prevalent, the Administration has helped make over 25,000 homes lead-safe. Earlier this year, the Administration launched a new strategy with an ambitious goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in America in 10 years. The Administration's proposed budget for the coming year includes \$164.5 million to begin implementing this new strategy.

Making Beaches Safer for America's Families

In October 2000, President Clinton signed the BEACH Act of 2000 to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters to provide better health protections for the beach-going public. Under the new legislation, state and local authorities will develop beach water quality monitoring and public notification programs. The American public can be assured that their beaches will be tested for dangerous microbes and they will be notified if the beaches are closed or pose health risks. Now beach closures and advisories will be available on a national public right-to-know database on the Internet.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is one of the most profound challenges of the 21st century. The world's leading atmospheric scientists agree that the Earth is warming and that human activities are at least partly to blame. They warn that average global temperatures could rise 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century, causing increased flooding and drought, more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and the spread of infectious disease.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are leading efforts -- in the United States and abroad -- to protect future generations from these grave risks. At home, the Administration has launched major new initiatives to improve energy efficiency and develop clean, renewable energy sources -- steps that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving money and creating jobs. On the diplomatic front, the United States is working with other nations to create cost-effective solutions and to ensure that all nations join in meeting this global challenge.

Sound, common-sense approaches to climate change will help put the United States and other nations on the path to a clean energy future, ensuring a healthier environment while creating new opportunities for strong, sustainable growth.

Forging Strong, Sensible International Agreement

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a global solution. In 1997, with critical leadership from Vice President Gore, representatives of more than 160 nations agreed on the basic architecture of an international strategy to combat global warming. This historic agreement, called the Kyoto Protocol, sets strong, realistic targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized countries, and establishes flexible, market-based mechanisms to achieve them as cost-effectively as possible.

The Kyoto Protocol remains a work in progress. Through ongoing negotiations, the Administration is working with other nations to turn the treaty's broad concepts into working realities. The Administration also is pursuing an aggressive diplomatic strategy to achieve broader participation by developing countries in this global effort. The President and Vice President are committed to completing the important work begun in Kyoto so this important treaty can be ratified.

Improving Our Scientific Understanding

Our strategy for addressing global warming must be founded on the best possible science. Since 1993, the Administration has secured more than \$13 billion for the United States Global Change Research Program, which works to strengthen our understanding of the human and natural forces that influence the Earth's climate, and the potential impacts of global warming. Key priorities have included improved surface and satellite monitoring of changes in temperature and precipitation; expanded research into the effects of climate change on the natural and built

environment; and a better understanding of the role of farms, forests, and other natural or managed lands in capturing and storing carbon.

Investing in Clean Energy Technologies

New technologies that improve energy efficiency and provide clean, renewable energy hold great promise for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. They also can ease our reliance on imported oil, reduce other forms of harmful air pollution, and provide significant long-term savings for businesses and consumers.

To help spur these advances, President Clinton launched the Climate Change Technology Initiative, a comprehensive program of research investments and targeted tax incentives. Over the past two years, the President has secured more than \$2 billion to research and develop clean energy technologies in the four major carbon-emitting sectors of the economy – buildings transportation, industry, and electricity generation. The President also has proposed \$4 billion in tax credits over five years for wind and biomass energy production, and for the purchase of energy-efficient homes and appliances, solar energy systems, electric and hybrid vehicles, and other clean energy products.

Forging Partnerships with Industry

The Administration has forged new partnerships with major industries to promote voluntary, cost-effective efforts that can achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These include:

Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing – In a joint venture announced in 1998 by President Clinton, the federal government is working with the building industry to develop technologies to make new homes 50 percent more energy efficient, and to make at least 15 million existing homes 30 percent more energy efficient, within a decade. PATH projects are now underway in pilot communities in Denver, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Tucson.

Energy Star® – This highly successful partnership helps consumers save energy and save money. Participating manufacturers, utilities, and retailers label energy-efficient products with the Energy Star® logo. More than 3,000 products – from computers to refrigerators to new homes – have qualified for the logo. The partnership has helped spur more than \$3 billion in technology investments to date, and will help eliminate almost 40 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade.

Climate Wise – This program gives technical assistance to more than 530 manufacturing companies that have entered into partnership agreements with the Federal government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By 2010, Climate Wise partners are projected to avoid cumulative emissions of nearly 14 million tons, and save \$2 billion.

Industries of the Future – This works in partnership with the nation's most energy-intensive industries – such as aluminum, glass, chemicals, forest products, mining,

petroleum refining, and steel – to develop technologies that increase energy and resource efficiency. By 2010, participating industries are projected to avoid emissions of more than 25 million tons, and realize \$4 billion in energy savings.

Growing Clean Energy

Promising new bio-based technologies convert crops, trees, farm waste and other “biomass” into a vast array of fuels and products. These new technologies will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing U.S. energy security and creating new economic opportunity for farmers and others. President Clinton issued an Executive Order last year to coordinate federal efforts to spur the development of bio-based technologies and move them from the laboratory to the marketplace. The President also set a goal of tripling America’s use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010. Achieving this goal could generate \$15 billion to \$20 billion in new income for farmers and rural communities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 100 million tons a year -- the equivalent of taking 70 million cars off the road.

Million Solar Roofs

In June 1997, President Clinton launched the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, with the goal of installing solar energy systems on one million U.S. roofs by 2010. Meeting this goal will reduce carbon emissions equivalent to the annual emissions of 850,000 cars, while creating high-tech jobs and increasing domestic production of solar technologies. The initiative is well ahead of schedule: the Department of Energy already has received commitments for close to a million solar roofs. To further spur solar energy technologies, the President has proposed a 15 percent tax credit (up to \$2,000) for the purchase of rooftop solar systems.

Wind Powering America

Wind is the fastest growing source of energy in the world. Dramatic improvements in wind turbine technology helped spur a 25 percent increase in wind-generating capacity over the last decade. Federal researchers, working in collaboration with private industry, are helping to develop the next generation of wind turbines, which will make wind energy even more competitive.

Currently, the U.S. has an installed capacity of about 2500 megawatts of wind energy – enough to power about half a million homes. The Wind Powering America Initiative, launched last year, sets a goal of generating five percent of U.S. electricity with wind power by 2020.

Saving Energy and Money At Home

Roughly a fifth of the energy consumed in the United States is used to power our homes, nearly all of it for appliances. The Administration’s new energy-efficiency standards for heating and cooling equipment, water heaters, lighting, refrigerators, clothes washers and dryers, and cooking

equipment will cut the average appliance's energy use by 30 percent. By 2010, these energy conservation measures will have saved consumers almost \$50 billion and avoided cumulative greenhouse gas emissions of more than 225 million metric tons.

RESTORING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE

When our Founders selected the American bald eagle as our national symbol, as many as half a million of these majestic birds soared the skies of North America. By the early 1960's, a mere 400 breeding pairs survived in the lower 48 states.

Today, the bald eagle is back. In ceremonies last summer on the South Lawn of the White House, President Clinton announced the first step in formally removing the eagle from the endangered species list. The dramatic comeback of the eagle, the American alligator, the gray whale and others is testament to the success of the Endangered Species Act, and to America's determination to protect and restore our native wildlife.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have strengthened these efforts by creating and expanding national wildlife refuges, and by committing more resources to protecting wildlife on other federal lands. But the survival of many species depends more on the health of America's private lands. That is why the Administration has worked so hard to forge partnerships with landowners, pioneering innovative approaches that provide them the flexibility and certainty they need to make productive use of their lands, while ensuring that America's wild plants and animals can flourish.

Restoring Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act, one of American's landmark environmental laws, is our last line of defense against species extinction. Its goal is no less than the preservation of our nation's biodiversity. Although the number of species listed under the Act as threatened or endangered continues to rise, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made significant strides in more quickly assessing the status of individual species and developing plans for their recovery.

Perhaps the greatest measure of the Act's success is the growing number of species once declared threatened or endangered that are no longer in danger of extinction. Since 1978, 35 species have recovered sufficiently to be "downlisted" from endangered to threatened or removed from the list entirely – 15 in the last seven years. The Administration has proposed "downlisting" or "delisting" another 12 species. In addition to the bald eagle, notable successes include:

- American Peregrine Falcon. Thirty years ago, only 324 nesting pairs survived. Thanks to the banning of DDT, captive breeding, reintroduction efforts, and the protection of nest sites – the same kinds of efforts that brought back the bald eagle – there are now 1,650 breeding pairs. The falcon came off the endangered species list last year.
- The Aleutian Canada Goose. With populations up from only a few hundred in the mid-1970s to about 32,000 birds today, final action to remove the bird from the endangered species list could come later this year.

- Tinian Monarch. A small flycatcher found only on the island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands, this bird has expanded its population from 50 or fewer after World War II to approximately 57,000 today. Its “delisting” is pending.

Returning Wolves to Yellowstone

One of the most dramatic stories of species recovery in the United States is the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park. Once widely viewed as a threat to humans and livestock, wolves were hunted nearly to extinction by the mid-1900's. In 1995, the Administration began a program to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone, where they were long an integral part of the ecosystem, helping to maintain stable, healthy populations of elk and other large prey. The reintroduced population of 10 has now grown to nearly 120, including eight breeding pairs. A similar program begun in 1998 is now reintroducing the Mexican gray wolf to Arizona and New Mexico.

Saving Salmon in the Pacific Northwest

Salmon have long been integral to the culture and economy of the Pacific Northwest, but the prodigious runs that once filled the region's rivers have declined dramatically over the past century. The Administration is working closely with state, tribal, and local leaders on plans to restore salmon in coastal rivers and in the Columbia-Snake River basin. The goal is a long-term strategy, built on sound science and strong regional consensus that ensures the health of both the region's economy and its environment.

The successful negotiation last year of a new Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada will help achieve this goal through expanded scientific cooperation, habitat restoration, and new controls over salmon harvest in U.S. and Canadian waters. In this year's budget, President Clinton secured \$25 million to begin implementing the treaty, and \$58 million for a new Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which provides resources for states and tribes to protect and rebuild coastal salmon stocks. For the coming year, the President is proposing \$100 million for the coastal salmon fund, and \$190 for other salmon recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

Strengthening Our Refuge System

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's oldest and largest network of lands dedicated to conserving fish and wildlife. To ensure that these lands are well protected, the Administration has increased funding for the refuge system by about 75 percent since 1993. Twenty-three new refuges have been created, and several others expanded, for a total of 521 refuges encompassing more than 93 million acres in all. These efforts include:

- Creation of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia, the nation's 500th refuge;

- A significant expansion of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, using funds from a court settlement arising from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and;
- Transfer of management of 57,000 acres adjoining the Washington's Hanford Reach to the refuge system, protecting critical salmon habitat in the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River between the Canadian border and the Pacific Ocean.

Forging Partnerships to Protect Habitat

Seventy percent of the United States outside Alaska is in private hands, so successful efforts to maintain and restore the nation's wildlife must include landowners. The Clinton-Gore Administration has pioneered the use of collaborative approaches under the Endangered Species Act to help balance habitat preservation with economic development.

One of the most valuable tools is the habitat conservation plan – a voluntary long-term agreement between the government and a landowner that ensures survival of threatened and endangered species while allowing productive use of the land. Prior to 1993, only 14 such plans existed. The Administration has since forged another 246 plans protecting more than 20 million acres and 200 threatened and endangered species. Other reforms undertaken by the Administration to protect habitat while permitting property owners flexibility in managing their land include “safe harbor” and “candidate conservation” agreements.

Guarding Against Invasive Species

One of the most pervasive but least recognized threats to America's native flora and fauna is the spread of invasive nonnative species. They represent a serious economic threat as well, costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$122 billion a year. Examples include the zebra mussel, which has shut down utilities in the Great Lakes by clogging water intake pipes; the leafy spurge, a weed that crowds out native grasses on Western ranchlands; the brown tree snake, which threatens entire bird species on Guam; and the Asian long-horned beetle, which has forced the removal of thousands of trees in Brooklyn and Chicago.

To address this threat, the President issued an Executive Order last year establishing an interagency Invasive Species Council to coordinate federal efforts. The council is developing a comprehensive plan to prevent the introduction of nonnative species and to control those already here. Other recent efforts include a ban on the import of untreated wood packing material from China, the source of the Asian long-horned beetle infestation.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Thirty years ago, the fight for clean air, safe water, and healthy land was understood simply as a fight for the “environment.” Today, Americans understand that a sound environment is

absolutely integral to their hopes for continued prosperity and a better quality of life. A healthy environment is the very foundation of a healthy community.

Through a series of initiatives, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are helping communities across the country take steps that strengthen both the environment and the economy. New programs to clean up and redevelop contaminated urban properties are creating jobs and revitalizing neighborhoods. And increased funding to expand public transit and preserve open space is helping communities forge new strategies against sprawl.

By providing new tools and resources, the Administration is expanding the choices available to communities so they can chart their own path to a more sustainable future.

Livable Communities Initiative

In September 1998, Vice President Gore launched a comprehensive Livable Communities Initiative to help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. The initiative was designed to strengthen the federal government's role as a partner with the growing number of state and local efforts to build "livable communities" for the 21st century.

To implement the initiative, the Administration created the White House Task Force on Livable Communities. In June 2000, Vice President Gore released a report entitled "Building Livable Communities" that contained a comprehensive package of 30 policy actions and voluntary partnerships. The package provided communities with new tools and resources to preserve green space, ease traffic congestion, modernize and construct schools, clean up brownfields, protect water quality, create or restore urban parks, improve community safety, and pursue regional "smart growth" strategies. To implement the concepts on the ground, the Administration entered into 15 community partnerships with communities across the country.

Revitalizing Brownfields

Brownfields are abandoned properties – often in distressed urban neighborhoods – suffering real or perceived contamination from past industrial use. Cleaning up and redeveloping these sites not only breathes new economic life into inner cities, but also helps preserve green space by easing development pressures on the urban fringe.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched several initiatives to accelerate the cleanup of brownfields and remove barriers to their redevelopment. Since 1995, the Administration has removed more than 30,000 of these sites from the Superfund database, relieving potential developers of unnecessary red tape and removing the stigma of contamination. More than 350 communities across America have received nearly \$150 million in seed grants, leveraging over \$2.8 billion in private investment for cleanup and redevelopment. As an additional incentive, the Administration secured a tax incentive allowing businesses to fully deduct certain brownfields cleanup costs in targeted areas through 2001.

Promoting Transportation Alternatives

As communities spread further outward and commuting distances grow, roadways become increasingly congested. According to recent estimates, nearly half of peak travel time is under congested conditions, and Americans waste half a billion hours a year stuck in traffic.

To help ease traffic congestion and combat air pollution, the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to provide communities with a broader range of transportation choices. Since 1993, federal funding for buses, light rail and other forms of transit has risen more than 50 percent, to nearly \$5.8 billion this year. The Administration also has won increased funding for bike paths, high-occupancy vehicle lands, ridesharing, and other strategies that reduce both congestion and pollution. For the coming year, President Clinton has proposed a record \$9.1 billion for public transit and other programs to ease congestion.

American Heritage Rivers

More than 3 million miles of rivers and streams flow across America, nourishing soil, carrying commerce, sustaining wildlife, and quenching our thirst. In 1997, President Clinton launched the American Heritage Rivers initiative to recognize and reward community-based efforts to restore and protect the environmental, economic, cultural, and historic values of America's rivers.

Scores of communities in 46 states and the District of Columbia nominated rivers for designation under the initiative. Last year, the President named 14 American Heritage Rivers. The rivers – from New York's Hudson to the Lower Mississippi to Hawaii's Hanalei -- reflect the extraordinary diversity of America's waterway. Some flow through pristine forest, others the inner city. Some have been largely restored, while others remain heavily polluted. For each river, the Administration has appointed a "river navigator" to help communities identify federal programs and resources that can assist them in implementing their restoration plans.

Environmental Justice

Historically, low-income and minority communities have borne a disproportionate share of the pollution and other environmental harm associated with America's industrial development. In 1994, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer an unfair pollution burden, and that all communities have adequate environmental protection. The Order directs each federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health effects" its actions may have on low-income and minority populations. It requires agencies to prepare environmental justice strategies and to encourage community participation in their decision-making.

The Administration has also helped spur new investment in low-income and minority communities through its support of brownfields redevelopment, expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and designation of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

President's Council on Sustainable Development

Launched in 1993, President's Council on Sustainable Development brought together government, corporate and environmental leaders to develop consensus strategies for meeting America's environmental challenges in ways that promote continued prosperity, social equity, and a high quality of life.

Thousands of people across the country contributed to the Council's deliberations through workshops, conferences, and public meetings. The Council helped create a national network of community groups working to promote sustainable development, and was instrumental in building support within the business community for addressing global climate change. Its third and final report, *Towards a Sustainable America*, recommended 140 actions addressing issues such as sprawl, climate change, urban renewal, and corporate environmental responsibility. The Council concluded its work last year by co-sponsoring the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America in Detroit, which brought together community and corporate leaders from across the country to share and learn from each others' experiences.

SAFEGUARDING OUR OCEANS AND COASTS

Oceans sustain nearly half of all life on Earth and, in ways we hardly realize, shape our everyday lives. Farmers in the heartland depend on weather systems driven by the interaction of ocean and atmosphere to nourish their crops. People who may never have seen the ocean depend on food from its waters and energy from beneath the seabed. Ocean-going vessels carry the bulk of our world trade, linking us to the global marketplace and keeping our economy strong.

Increasingly, however, we have come to understand that the "boundless" oceans have limits. They cannot provide unlimited fish, nor can they absorb unlimited wastes from human activities. Toxic algae blooms threaten the marine ecology and human health in many coastal areas, and unchecked coastal development can stress ocean and coastal habitats beyond their limits.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have launched new actions to restore fragile coral reefs, protect our coasts from the risks of offshore oil development, strengthen our national marine sanctuaries, and protect dolphins and other marine mammals. And, to better address the long-term challenges, the President and Vice President launched a national dialogue leading to a comprehensive strategy for strengthening federal ocean policy for the 21st century.

Protecting Critical Areas from Offshore Oil Drilling

Oil and gas recovered from undersea reserves, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, make an important contribution to America's energy supply. However, long-standing concern over the inherent environmental risks of offshore drilling have led to a series of moratoria of new oil and gas leases off most of the U.S. coast. A five-year plan for the Outer Continental Shelf adopted by the Administration in 1997 designated a limited number of areas for leasing while barring new leasing off most of the coast through 2002.

To provide more lasting protection, the President issued a directive in 1998 extended the moratorium on new offshore leasing for an additional 10 years -- through 2012. In addition, the President permanently barred new leasing in existing national marine sanctuaries. These actions do not affect existing leases in federal waters.

An Oceans Policy for the 21st Century

In June 1998, President Clinton and Vice President Gore convened a National Ocean Conference in Monterey, California, to examine challenges and opportunities protecting and restoring the oceans. The conference drew together for the first time the full array of interests with a stake in U.S. oceans policy -- from government to industry, and scientists to conservationists.

At the conference, the President directed the Cabinet to develop recommendations for strengthening federal ocean policy for the 21st century. In a report entitled "Turning to the Sea: American's Ocean Future," the Cabinet recommended nearly 150 actions aimed at protecting, restoring, and exploring America's ocean resources. A high-level task force was appointed to oversee implementation of these recommendations, which include creating new marine protection areas, promoting sustainable use of domestic and international fisheries, and preserve national security and freedom of the seas. Key actions completed by the task force include specific projects for protection of Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtles and North Atlantic Right Whales, increased maritime law enforcement capacity, and greater focus on marine protected areas. The need to create new marine protected areas with high standards of protection was addressed by three specific actions.

First, on May 26, 2000, President Clinton issued an Executive Order creating a Marine Protected Area Center, establishing a Federal Advisory Committee on marine protected areas, and directing all Federal agencies to avoid harming resources within marine protected areas. Second, the President directed the Environmental Protection Agency expeditiously to proposed new science-based regulations to ensure clean water standards apply to ocean areas. Third, as set out in detail below, the President created the largest U.S. marine protected area in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to protect the archipelago's coral reefs and unique ecosystem.

Strengthening Our National Marine Sanctuaries

America's 13 national marine sanctuaries, encompassing some 11.5 million acres of our coastal waters, are the ocean equivalents of our national parks. From the kelp forests and humpback

whales of the Olympic Coast to the rich coral and threatened loggerheads of the Florida Keys, these underwater reserves harbor not only tremendous biological and geologic diversity, but also irreplaceable fragments of our history and cultural heritage. The Clinton-Gore Administration has won significant new resources to better manage and preserve the sanctuaries, increasing their annual budget more than four-fold since 1993. The President has proposed another increase, to \$35 million, for the current year. More importantly, the President has called on the National Marine Sanctuary Program to manage the newly-established Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and begin the process to make that important area into the nation's 14th national marine sanctuary.

Preserving and Restoring Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are among the most exquisite – and endangered – ecosystems on Earth. Often described as rainforests of the sea, coral reefs support an incredible diversity and abundance of undersea life. Yet worldwide, coral reefs are suffering the effects of pollution, development, overfishing, and rising ocean temperatures brought on by global warming.

In 1998, President Clinton signed an Executive Order directing federal agencies to increase research, protection, and restoration of coral reefs in U.S. waters. A Cabinet-level task force created by the Executive Order recently presented its long-term strategy for better monitoring the health of U.S. coral reefs; expanding research into the major causes and consequences of coral reef damage; and strengthening efforts to protect and restore reefs. Federal agencies also have adopted the task force's recommendation to designate 20 percent of U.S. coral reefs as protected ecological reserves.

In December 2000, the President signed an Executive Order creating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. This reserve, covering 84 million acres, is the largest U.S. protected area, and second in size worldwide only to the Great Barrier Reef National Park. It represents an enormous step forward in protecting almost 70% of the coral reefs currently under United States jurisdiction.

Protecting Marine Mammals

Many marine mammal species that suffered dramatic declines through most of the 20th century are now well on their way to recovery. The gray whale, which migrates each year from Alaska to Mexico, is no longer classified as endangered. Humpback whales in the North Atlantic and North Pacific are steadily recovering. And populations of the California sea lion and Atlantic and Pacific harbor seals are now healthy and robust. Some species appear to be more abundant today than at any other time in recent centuries. Administration efforts to continue rebuilding and maintaining healthy marine mammal populations include:

- Leading successful negotiations for an international agreement to protect dolphins in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and adopting regulations to ensure that only "dolphin-safe" tuna is sold in the United States.

- Working with international partners to recommend and implement the Southern Ocean international whale sanctuary.
- Leading international efforts to recommend a 12 million-square-mile whale sanctuary off the coast of Antarctica which, combined with an adjacent Indian Ocean sanctuary, is home to 75 percent of the world's whales, and;
- Instituting a system to protect the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale by requiring ships to report when they enter the whales' habitat so they can receive advice on avoiding collisions.
- Successfully concluding and ratifying the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention.

GREENING THE GOVERNMENT

As the country's largest energy user, and its largest consumer of paper and other products, the United States government has a special responsibility to act in an environmentally responsible manner. The government not only leads by example; its enormous purchasing power helps create new markets for environmentally preferable products, making them more affordable for everyone.

For President Clinton, this responsibility begins at home: the White House today is a model of energy efficiency and careful environmental stewardship. The President has helped spread this ethic throughout the government. Through a series of executive actions, he has directed all federal agencies to improve their environmental performance, from using recycled paper to curbing their use of energy and toxic chemicals.

Apart from their enormous environmental benefits, these measures are spurring new growth and jobs, and saving federal taxpayers millions of dollars each year in energy and other costs.

The Greening of the White House

On Earth Day 1993, President Clinton launched a new initiative to dramatically improve the energy and environmental performance of the White House complex with steps that can be taken at any home. Measures implemented include: replacement of thousands of light bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescents; installation of hundreds of weather-tight windows; heating and air conditioning upgrades; an 80 percent reduction in pesticide use; installation of a water-conserving sprinkler system; and the composting of paper and trimmings from the White House grounds for use as fertilizer.

As part of White House efforts to provide leadership in buying recycled content products, the President's running track contains recovered tire rubber. To stimulate markets for recovered paper, staff at the Executive Complex uses copier paper containing at least 30 percent

postconsumer content. And the President even changed the composition of his personal stationery to a 30 percent postconsumer cotton product.

A Greening of the White House status report issued last year found that these steps are saving \$300,000 a year and reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 845 metric tons -- the equivalent of taking more than 600 cars off the road. Additional improvements are underway.

Conserving Energy and Taxpayer Dollars

As the nation's single largest energy user, the federal government spends roughly \$8 billion a year to power its vehicles, buildings and other facilities. Through the Federal Energy Management Program, the Administration has reduced energy use in federal buildings by more than 12 percent, cutting the government's energy bill by almost \$600 million a year.

Last year, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to produce far greater savings. The Order directs agencies to reduce energy use in buildings 35 percent by 2010, and to expand their use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass. Meeting this goal will reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2.4 million tons -- the equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars off the road -- and save taxpayers over \$750 million a year. It also will expand markets for renewable technologies, reduce air pollution, and serve as a powerful example to businesses and consumers who can reap substantial benefits from energy improvements.

Expanding Use of Recycled Products

The federal government purchases more than 20 billion sheets of copier paper every year. In 1994, only 12 percent of the paper used by the federal government contained any recycled fiber. Through two Executive Orders, the President directed federal agencies to gradually increase their use of recycled-content paper. Last year, 98 percent of the copier paper purchased by federal agencies contained a minimum of 30 percent post-consumer fiber. This dramatic improvement is saving up to half a million trees a year, reducing air and water pollution, and curbing emissions that contribute to global warming.

In the 1980's, EPA designated five recycled content products for agencies to purchase. Today, the initial list has been expanded to 54 designated products -- such as insulation, carpeting, motor oil, and retread tires -- and agencies are also encouraged to purchase other environmentally preferable products whenever possible. As a result, about 87 percent of the commercial grade motor oil purchased from the Defense Supply Center Richmond in FY 2000 was re-refined motor oil. Federal purchases of recycled products grew from \$240 million in 1992 to \$350 million in 1997.

Reducing Toxic Releases

Many federal agencies use hazardous chemicals, primarily solvents, in maintaining their facilities and equipment. On Earth Day 1993, the President issued an Executive Order requiring

agencies to report and to dramatically reduce their releases of toxic chemicals. Specifically, he mandated a 50 percent reduction in toxic chemical releases in five years. The agencies, using a variety of pollution prevention strategies, met the goals in just two years.

After implementation of thousands of new pollution prevention initiatives government-wide, agencies reduced their releases of toxic chemicals by almost 60 percent since 1994. This is a total reduction of 6.2 million pounds as reported in the 1997 Toxics Release Inventory, a national database of chemical releases into the environment. Some of the most dramatic reductions were achieved at the Department of Defense, which uses large quantities of hazardous chemicals to repair and maintain ships, aircraft, and other military equipment. By 1998, DoD reduced its release and transfer of toxic chemicals off site by 64.8 percent – or 7 million pounds less of toxic chemicals – significantly surpassing the 50 percent goal.

To build on and further these environmental gains, the Vice President announced a new Executive Order on Earth Day 2000, setting a goal of reducing toxic releases from federal facilities by an additional 40 percent between 2001 and 2006. Under the Order, the federal government will also aim, by 2006, to half its use of select chemicals that pose a risk to human health and the environment and for which there are proven substitutes that are less environmentally harmful. In addition, the Order calls for the federal government to phase out purchasing of certain ozone-depleting substances by 2010

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

When Americans celebrated the first Earth Day 30 years ago, our focus was largely our own backyard -- our polluted rivers and dirty skies. Today, we recognize that many environmental challenges know no borders, and that to meet them, we must work closely with other nations.

Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has been at the forefront of international efforts to protect the “global commons” -- the oceans, for instance, and the ozone layer. The Administration also has helped forge international agreements, and worked directly with individual nations, to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, preserve endangered species, and protect tropical forests and biodiversity around the globe.

Finally, the President and Vice President have been forceful voices for stronger environmental safeguards in trade and lending policies, to ensure that the new global economy helps promote, rather than undermine, environmental protection worldwide.

Healing the Ozone Layer

One of the most significant threats to the global environment was the widespread use of chemicals that erode the ozone layer, which protects humans and other life on Earth from the sun's harsh ultraviolet rays. The Montreal Protocol, perhaps the most successful international environmental treaty ever, has led to a dramatic reduction in the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting chemicals. Although previously released

chemicals will remain in the atmosphere for many years, scientists say recent data show that the ozone layer is now on its way to recovery. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked aggressively to implement and strengthen the Protocol by:

- Successfully phasing out CFCs by 1996 and other major ozone-depleting substances by 1994, and approving the introduction of more than 300 safer alternatives.
- Investing more than \$300 million a year in research on atmospheric chemistry and stratospheric ozone depletion.
- Leading successful negotiations to reduce Chinese production of halons and CFCs faster than required under the Protocol; and leading efforts to bring Russia into compliance with the Protocol by securing financial assistance for the closure of CFC production facilities.
- Securing an accelerated international schedule for the phase-out of methyl bromide, a leading ozone depleter.
- Creating an ozone depleting substances reserve while protecting military readiness. With this measure, the Department of Defense has recovered and saved approximately six million pounds of refrigerants and halons needed for use in military applications.

Promoting Environmentally Responsible Trade

A new global economy is helping to bring prosperity to other nations, and posing new challenges for ensuring that this new growth is environmentally sound. The President and Vice President have outlined a strategy to ensure that U.S. efforts to expand trade and promote development reflect a strong commitment to achieving environmental protection worldwide.

Last year, the President signed an Executive Order requiring careful assessment and written review of the potential environmental impacts of major trade agreements so that environmental considerations can guide the development of U.S. positions in trade negotiations. The President also issued a White House Policy Declaration on Environment and Trade, outlining a set of principles to guide U.S. negotiators and to ensure that the work of the World Trade Organization is supportive of sustainable development and environmental protections at home and abroad.

The Administration also has worked to strengthen environmental standards in international lending. It has instituted stronger standards at U.S. export agencies, and promoted similar efforts at the World Bank and other international financial institutions, including targets for clean energy lending. The President recently secured a commitment from other G8 partners for common environmental guidelines for export credit agencies by 2001.

Phasing Out Persistent Pollutants

In the United States, strong, comprehensive measures have significantly reduced the use of toxic chemicals, ensured safer disposal, and guaranteed the public greater access to information on their use and potential health risks. The United States has led several international efforts to achieve similar improvements elsewhere around the world:

Prior Informed Consent. In 1998, the U.S. joined 94 other nations in an international agreement ensuring developing countries greater access to information on the risks posed by banned and severely restricted chemicals and pesticides.

Phasing Out Persistent Pollutants. The Administration is leading international negotiations to phase out 12 of the most dangerous, persistent organic pollutants -- such as PCBs, DDT and dioxin -- which threaten health and safety around the world.

Halting Radioactive Waste Dumping. President Clinton led the world in calling for a global ban on ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste. The U.S. was the first nuclear power to advocate the ban, which other nations agreed to in 1993.

Stabilizing Population Growth

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Vice President Gore helped forge a historic consensus for a global program to stabilize the world's population. The international strategy calls for increased availability of family planning, the empowerment of women through measures such as enhanced educational opportunities, and a reduction in infant and child mortality.

Ensuring the Safety of Biotechnology

Biotechnology -- the use of genetic engineering to introduce new traits into species -- can achieve tremendous benefits through increased agricultural productivity. Without careful monitoring, however, it could also pose risks to the environment and biodiversity. U.S. leadership in negotiations earlier this year helped achieve international agreement on a Biosafety Protocol that will help guard against these risks without unduly disrupting world food trade.

The Protocol establishes an international framework for addressing the potential environmental impact of certain bioengineered products. Information and expertise exchanged through this system will help governments assess the potential risks and benefits of biotechnology in a more predictable and consistent manner.

The Council on Environmental Quality, along with the Office of Science and Technology Policy conducted an interagency assessment of environmental biotechnology regulations through the development of case studies to identify strengths and potential areas for improvements in the existing regulatory structure.

Promoting Sustainable Development

Throughout the developing world, nations are struggling to raise their standard of living and provide their people with a more promising future. Too often, the daily struggle for basic necessities involves environmentally destructive activities -- such as slash-and-burn agriculture -- which, in turn, undermine natural assets that could sustain more productive

economies. The Administration is working through several programs to help developing countries build stronger economies by protecting their natural endowments.

Currently, the Administration is supporting efforts in 43 countries to improve management of biologically rich habitats and to address environmental challenges such as forest fires, overfishing, poaching, deforestation, agricultural encroachment, and mining. Guided by the principle that environmental protection is linked with democracy and governance, these programs promote transparency and citizen participation in the management of natural resources.

Protecting Rare and Endangered Species

Many of the world's richest ecosystems are also the most endangered. The Administration is working with many governments around the world to help protect and restore threatened species by protecting habitat and combating illegal poaching and trade.

Since 1993, the Administration has provided more than \$12 million in grants to more than 30 African and Asian countries for programs critical to the survival of elephants, rhinos, and tigers, leveraging more than \$25 million in matching contributions. These efforts have helped stabilize populations of the African elephant by stemming illegal ivory poaching. On his recent trip to India, the President announced nearly \$250,000 in grants to non-government organizations for urgent, on-the-ground projects to protect endangered tigers and elephants. The grants will help conserve habitat, expand research and training, and strengthen anti-poaching efforts.

GROWING GREEN BUSINESS

One of the most important lessons of the past thirty years is that environmental protection and economic growth go hand in hand. Efforts to restore and protect the environment have spawned tremendous new economic opportunity for Americans, with the promise of continued growth in the years ahead.

The environmental industry sector is comprised of companies and revenue generating public enterprises that provide goods and services (technologies) which reduce human and ecological health risks; improve efficiencies and enhance cost effectiveness; create products or processes that are environmentally beneficial or benign. These technologies help to provide us with clean air and water, remediate or restore past damage, and monitor and assess the state of the environment to keep our land free from damaging pollution.

Today the U.S. environmental industry includes more than 115,000 businesses and enterprises that employ about 1.4 million Americans and generates annual revenues of more than \$204 billion. Exports of environmental technologies support some 170,000 U.S. jobs. Overseas sales have reached \$21 billion/year, producing a positive trade balance in excess of \$10 billion. In terms of both employment and revenue, the environmental sector surpasses many other well-known industries, including aerospace, consumer durables, paper and allied products,

petroleum refining, and steel, among others.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched many successful initiatives to help grow our green businesses in the United States and to promote exports of U.S. environmental technologies and overseas.

Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles

In 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore, joined by the chief executives of the Big Three automakers, launched an innovative research partnership to develop the next generation of cars and light-duty trucks.

Federal laboratories are collaborating with Ford, General Motors, and DaimlerChrysler with the goal of developing cars with up to triple the fuel efficiency of today's midsize models -- with no sacrifice in safety, affordability or performance. Achieving this goal will enhance America's competitiveness, strengthen its energy security by reducing reliance on imported oil, and achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

In a major milestone, the three automakers recently unveiled concept cars with hybrid technologies that achieve the 80-mile-per-gallon goal. Last month, the automakers also announced plans to begin marketing higher-efficiency vehicles that incorporate PNGV technology in the next three to four years.

Promoting Organic Agriculture

In recent years, organic farming has grown from a handful of experimental garden plots to a \$6 billion-a-year industry. Today more than 12,000 American farmers, most of them small-scale producers, practice organic agriculture.

To support this growing industry and strengthen consumer confidence, the Administration recently proposed a uniform national standard for labeling organic food. The proposal, slated for final action later this year, details the practices and substances that can be used to produce crops and livestock labeled as "organic"; prohibits the use of genetic engineering, sewage sludge irradiation in the production of organic food; and prohibits antibiotics in organic livestock production.

A uniform national standard will ensure that consumers across the country can go into any store and have full confidence that any food product labeled "organic" meets a strict, consistent standard no matter where it was made. It also will make it easier for organic growers to market their products overseas.

Supporting Green Technologies

In 1995, Vice President Gore launched a National Environmental Technology Strategy and established new policies and programs to strengthen partnerships with the environmental business community and other stakeholders. The federal government's role in spurring technology innovation and growth in the industry was expanded and coordinated on an interagency basis across more than a two dozen Agencies. Partnerships were established with state and local government agencies, research institutions, trade associations, and non-governmental organizations. Key priorities include reducing regulatory and market barriers to innovation; creating better ways to verify the performance of new environmental technologies; ensuring adequate investment capital to bring promising technologies to market; providing specialized export assistance, and reducing international trade barriers.

Among the most important initiatives launched by the Administration was the establishment of the federal Interagency Environmental Technology Office (IETO). It is a one-stop-shop, specifically requested by industry that provides advice and assistance to environmental businesses. IETO facilitates access to federal information and programs related to applied research and development, commercialization, financing, and the international transfer of environmental technologies. Currently, the office makes over 7,000 referrals a year to programs operated by federal, state, and local government agencies and non-governmental organizations within the U.S. and abroad. It works closely with environmental trade associations, professional societies, and business councils to address issues and opportunities that they identify, and it coordinates international activities and events that benefit U.S. environmental companies and organizations, and their international partners.

Other key initiatives have included: the Rapid Commercialization Program, which was designed to help more near-commercial ready environmental technologies quickly into the marketplace, and the Environmental Technology Initiative, in which \$104 million was invested in more than 275 projects and partnerships nationwide to help advance performance-based environmental management. The EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program has received more than \$40 million to establish independent third-party verification of the performance of select types of environmental technologies, which will enable investors and potential users to make decisions about critical technologies based upon reliable, high quality, objective data.

Building Environmental Exports

The fastest-growing markets for environmental technologies are overseas, where this industry is expanding at rates in excess of 8 - 11% per year in some regions, such as eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia. This year, the global market for environmental technologies will exceed \$516 billion, and by 2005 it is expected to exceed \$554 billion. This market growth is primarily attributable to rising prosperity and population in developing countries, which are creating enormous demand for the technology and expertise needed to achieve and maintain cleaner air, cleaner water and other environmental benefits.

U.S. exports of environmental goods and services have increased by more than 25% per year since 1994, thanks in part to new programs launched by the Administration, including:

- An environmental directorate established at the Export-Import Bank in 1994 provides loans and loan guarantees to exporters of environmental technologies. Between 1995 and 1998, the bank provided support to an average of 50 U.S. environmental companies a year.
- A new Environmental Technologies Export Office at the Department of Commerce helps U.S. businesses identify export opportunities, conducts trade development activities, and recommends policies to increase free and fair trade in the environmental sector.
- The Overseas Private Investment Corporation has established new lending programs to provide funding for large environmental projects in key overseas markets, where investment risks are greater than most developed nations.
- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps U.S. businesses tap newly emerging markets by funding feasibility studies, technical assistance, reverse trade missions, and conferences. Last year, the agency provided assistance in 65 nations around the world.

The Greening of Small Business

Much of the growth in the environmental industry has occurred among small-and medium-sized firms. Programs at the Small Business Administration that support smaller environmental firms, and help other small businesses improve their environmental performance, include:

- The HUBZone program, which helps minority- and women-owned businesses compete for federal contracts, certifies firms that can perform environmental engineering and construction.
- The Small Business Investment Company, which provides venture capital for small businesses, has invested more than \$10 million in green businesses over the past two years.
- The Small Business Development Center Program conducts workshops and seminars on hazardous waste management, waste reduction and recycling, and pollution prevention.
- The Small Business Compliance Alliance Project helps small businesses comply with environmental regulations.
- A new loan program of up to \$1 million has been established for small business pollution prevention facilities.
- Federal Agencies have established special programs for contracting with small and underutilized businesses.

Meeting the Recycling Challenge

America's recycling rate is the highest in the world. Thanks to increased recycling, the U.S. will generate less net waste this year than it did in 1992, and about the same as it did in 1980, when there were almost 50 million fewer people. The Administration's Jobs Through Recycling program has helped 3,200 recycling businesses and entrepreneurs create 8,500 jobs and new recycling technologies.

To achieve even greater gains, Vice President Gore launched the National Recycling Challenge in 1998, calling on government, the business community, universities, and others to commit to increased recycling. The dozens of major commitments made so far include:

- Sony Electronics committed to opening a recycling center at its Pittsburgh technology center to recover valuable resources from waste electronic scrap. Glass recovered from old televisions and computer monitors will be used in the manufacture of new cathode ray tubes.
- IBM developed technologies to use recovered plastics to manufacture new products, including the first personal computer using 100 percent recycled resin for all major plastic parts in the central processing unit.
- Ford Motor Company committed to developing new technologies to recycle a variety of recovered materials in the manufacture of new vehicles. The company set an annual goal of using more than 100 million pounds of recycled plastic, rubber, fabric, glass, wood, and paper in new vehicle components by 2002.

ENFORCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

America's remarkable environmental progress has been driven in large measure by the more than two dozen federal statutes that establish strong protections for air, water, land, and wildlife. But these laws are effective only if they are vigorously enforced.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has made strict enforcement of our environmental laws one of its highest priorities, targeting its efforts on those polluters posing the greatest threat to public health and natural resources. Through the course of this Administration, the number of environmental crimes prosecuted – and the number of convictions won – have steadily risen. Well over \$400 million in civil penalties have been collected since 1993.

Landmark cases have led to the largest civil penalty ever in an environmental case, the stiffest jail term ever in an environmental case, the largest pollution reduction ever achieved through the courts, and the first conviction ever for illegal importation of protected coral. In addition to penalties – and, in some cases, jail sentences – enforcement actions have led to major cleanups and pollution reductions. They also serve as a powerful deterrent to would-be violators.

Cutting Air Pollution from Power Plants

In 1999, the Administration commencement enforcement action suit against eight major electric utilities in the Midwest and South for illegally releasing massive amounts of air pollution from their coal-fired power plants. The government contends the utilities violated the Clean Air Act by making major modifications to 32 coal-fired power plants without installing equipment required to control smog, soot, and acid rain.

This year, one of the utilities agreed to a groundbreaking settlement. Tampa Electric Company of Florida utility agreed to pay a \$3.5 million fine, install new equipment to meet stringent pollution limits, and invest more than \$10 million in local environmental projects. The settlement will ensure cleaner, healthier air for the people of Florida, and significantly reduce emissions that contribute to global warming.

Clamping Down on Dirty Diesels

In the largest Clean Air Act enforcement settlement ever, the Administration reached a sweeping settlement in 1998 with seven diesel manufacturers accused of installing devices in their engines to illegally bypass emission controls.

The companies sold an estimated 1.3 million engines containing “defeat devices” that allowed the engines to meet tailpipe standards during testing but bypass pollution controls during highway driving. The resulting pollution was equivalent to the emissions of 65 million cars. The manufacturers agreed to pay \$83.4 million in civil penalties and to take actions costing more than \$850 million to reduce pollution from diesel engines. These actions are expected to prevent more than 75 million tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions over the next quarter century – more than the total emitted in the U.S. in three years. This is the largest pollution reduction ever achieved in the courts.

Protecting the Ozone Layer

Under an international treaty called the Montreal Protocol, the United States has banned the production or import of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other chemicals that damage the Earth’s protective ozone layer. This ban, however, has led to a black market in illegally imported CFCs, primarily for use in automotive air conditioners. The Administration’s aggressive crackdown on CFC smuggling has resulted in more than 99 convictions so far. All told, convicted smugglers have been sentenced to 51 years of jail time and ordered to pay \$39 million in fines and \$28 million in restitution.

Cracking Down on Vessel Pollution

Cruise ships and other vessels that illegally discharge wastes are a major source of pollution to ocean and inland waters. The Administration has undertaken a targeted enforcement strategy to reduce vessel pollution and prosecute violators.

In a major case last year, Royal Caribbean, one of the world’s largest cruise ship lines, pled

guilty to 21 felony counts for illegally dumping waste oil and chemicals, and for making false statements to the U.S. Coast Guard. The company agreed to pay an \$18 million criminal fine -- the second largest ever in a vessel pollution case -- and agreed to operate for the next five years under a court-supervised environmental compliance plan.

Protecting Rare and Endangered Species

A major threat to biodiversity around the world is the illegal trade in rare and endangered species -- both live animals and their skins, organs and other parts. Through a vigorous enforcement strategy, including a series of undercover investigations called Operation Chameleon, the Administration is helping to control this \$6 billion-a-year black market.

In one case, agents broke up a ring responsible for smuggling more than 300 reptiles worth nearly half a million dollars, including the highly endangered plowshare tortoise and Komodo dragon, into the United States. Other smugglers have been prosecuted for bringing snakes and rare tortoises from Madagascar, turtles from Indonesia, and reptiles from the West Indies. In a case in Florida, the president of one the country's largest reptile import firms was sentenced to eight months in prison and agreed to pay \$250,000 to protect habitat in Indonesia.

In addition, the Administration last year won the first criminal conviction ever for the smuggling of protected corals and seashells.

Making Oil Pipelines Safer

The Administration won the largest civil penalty ever under federal environmental law in a case involving hundreds of oil spills in six states in early 2000. The Administration had sued Koch Industries, Inc., which operates an extensive oil pipeline network in the Midwest, for illegally allowing 3 million gallons of crude oil and other products to leak into lakes, rivers, or streams. Most of the spills occurred in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, and resulted from corrosion that could have been prevented through proper maintenance. Koch, the second-largest privately held firm in the U.S. agreed to pay a \$30 million civil penalty to the United States and the state of Texas; improve its leak prevention program; and invest \$5 million in environmental projects in the affected states.

Prosecuting Illegal Drug Labs

In 1999, a long-time fugitive was sentenced to 15 years in jail for hazardous waste violations -- the stiffest jail term ever in a federal environmental case. The conviction stemmed from an explosion 15 years earlier at one the country's largest illegal cocaine processing labs. The defendant, who was one of the managers of the operation, fled the lab after the explosion, leaving behind 230 drums of highly flammable toxic materials that posed an imminent hazard to police and firefighters responding to the blaze. While more than a dozen people were prosecuted within several years of the explosion, this defendant remained at large.

Environmental Actions by President Clinton and Vice President Gore

1993

- **-January 20, 1993:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore eliminated the Council on Competitiveness, which was established by the Bush-Quayle Administration and had been frequently used to circumvent environmental laws.
- **-March 30, 1993:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore held the Forest Conference in Oregon, a critical first step toward developing a comprehensive and balanced long-term policy to preserve and protect old-growth forests while balancing the needs of the workers, businesses, and communities dependent on timber sales.
- **-April 21, 1993:** President Clinton issued executive orders directing federal agencies to reduce their use of ozone-depleting materials, increase their use of alternative-fueled vehicles, and purchase energy efficient computers (Executive Order 12843, Executive Order 12844, Executive Order 12845).
- **-June 29, 1993:** President Clinton signed an executive order establishing the President's Council on Sustainable Development (Executive Order 12852).
- **-July 1, 1993:** President Clinton signed the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Amendments Act (H.R. 2343).
- **-August 3, 1993:** President Clinton issued an executive order requiring federal agencies to reduce pollution as much as possible and to report to the community any toxic chemicals that are released into the environment (Executive Order 12856).
- **-August 4, 1993:** President Clinton signed legislation establishing the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in Idaho (H.R. 236).
- **-August 13, 1993:** President Clinton signed the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, which designated a total of 612,000 acres as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System (H.R. 631).
- **-August 24, 1993:** The Clinton-Gore Administration unveiled a wetlands protection initiative which included more than 40 changes to current wetlands policy, including establishing a more effective process so that landowners and farmers can seek review of permit decisions without having to go to court.
- **-October 20, 1993:** President Clinton signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to use recycled paper and other recycled products (Executive Order 12873).

1994

- **-February 11, 1994:** President Clinton issued an executive order to address environmental justice and ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution (Executive Order 12898).
- **-March 8, 1994:** President Clinton issued an executive order directing federal agencies to improve energy efficiency and water conservation at their facilities (Executive Order 12902).

- **-March 11, 1994:** The White House announced the Greening of the White House initiative, a comprehensive energy and environmental upgrade that includes actions for landscaping, waste reduction, recycling, and water and energy efficiency.
- **-April 11, 1994:** President Clinton signed the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Improvement Act of 1994 (S. 476).
- **-April 29, 1994:** President Clinton issued a memorandum directing agencies to use environmentally beneficial landscaping practices, such as using regionally native plants for landscaping, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizer, promoting construction practices that minimize adverse effects on natural habitats, and implementing water-efficient practices such as irrigation.
- **-May 13, 1994:** President Clinton issued executive orders directing that the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission be implemented in a manner consistent with U.S. environmental policy (Executive Order 12915, Executive Order 12916).
- **-August 11, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Winter Run Chinook Salmon Captive Broodstock Act (H.R. 2457).
- **-August 26, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Farmington Wild and Scenic River Act (H.R. 2815), designating a portion of the Farmington River in Connecticut as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- **-August 26, 1994:** President Clinton signed the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area Act (H.R. 2942).
- **-October 19, 1994:** President Clinton signed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Amendments of 1994 (H.R. 4308).
- **-October 22, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Water Bank Extension Act (H.R. 5053), which expands eligibility for the wetlands reserve program to lands covered by expiring agreements under the Water Bank Act.
- **-October 22, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (H.R. 4924).
- **-October 31, 1994:** President Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act (S. 21), which designated approximately 7.7 million acres of Federal lands as wilderness. The Act added approximately 3 million acres to the National Park System, including magnificent lands adjacent to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments. It also established the Mojave National Preserve as a new unit of the National Park System.

1995

- **-April 18, 1995:** Vice President Gore unveiled a National Environmental Technology Strategy with three major goals: create high-wage jobs and exports and stimulate overall economic growth; reduce the cost of cleaning up past pollution; and help prevent future damage to the environment.

- **-June 7, 1995:** President Clinton issued an executive order to improve the quality, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities (Executive Order 12962).
- **-July 31, 1995:** President Clinton announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration had reached agreement with oil companies to protect sensitive coastal areas off Florida and Alaska from oil drilling.
- **-August 8, 1995:** President Clinton issued an executive order requiring those who would do business with the federal government to continue to report on over 650 toxic chemicals that are emitted (Executive Order 12969).
- **-November 10, 1995:** President Clinton signed the Fisheries Act of 1995 (H.R. 716), which implements international agreements designed to protect important fish stocks in high seas areas of the world's oceans and off of America's coasts.

1996

- **-March 25, 1996:** President Clinton signed an executive order requiring paper mills to use some recycled materials in producing new paper (Executive Order 12995).
- **-March 25, 1996:** President Clinton issued an executive order to protect and preserve the National Wildlife Refuge System for future generations while ensuring continued public access and recreational opportunities (Executive Order 12996).
- **-April 6, 1996:** President Clinton signed the most environmentally beneficial Farm Bill in history. The bill provided over \$2 billion in increased spending for conservation programs, including \$200 million to purchase environmentally sensitive lands in the Everglades.
- **-May 15, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2243).
- **-May 24, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Water Resources Research Act (H.R. 1743).
- **-May 24, 1996:** President signed legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge (H.R. 1836).
- **-August 2, 1996:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate the Canada-United States Protocol for the Protection of Migratory Birds.
- **-August 3, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, establishing strong new standards for pesticide residues in food, and requiring for the first time that the standards take into account special risks to children (H.R. 1627).
- **-August 6, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, requiring stronger standards for many pollutants and establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade water treatment systems. (S. 1316).
- **-August 7, 1996:** President Clinton ratified a landmark fisheries conservation agreement: the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

- **-August 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Yellowstone Protection Agreement to protect the park from mining.
- **-August 28, 1996:** President Clinton announced new initiatives to accelerate cleanup of brownfields and Superfund sites, strengthen environmental enforcement, and expand community right-to-know.
- **-September 18, 1996:** President Clinton issued a proclamation establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
- **-October 1, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Hawaii (H.R. 1772).
- **-October 2, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (H.R. 3060), which implemented the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.
- **-October 9, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation increasing funding for the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana (H.R. 2660).
- **-October 11, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Sustainable Fisheries Act (S. 39), the Water Desalination Act of 1996 □(S. 811), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (H.R. 543).
- **-October 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Water Resources Development Act, which authorized development of a long-term plan to restore the Florida Everglades (S. 640).
- **-October 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996 (S. 1505), which will reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids.
- **-October 19, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Marine Mineral Resources Research Act (S. 1194).
- **-October 26, 1996:** President Clinton signed the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (H.R. 4283), which will help to control the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species, such as zebra mussel, throughout the waters of our Nation. Such species can cause significant damage to the environment, the economy, and fisheries.
- **-October 31, 1996:** President Clinton signed an executive order dissolving the Midway Islands Naval Defensive Sea Area and the Midway Islands Naval Airspace Reservation and transferring jurisdiction to the Secretary of the Interior, who will oversee the Midway Islands as the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Executive Order 13022).
- **-November 11, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, establishing five new national parks, authorizing 10 national heritage areas, and expanding and protecting dozens of national parks, trails, and wild and scenic rivers (H.R. 4236).

1997

- **-January 25, 1997:** President Clinton issued a memorandum directing the Agriculture Secretary, Health and Human Services Secretary, and EPA Administrator to work with consumers, producers, industry, States, universities, and the public to identify ways to improve food safety.

- **-April 18, 1997:** The United States ratified the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of 1991 which sets forth a comprehensive, legally binding system of environmental protection that applies to all activities in Antarctica. □ It reaffirms the status of Antarctica as an area reserved for peaceful purposes, including scientific research.
- **-April 21, 1997:** Vice President Gore announced that President Clinton had signed an executive order setting new standards to reduce environmental health risks and safety risks to children (Executive Order 13045).
- **-May 2, 1997:** President Clinton announced a Balanced Budget Agreement that included \$700 million for priority Federal land acquisitions, including \$250 million to protect the ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest in California and \$65 million to acquire the New World Mine outside of Yellowstone.
- **-May 13, 1997:** Vice President announced the creation of the Brownfields National Partnership, a two-year effort including more than 100 commitments from more than 25 organizations to further spur cleanup and redevelopment at some 5,000 brownfields sites around the nation.
- **-July 16, 1997:** The President approved stronger, more protective air quality standards to further control pollution from ozone and particulate matter (smog and soot) and issued a memo to the EPA regarding implementation of those standards.
- **-July 26, 1997:** President Clinton issued an executive order to protect natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region (Executive Order 13057).
- **-August 15, 1997:** President Clinton signed the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act, commonly known as the Dolphin Safe Tuna bill (H.R. 408).
- **-September 11, 1997:** President Clinton signed an executive order launching the American Heritage River initiative (Executive Order 13061).
- **-October 9, 1997:** President Clinton signed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (H.R. 1420).
- **-October 18, 1997:** Vice President Gore directed federal departments and agencies to develop an action plan to clean up America's waterways.
- **-October 20, 1997:** The Vice President announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration and the state of Maryland have joined together in a new initiative to help protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- **-October 29, 1997:** The Vice President announced a U.S.-China initiative that will move the countries toward greater cooperation in energy and environmental science, building on the Administration's efforts to engage China in joint initiatives that promote sustainable development and help lay the groundwork for reaching common ground in addressing climate change.
- **-November 19, 1997:** President Clinton signed the Asian Elephant Conservation Act (H.R. 1787).
- **-December 12, 1997:** The United States signed the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol must be ratified before it can take effect.
- **-December 12, 1997:** President Clinton signed the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act Amendments of 1997 □ (H.R. 1658).

1998

- **-January 8, 1998:** Vice President Gore announced new “Energy Star” partnerships with leading manufacturers to promote energy-saving TVs and VCRs with the potential to save Americans hundreds of millions of dollars in electricity bills and significantly curb greenhouse gas pollution.
- **-February 2, 1998:** President Clinton announced plans to expand or protect 100 natural and historical sites, including the final links in the Appalachian Trail, critical winter range for Yellowstone’s elk and bison herds, and initial funding for the removal of two dams blocking salmon migration on the Elwha River near Olympic National Park.
- **-February 12, 1998:** Vice President Gore announced that with leadership from the Clinton-Gore Administration, major auto manufacturers voluntarily agreed to produce a cleaner car that emits 70 percent less pollution than today’s models.
- **-April 8, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order creating the American Heritage Initiative Advisory Committee, to review nominations for selection of American Heritage Rivers (Executive Order 13080).
- **-May 4, 1998:** President Clinton launched the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing, a partnership with America’s building industry to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of our homes — cutting consumers’ energy bills by 30-50 percent, while reducing the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.
- **-June 11, 1998:** To strengthen protection of natural coral reefs, President Clinton signed an executive order directing federal agencies to expand research, preservation and restoration activities (Executive Order 13089).
- **-June 12, 1998:** To protect our oceans and coasts from the environmental risks of offshore oil and gas drilling, the President issued a directive extending the moratorium on offshore leasing for an additional ten years, and permanently barring new leasing in national marine sanctuaries.
- **-July 25, 1998:** President Clinton issued a directive with four new steps to decrease energy use in Federal buildings and facilities, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving taxpayer dollars.
- **-July 30, 1998:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore designated 14 American Heritage Rivers. Communities along these rivers will receive help over the next five years tapping federal resources to carry out their plans for revitalizing their rivers and riverfronts.
- **-August 5, 1998:** President Clinton signed the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act (H.R. 39).
- **-August 11, 1998:** President Clinton expanded the public’s right to know with the announcement of a new rule requiring water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on whether their drinking water meets federal health standards — and if not, why not.
- **-August 25, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order creating the President’s Council on Food Safety, which is charged with developing a comprehensive and coordinated strategic plan for Federal food safety activities (Executive Order 13100).
- **-September 14, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order expanding recycling by Federal agencies (Executive Order 13101).

- **-October 5, 1998:** President Clinton signed the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (H.R. 1856).
- **-October 20, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998 (H.R. 3381). The legislation, part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's goal of restoring and protecting the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, directed the transfer of certain lands and other assets in Montana to the Big Sky Lumber Company in exchange for a significantly larger amount of land to be included in the Gallatin and Deer Lodge National Forests.
- **-October 27, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Border Smog Reduction Act, which prohibited entry into the U.S. of certain foreign vehicles which do not comply with state laws governing emissions (H.R. 8).
- **-October 30, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act (S. 2094).
- **-October 30, 1998:** President Clinton signed H.R. 2807, an omnibus measure enhancing fish and wildlife protection, including reauthorization of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.
- **-October 31, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Utah Schools and Land Exchange Act of 1998 — an exchange of land, mineral rights, commercial properties, and natural treasures between the United States and the State of Utah. This was the largest such land exchange in the history of the lower 48 States (H.R. 3830).
- **-November 13, 1998:** President Clinton signed the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998, which improved the management of various park programs and increased funds to parks through concession contracts and the National Park Passport Program (S. 1693).

1999

- **-February 3, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive order to prevent the introduction of invasive species into our environment, and to limit the economic, ecological, and human health impacts those species might have (Executive Order 13112).
- **-March 2, 1999:** President Clinton announced completion of negotiations to protect the Headwaters Forest in California — the world's largest unprotected stand of old-growth redwoods.
- **-March 9, 1999:** Vice President Gore announced a comprehensive federal strategy to help clean up rivers, lakes and coastal waters by reducing polluted runoff from large livestock operations.
- **-April 9, 1999:** President Clinton signed the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act, which designated portions of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers in Massachusetts as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (H.R. 193).
- **-April 22, 1999:** Vice President Gore announced a "regional haze" rule to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas so that visitors can enjoy unspoiled views of America's greatest natural treasures.
- **-May 29, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive memorandum to improve the water quality of beaches and rivers, including the Cape Cod, Cape Hatteras, and Pt. Reyes National Seashores.

- **-June 3, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive order directing all federal departments and agencies to improve the energy efficiency of government buildings.
- **-August 12, 1999:** The President issued an executive memorandum setting the goal of tripling the nation's use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010. At the same time, the President signed an executive order establishing the Interagency Council on Biobased Products and Bioenergy to develop a biomass research program to be presented annually as part of the federal budget (Executive Order 13134).
- **-August 14, 1999:** The President announced new steps to restore America's rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Under a proposed rule, the Environmental Protection Agency will work with states to better assess the health of U.S. waterways and to develop detailed plans to make them safe for fishing and swimming.
- **-August 21, 1999:** President Clinton announced a landmark agreement to protect 9,300 acres adjoining Yellowstone National Park — a critical step to preserve the park's famed bison and geysers.
- **-September 2, 1999:** President Clinton signed a proclamation strengthening our ability to enforce environmental, customs and immigration laws at sea by expanding a critical enforcement zone to include waters within 24 nautical miles of the U.S. coast.
- **-September 16, 1999:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate an amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to strengthen measures to promote compliance with the protocol.
- **-October 13, 1999:** President Clinton directed the National Forest Service to develop regulations to provide long-term protection for 40 million acres of "roadless" areas within national forests. The proposed regulations could ban road building in these areas and could also prohibit logging or other activities that harm their unique ecological value.
- **-October 21, 1999:** President Clinton signed into law Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999, establishing the Black Canyon in Colorado as a national park (S. 323).
- **-October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced an agreement to preserve New Mexico's spectacular Baca Ranch.
- **-October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced the acquisition of 14,000 additional acres within the Joshua Tree National Park — land that otherwise might be developed.
- **-October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced a new EPA rule strengthening the public's right to know about highly toxic chemicals released to the environment. The rule establishes or strengthens reporting requirements for 27 "persistent bioaccumulative toxics," including mercury, dioxin, and PCBs, which build up in the environment rather than breaking down.
- **-November 5, 1999:** President Clinton announced the addition of 57,000 acres of prime Columbia River Salmon habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System, including large sections of the Hanford Reach, the last section of free-flowing salmon habitat on the Columbia.
- **-November 16, 1999:** Vice President announced that President Clinton signed an executive order requiring careful assessment and consideration of the environmental impacts of trade agreements (Executive Order 13141).

- **-November 24, 1999:** President Clinton signed the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act (H.R. 2454).
- **-December 12, 1999:** President Clinton announced that the EPA was issuing the toughest standards ever for reducing harmful air pollution from auto tailpipes. The new standards ensure that sportutility vehicles, minivans, and lightduty trucks meet the same low levels of tailpipe emissions as other passenger cars.

2000

- **-January 11, 2000:** President Clinton signed proclamations creating three new national monuments — the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona, and the California Coastal National Monument — and expanding another, the Pinnacles National Monument in California.
- **-February 9, 2000:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with Annexes. This Convention assists developing countries in evaluating risks and enforcing their regulatory decisions regarding trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides.
- **-February 14, 2000:** President Clinton announced \$18.6 million in Forest Legacy grants for 29 projects encompassing nearly 250,000 acres in 19 states and territories. These competitive grants are used to protect private forestland that provides critical wildlife habitat and is threatened by development. Protected lands can continue to be used for forestry and other compatible activities.
- **-March 22, 2000:** U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Indian Minister of External Affairs Jaswant Singh signed a U.S.-India statement on cooperation on energy and environment issues on behalf of the United States and India, outlining a common agenda on clean energy development and environmental protection.
- **-March 28, 2000:** President Clinton announced new measures to restore “natural quiet” to the Grand Canyon by better managing sight-seeing flights over the National Park. The new rules continue to allow visitors to view the Canyon by air, but limit noise by significantly expanding “flight-free” zones over the Park and by restricting future growth in commercial air tour operations.
- **April 14, 2000:** President Clinton signed a proclamation creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument in California's Sierra Nevada.
- **April 17, 2000:** Vice President Al Gore announced an Administration proposal to improve drinking water quality for 109 million Americans by protecting groundwater supplies from disease-causing viruses and bacteria, such as E. coli. The proposed rule -- the first to extend such protections to underground sources of drinking water -- is expected to prevent over 115,000 illnesses a year.
- **April 22, 2000:** Vice President Gore announced the signing of a new Executive Order getting tough new environmental goals for the federal government. The Executive Order, part of a series of “Greening the Government” initiatives, sets a course for the federal

government to enhance performance in environmental management, environmental compliance, public right-to-know, reductions in toxic chemical releases, and decreases in the use of toxic chemicals, hazardous substances, and other pollutants.

- **May 26, 2000:** President Clinton signed an Executive Order directing federal agencies to strengthen protection of ocean and coastal resources by creating a comprehensive network of "marine protected areas."
- **June 9, 2000:** Vice President Al Gore announced a 30-point Livable Communities Initiative to offer more choices to communities seeking to improve their quality of life.
- **June 9, 2000:** President Clinton signed proclamations creating the Ironwood Forest National Monument in southern Arizona, the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in southwest Colorado, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in south central Oregon, and the Hanford Reach National Monument along the Columbia River in south central Washington.
- **June 9, 2000:** California Governor Gray Davis and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced an historic framework for the restoration of California's Bay Delta. When finalized, this would be the largest restoration effort in the nation, will improve water supply and reliability in agricultural and urban areas, protect the drinking water quality of over 22 million Californians, and protect over 450 fish and wildlife species.
- **July 7, 2000:** President Clinton signed a proclamation creating the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument in Washington, D.C.
- **July 25, 2000:** President Clinton signed legislation to permanently protect the stunning Baca Ranch in northern New Mexico and designate it the Valles Caldera National Preserve.
- **August 7, 2000:** President Clinton signed the Oceans Act of 2000, a bipartisan legislation establishing a new high-level commission to recommend policies to promote the protection and sustainable use of America's oceans and coastal resources.
- **September 24, 2000:** President Clinton announced new protection for 784 acres of forest, meadow, and rugged cliffs along the central California coast, preserving the southern gateway to Big Sur and the southernmost range of the coast redwood.
- **October 10, 2000:** President Clinton signed new legislation to strengthen protection for America's beaches and coasts by requiring states to adopt coastal water quality standards and notify the public when they are not being met.
- **October 11, 2000:** In the culmination of a bipartisan effort, President Clinton signed an Interior Department budget bill for fiscal year 2001 that provides unprecedented dedicated funding for the conservation of America's land and coastal resources - a total of \$12 billion over six years. Nearly two-thirds of these funds will go to the states and local communities to

protect their own special places. This will provide an historic opportunity for the federal government to work with communities to protect the nation's natural treasures, and for states and local communities to provide parks and recreation and to protect the local open green spaces and forests that are most important to them. In addition, the \$16.9 billion budget measure increases funding to prevent and fight wildfires, to develop and deploy new energy conservation technologies, and to assist Native American communities.

- **October 12, 2000:** President Clinton signed the instrument of ratification for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. This treaty is the first international agreement dedicated solely to raising standards for the protection of sea turtles.
- **October 30, 2000:** President Clinton signed the Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which provides \$1.0 billion in additional funding over the next five years to help over 700 rural counties in 41 states keep schools strong, roads maintained and emergency services operating. This legislation establishes a five-year payment schedule in-lieu-of funds derived from the harvest of timber on federal lands.
- President Clinton signed the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Protection Act, the result of a unique bipartisan effort bringing together ranchers and environmentalists to protect nearly 500,000 acres of southeastern Oregon public lands
- **November 3, 2000:** The Department of Transportation issued regulations to improve the safety of hazardous liquid pipelines in populated and environmentally sensitive areas. Under these new regulations, companies that operate more than 500 miles of hazardous liquid pipeline will be required to establish and follow new programs to effectively manage the integrity of their pipelines.
- **November 3, 2000:** President Clinton announced the issuance of strong, new regulations to improve the safety of hazardous liquid pipelines in populated and environmentally sensitive areas. Under these new regulations, companies that operate more than 500 miles of hazardous liquid pipeline will be required to establish and follow new programs to effectively manage the integrity of their pipelines.
- **November 3, 2000:** President Clinton issued a directive to the Department of Transportation to take a number of actions, using existing authorities, to improve pipeline safety nationwide. These actions include improving pipeline safety standards, strengthening enforcement, enhancing federal-state partnerships, providing the public with better information, and supporting research and development.
- **November 3, 2000:** The United States Senate and House of Representatives passed landmark and bipartisan legislation to restore America's Everglades. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan represents one of the largest environmental restoration projects ever attempted.

- **November 9, 2000:** President Clinton signed proclamations creating the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and enlarging the Craters of the Moon National Monument.
- **November 11, 2000:** President Clinton announced the completion of the first comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change across the United States, and called for a comprehensive new clean air strategy that significantly reduces emissions from U.S. power plants that contribute to global warming.
- **November 13, 2000:** President Clinton signed the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000 (S. 1752) amending the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), which protects lives, property, and key coastal barrier habitat by prohibiting Federal subsidies for development and disaster relief on many of our Nation's coastal barriers.
- **November 13, 2000:** President Clinton signed the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 (S. 1482), thereby extending and improving the management of the nation's 13 marine sanctuaries.
- **November 13, 2000:** President Clinton signed the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Act (S.700) designating this 175-mile ancient footpath in Hawaii as a National Historic Trail and the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Adjustment Act (S. 938) expanding the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
- **November 16, 2000:** President Clinton signed a proclamation declaring November 16th America Recycles Day.
- **December 4, 2000:** President Clinton issued an Executive Order establishing the 84 million acre Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve – the largest protected area ever created in the United States.
- **December 11, 2000** – President Clinton signed the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, authorizing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, furthering the Administration's commitment to restoration of this extraordinary national treasure.
- **December 21, 2000** - President Clinton announced new EPA standards that will dramatically reduce smog-causing emissions from heavy-duty trucks and buses. A phased-in program will produce cleaner fuels and engines and dramatically reduce the incidence of respiratory problems in the U.S. Smog-causing nitrogen oxides will be reduced by 95 percent beyond current levels and soot emissions will be reduced by 90 percent.
- **December 26, 2000** - As part of EPA's ongoing efforts to protect children from lead poisoning, the Agency announced tough, new standards to identify dangerous levels of lead in paint, dust and soil. These new national standards are more protective than previous EPA guidance and will, for the first time, provide home owners, school and playground administrators, childcare providers and others with standards to protect children from hazards posed by lead, including children in federally-owned housing.

- **January 5, 2001** - President Clinton announced a comprehensive strategy to protect 58.5 million acres of pristine forestland – nearly one-third of America’s national forests.
- **January 8, 2001** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took action to dramatically expand the information available to the public about lead emissions in their communities. The new rule will require significantly more reporting of environmental releases of lead under EPA's public right-to-know program, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).
- **January 9, 2001** - The Clinton-Gore Administration addressed a major regulatory loophole in the Clean Water Act by clarifying the types of activities that can harm wetlands, streams, and other waters, and are subject generally to Clean Water Act regulation. This action will improve protection for tens of thousands of acres of environmentally valuable wetlands and other waters across the United States.
- **January 15, 2001** - The Air Force issued a Record of Decision regarding the disposition of a portion of the former Homestead Air Base in south Florida that the base property will not be used for a commercial airport due to the unacceptable risks of an airport to the neighboring Biscayne and Everglades National Parks. The property will be offered first to Miami-Dade County for a non-airport mixed use development to meet the economic development goals for the area, and to the Department of the Interior if the County does not wish to accept and develop the property for those purposes.
- **January 17, 2001** - President Clinton signed proclamations creating seven new national monuments: Upper Missouri River Breaks N.M. and Pompeys Pillar N.M. in Montana; U.S. Virgin Islands Coral Reef N.M. and expansion of the Buck Island Reef N.M.; Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks N.M. in northern New Mexico; Minidoka Internment N.M. in Idaho; Carrizo Plain N.M. in central California and Sonoran Desert N.M. in south central Arizona.
- **January 17, 2001** -The Clinton Administration reduced public health risks from arsenic in the nation's drinking water by establishing a new standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb), down from the current 50 ppb level. This action will provide additional protection to at least 13 million Americans from cancer and other health problems.
- **January 18, 2001** – The Clinton-Gore Administration announced the establishment of four new energy efficiency standards for appliances that will save consumers and businesses more than \$19 billion over the next 30 years. These new standards will affect clothes washers, water heaters, residential heat pumps and central air conditioners, commercial heating and cooling equipment, and are a critical part of the Administration’s efforts to address global warming.