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Conservation takes center stage at America's Great Outdoors conference

NWF urges action to address climate impacts, reconnect kids to nature

Washington, DC (April 16) – President Obama is holding a White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors today to discuss the state of conservation across America and the importance of connecting families to the outdoors. National Wildlife Federation President and CEO, Larry Schweiger, was invited to join the discussion with President Obama, Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, and Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Schweiger had this to say about the meeting:

“We commend the administration’s efforts to raise awareness of the urgent need to conserve America’s Great Outdoors now and in the future. This meeting, however, is only a first step. To implement the innovative ideas set forth today, we will need both a clear strategy and robust dedicated funding sources.

“For too long the conservation of our treasured lands and waters has languished behind other priorities. Now, as we come to grips with the reality that our world is warming, we must not only play catch up for the damage done, but also prepare for the unavoidable consequences of climate change in the future.

“As the administration takes this discussion on the road, National Wildlife Federation will be encouraging our four million members and supporters to attend the listening sessions, and share their opinions and wishes for conservation.”

Also attending the meeting on behalf of National Wildlife Federation was Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education and Training. He had this to say about the administration’s efforts to reconnect families and kids to nature:

“America’s Great Outdoors should be both about places and people. Conserving the lands and waters that define our country today will be for naught if we fail to instill an appreciation and love of the outdoors in our children and grandchildren. We have an obligation to leave the next generation healthier and better connected to the natural world.”

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