



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

MAY - 7 2012

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

I am pleased to inform you of the designation of Ice Mountain, located in Hampshire County, West Virginia, as a National Natural Landmark (NNL). A NNL designation is made by the Secretary of the Interior to recognize and support the voluntary preservation of public and private sites that illustrate America's outstanding natural heritage.

Ice Mountain is the best example of glacière talus in the region and supports the richest collection of vascular plants of any known cold-air producing talus slope site within the Appalachian Ranges. This site also exhibits an outstanding example of Devonian Oriskany sandstone cliffs that enhance the scenic beauty of this landmark. This new landmark is owned by The Nature Conservancy.

The NNL Program was established in 1962, under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.). The National Park Service manages this program under regulations found at 36 CFR Part 62. When designated, a landmark is included in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks, which currently lists 591 NNLs nationwide. Designation as a NNL is not a land withdrawal, does not change the ownership of an area, and does not dictate activity. Owners of NNLs do not give up any rights or privileges of ownership, nor do they give up use of the area.

The NNL Program regulations require written notification of new NNL designations. Notice will also be published in the Federal Register. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Margaret Brooks, National Natural Landmarks Program Manager, at (520) 791-6470.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
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The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Ken Salazar



OCT 12 2012

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are pleased to transmit a report from the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force (Task Force) on infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV), as requested by Congress in the conference report accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012.

In accordance with the request, this report examines the risk ISAV poses to wild Pacific salmon and the coastal economies that rely on these fish. It also establishes research objectives for further study, which were created in partnership with the Government of Canada and our Federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

The Task Force that developed this report is comprised of subject matter experts and senior leaders from the three Federal agencies that share responsibility to protect the health of U.S. aquatic animals: the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this report, you may contact Mr. Brian Baenig, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of Agriculture, at (202) 720-7095.

Similar letters and a copy of the report are being sent to Senators Cochran, Hutchison, and Inouye, and Representatives Hastings, Markey, Rogers, and Dicks.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

Rebecca M. Blank  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Commerce

Enclosure

# **REPORT TO 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS of the United States**

## **Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives**

Prepared by the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force

July 23, 2012

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Background**

In October 2011, university researchers from British Columbia, Canada, reported finding a geographically new and potentially harmful fish virus called infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV) in wild salmon from British Columbia. If confirmed, this would be the first report of ISAV from the Pacific Northwest and also from wild Pacific salmon. Canadian officials with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) quickly responded to further investigate these claims and contacted U.S. officials that are part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is comprised of subject matter experts and senior leaders from the three Federal agencies that share responsibility to protect the health of U.S. aquatic animals: the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA); and the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

If ISAV were found on the Pacific Coast of North America, it would be the first isolation from wild Pacific salmon and also in the Pacific Northwest. ISAV has caused devastating losses in Atlantic salmon farming operations in Norway, eastern Canada, Maine, Chile, and other locations where Atlantic salmon is farmed.

In response to concerns about ISAV in the Pacific Northwest, report language was included in the conference report accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, which asked the Task Force to submit a report that assesses the risk infectious salmon anemia (ISA) poses to wild Pacific salmon and the coastal economies that rely on them. Further, Congress asked that the Task Force establish research objectives that assess 10 specific points. This report is submitted by the Task Force in response to that request.

#### **Summary of Findings**

Canada could not confirm the ISA detections in British Columbia using internationally recognized laboratory methods. No widespread die-offs of fish, either wild or farmed, have been observed. Although other species have been shown to carry the virus, clinical disease has been seen only in farmed Atlantic salmon. Research has shown that Pacific salmonid species are relatively resistant to ISAV.

Despite the fact that the detections were not confirmed, the suspect positive results warrant additional surveillance and research. It is possible that a novel virus similar to ISAV is generating positive test results even though it may not cause clinical illness in fish.

In collaboration with States, Tribes, and the government of Canada, the Task Force has developed an enhanced surveillance plan, including appropriate screening tests, for ISAV in the Pacific Northwest. The proposed strategy builds on existing State, Tribal, Federal, and industry health infrastructures and activities whenever possible. The plan focuses on the States of Washington and Alaska due to their close proximity to British Columbia, the location of recent suspect ISAV findings. Future investigations in Oregon, California, and Idaho may be recommended depending on the results of this initial surveillance activity. Briefly, the strategy involves geographically distributed biannual sampling of Pacific salmonids native to the Pacific Northwest for 2 years, as well as enhanced sampling of commercial Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout.

## Part I. Assessing the Risk to Wild Pacific Salmon and Coastal Economies

### Background on the Disease

Infectious salmon anemia (ISA) is a disease of farmed salmon caused by a virus of the same name (ISAV). Disease outbreaks caused by this virus have occurred historically in Maine, New Brunswick, Canada, Chile, Norway, and other European countries. These outbreaks have resulted in severe mortality to farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in these regions, and economic impacts have been significant to the aquaculture industries where outbreaks occurred. ISA outbreaks have not been documented in any wild fish populations anywhere in the world. ISA virus is not a human health concern.

### Detections in British Columbia

On October 17, 2011, Professor Rick Routledge from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada, announced results from a long-term sampling effort of wild Pacific juvenile sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) on the British Columbia central coast (marine waters) as part of an investigation of fluctuating returns of sockeye salmon adults to the Fraser River watershed. Two out of 48 sockeye salmon juvenile collected during the summer of 2011 and submitted for pathogen testing were positive for ISAV using a real-time (quantitative) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The testing was conducted at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada, by Dr. Fred Kibenge. PCR is a DNA-based molecular laboratory technique that in this case looks for a virus-specific RNA gene sequence. An additional finding in adult Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) was reported on October 28, 2011. The PCR tests identified a European strain of ISAV.

The specific quantitative PCR protocol used to identify ISAV in these detections is not a validated<sup>1</sup> diagnostic test for ISAV testing. To confirm a case of ISAV, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) requires multiple lines of evidence that can include a combination of clinical signs consistent with the disease and/or multiple approved diagnostic tests. The sockeye salmon sampled were positive by one diagnostic test using a non-validated protocol.

CFIA, as the competent authority, has conducted a follow-up investigation into the ISAV detections. CFIA tested the diagnostic samples that were submitted to Atlantic Veterinary College and obtained additional salmon from Simon Fraser University and the college. CFIA tested the samples using a PCR diagnostic test that differs from the one used by the college but that has been validated by the Canadian National Reference Laboratory to screen for ISAV. CFIA was unable to confirm the presence of ISAV per the OIE definition and therefore has not reported this suspect case to the OIE.

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<sup>1</sup> The term *validated* refers to evaluating a diagnostic test for fitness for purpose (in this case, how well the diagnostic technique can identify the virus in a wild fish), and the rate of false positive and false negative results. Guidance on how to validate a diagnostic test for fitness for purpose is provided by the OIE ([http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/ahm/2010/2.3.05\\_ISA%20.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/ahm/2010/2.3.05_ISA%20.pdf)).



## **Potential Impact of ISA**

If ISAV were found to be present on the Pacific coast of North America, it would be of concern due to the potential impact on farmed and wild salmonids, especially because of ISA's high mortality rate in farmed Atlantic salmon. ISAV is a member of the *Orthomyxoviridae* family of viruses, which includes the influenza viruses. Therefore, we cannot rule out the possibility that the virus could evolve or mutate into a form capable of infecting and potentially causing disease in Pacific salmon. However, both Atlantic and Pacific salmon are farmed in Chile, and ISAV has caused disease only in the Atlantic salmon. These findings indicate that if ISA were to emerge on the Pacific coast of North America, it would most likely emerge in farmed Atlantic salmon rather than Pacific salmon, wild or farmed. A nonpathogenic form/strain of ISAV has also been documented. This nonpathogenic form cannot be grown in cell culture and would likely not be detected by standard viral screening tests that rely on this technique.

It is important to stress that, as of the date of this report, there has been no indication, clinical evidence, disease, mortality, or signs of ISA on the Pacific coast, including Canada or the United States. Further, while some Canadian scientists have reported tests that indicate the presence of ISAV, there has been no actual isolation of the ISA virus nor has CFIA (the official competent animal health authority for Canada) been able to confirm these suspect findings as actually being ISAV. There remains the possibility that these isolations are a new or avirulent strain of ISAV, or a novel virus similar to ISAV, that is previously unknown or undetected in the Pacific Northwest. While ISA disease events have occurred in other parts of the world in farmed Atlantic salmon, there is no evidence of an ISA disease outbreak ever occurring in wild populations of salmon, including Atlantic salmon or in other, non-salmonid fish species.

## **The National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force**

The Federal Departments of Agriculture (APHIS), Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service, or NMFS), and Interior (FWS) comprise the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force (Task Force). All three agencies share roles and responsibilities regarding farmed and wild aquatic animals, particularly when issues cross State and international boundaries. The agencies serve an important role in coordinating communication and response among States and Tribes. Should ISA emerge in the Pacific Northwest, it is within a State's or Tribe's jurisdiction working with its co-managers to determine how to address the issue. However, should the issue escalate to where the three Federal agencies feel an animal health emergency has arisen, or at the request of a State or Tribe, the three agencies can act under various authorities. The authorities are summarized here and can be found in more detail in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the three Agencies regarding collaboration on aquatic animal health (Appendix 1).

APHIS has authority for farm-raised aquatic animals, as well as animals that have the potential to impact farm-raised animals. NOAA's NMFS has authority for wild marine species of aquatic animals. FWS has authority for wild freshwater aquatic species that are not in the jurisdiction of

a State, such as fish listed by the Endangered Species Act. Both NMFS and FWS have authority for fish that spend part of their life cycle in fresh water and part of their life cycle in salt water.

APHIS' authority can be invoked to require the depopulation and disposal of animals infected with a disease of regulatory significance, i.e., diseases listed as reportable to the World Organization for Animal Health or foreign animal diseases (FAD). For example, at the request of the State of Maine, APHIS became involved in the control and management of ISA. APHIS accessed \$8.6 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds after declaring an animal health emergency when ISA emerged in farmed salmon in Maine. Funds covered the development of an ISA control program, depopulation, disposal, and indemnification. Clinical disease of ISA has not been detected in Maine since 2006, and APHIS maintains an ongoing surveillance program for the disease in cooperation with the State and industry.

NMFS has authority for managing living marine organisms and their habitats in the United States. Authority for activities related to infectious disease control is contained within the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The authority for infectious disease control in Federal marine waters is documented in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and is being used to write aquaculture disease regulations for permits that may be issued under the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Plan for Offshore Aquaculture. NMFS collaborates with APHIS and other Federal agencies in investigation, coordination, and implementation of infectious disease control programs. Via an MOU with APHIS, the NMFS Seafood Inspection Program has responsibilities for the issuance of human and animal health certificates for the export of seafood and seafood products to the European Union.

The FWS has the authority for infectious diseases under the Lacey Act and Title 50 (title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, section 16.13). FWS has additional regulatory authority in the areas of fish and wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) requires the Department of the Interior (DOI) to take steps "required for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fishery resources." In addition, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), the Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666c), and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 757a-757g) each authorize DOI to initiate cooperative agreements with stakeholders, protecting fishery resources.

## **Part II. Research and Surveillance**

Congress has charged the Task Force to establish ISA research objectives, in collaboration with the Government of Canada, and Federal, State, and Tribal governments, including the Department of Fish and Wildlife of Washington and the Department of Fish and Game of Alaska to assess 10 specific points. To that end, the Task Force convened sub-groups to develop a surveillance plan and to set research priorities to assess the topics as directed by Congress. Our responses to the specific points follow.



- (1) The prevalence of ISA in both wild and aquaculture salmonid populations throughout Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho.

At the time of this report, there are no confirmed reports of ISA disease or the causative virus, ISAV, in the Pacific Northwest. Due to concerns about the possibility of ISAV occurring in Pacific salmon, the Task Force proposes the implementation of a pathogen surveillance plan that would indicate if the disease ISA and/or the pathogen that causes ISA, ISAV, is present in the waters of the Pacific Northwest. ISA experts from the member agencies of the Task Force have proposed focusing this search on Washington and Alaska. These States are proximate to British Columbia; thus, ISAV would likely be found in these areas if it is present in Canada.

The Task Force reviewed historic pathogen surveillance information from Alaska and Washington.

- (2) Genetic susceptibility by population and species.

Much research has been conducted on ISA since it first emerged in Norway in 1983. Findings are summarized below.

- The presence of virus does not equate to the clinical disease caused by the virus.
- Atlantic salmon are the natural host species for the virus. The virus actively replicates in farmed Atlantic salmon. Clinical signs, when present, can include anemia, swelling, and hemorrhaging of the kidney and spleen, and ascites fluid in the peritoneal cavity. The disease has caused up to 100-percent mortality in challenge trials.
- Wild Atlantic salmon (Nylund et al., 1995), brown trout (Nylund et al. 1994; Nylund et al. 1995; Rolland et al. 1998; Snow et al. 2001); and rainbow trout (Nylund et al. 1997; Snow et al. 2001) are more resistant to ISAV infection than their farmed counterparts, based on controlled challenge studies and detection of virus in wild fish in the absence of disease (Nylund et al. 2003). In general, wild fish are able to recover from the infection, and only a small percentage actually die from the disease in controlled laboratory studies. No die-offs in wild populations have ever been attributed to ISA.
- Controlled laboratory studies indicate Pacific salmon (steelhead trout [*O. mykiss*], Coho salmon [*O. kisutch*], Chinook salmon [*O. tshawytscha*], and chum salmon [*O. keta*]) are more resistant to ISA infection than Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) (Rolland et al. 2003).
- Controlled laboratory studies indicate that Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), turbot (*Psetta maxima*) and two species of wrasse (*Labrus berggylta* and *Centrolabrus exoletus*) are resistant to ISA infection (Hjeltnes, 1993; Snow et al. 2001).
- The ISA virus may be able to propagate in herring but does not cause any clinical disease (Nylund et al. 2002).

- Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus harengus*), Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), pollock (*Pollachius virens*), American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*), and lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) samples have all been tested for susceptibility for ISA from fish located in or near sites with Atlantic salmon exhibiting clinical ISA disease (MacLean et al. 2003). With the exception of a sample from pollock and cod, all other tests were negative. All samples include gill tissue, and since gill is in contact with the water, it is theorized the positive results came from surface contamination with the virus, as there was no evidence of clinical disease, and the fish were in close contact with clinically ill Atlantic salmon.
- A publication by Kibenge et al. in 2001 reported a finding of ISA from Coho salmon in Chile. However, this particular finding of ISAV was not confirmed in follow-up testing of either Coho or Atlantic salmon in the area, nor was ISAV associated with later experiences with icterus syndrome (Smith et al., 2003 and 2006).

(3) Susceptibility of (salmonid) populations to ISA from geographic and oceanographic factors.

Farmed Atlantic salmon are the host species for the ISA virus. ISA was first identified in Norway in 1983 and subsequently has emerged in other areas of the world where Atlantic salmon are raised, such as Ireland, Scotland, Faroe Islands, eastern Canada, eastern United States, and Chile. ISA has never been identified in Atlantic salmon raised on the Pacific coast of the United States or Canada, and ongoing diagnostic testing of these populations has not shown ISA is present. Additionally, as outlined in section 2, although other species may propagate the virus (such as wild Atlantic salmon, brown trout, and rainbow trout), these species are more resistant to clinical disease than farmed Atlantic salmon. Controlled laboratory studies indicate that Pacific salmon species are also more resistant to ISA than Atlantic salmon.

Recently, work has been done at the FWS Olympia Fish Health Center to determine whether or not existing diagnostic routines used by FWS, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to test returning wild salmonid stocks for pathogens would be sufficient to detect the ISA virus. Preliminary work indicates that existing diagnostic routines would, at the least, detect the North American strain of ISAV. Specifically, the CHSE-214 cell line routinely used for viral screening by the aforementioned State and Tribal agencies is sensitive to the North American strain of ISAV. Work is ongoing to determine whether or not the existing diagnostic routines would also detect European strains of ISAV.

- (4) Potential transmission pathways between infectious Canadian sockeye and uninfected salmonid populations in U.S. waters.

ISA has not been confirmed in British Columbia, Canada. If ISAV or other aquatic pathogens were to be found in Pacific salmon that originated in Canada, there is a pathway, albeit a limited one, by which Canadian salmon could infect Pacific salmon of U.S. origin. Juvenile salmon migrate down rivers in the Pacific Northwest to marine waters from both British Columbia and U.S. Pacific coastal States. This life stage of salmon is known as smolts. Upon arrival in marine waters, many stocks/populations of salmon migrate north through Canadian waters to the Gulf of Alaska. Salmon of Canadian origin have a similar migration pattern and rear in the same waters in the Gulf of Alaska. It is in these marine waters off Alaska that the salmon feed, grow to maturity, and then begin their journey back to their freshwater natal streams to spawn and complete the life cycle of the salmon. During migration through Canada and while feeding in the marine waters of Canada and Alaska, it is possible that salmon originating from streams in the U.S. could commingle with salmon that originated from Canadian streams. The possible pathway for pathogen transmission would be from fish-to-fish through the water column.

- (5) Management strategies to rapidly respond to potential ISA outbreaks in both wild and aquaculture populations, including securing the water supplies at conservation hatcheries to protect hatchery fish from exposure to the ISAV present in incoming surface water.

Various management strategies can be implemented at conservation hatcheries, as well as in aquaculture facilities to respond to infectious salmon anemia. These strategies rely on increasing biosecurity at facilities where fish are located. Biosecurity factors include ensuring personnel use dedicated equipment at farm sites, disinfecting shared equipment, promptly removing any infected animals, using a pathogen-free source of water (where feasible), controlling access to sites, etc.

In 2002-2003, APHIS became involved with ISA in Maine at the request of the State and industry. At the time, ISA was widespread in the salmon farming industry, and in order to control the disease, the following measures were implemented: biosecurity measures, disease surveillance with Federal oversight, testing at approved laboratories using validated tests, mandatory disease reporting, quarantines on sites that met the program standard definition for positive, depopulation of infected sites, and indemnity to producers for animals destroyed. Cleaning and disinfection measures were instituted for facilities, work structures, and work vessels. Facilities were restocked with fish certified free of ISAV.

An ongoing control program was instituted and carries on today. The elements of the ISA program in Maine include site, vessel, and diving biosecurity plans; site-specific ISA action

plans; a sea lice integrated pest management program; a veterinary client-patient relationship; minimum monthly surveillance visits; periodic biosecurity audits; and data sharing related to inventory and mortality with APHIS. A detailed description of the ISA program can be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/aquaculture/downloads/isa\\_standards.docx](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/aquaculture/downloads/isa_standards.docx).

Background on management of ISA in hatcheries and facilities can be found in a USDA document entitled “International Response to Infectious Salmon Anemia: Prevention, Control and Eradication” ([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/aquaculture/downloads/isa\\_standards.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/aquaculture/downloads/isa_standards.pdf)).

Management strategies for an ISA outbreak in wild populations are not possible due to the nature of free-ranging populations in the aquatic environment.

#### (6) Potential economic impacts of ISA.

The economic impact of ISA in areas that have experienced outbreaks varies based on the size of the industry impacted, the life stage of fish affected, and how quickly the disease is brought under control.

In 2001 and 2002, 17 marine net-pen sites, with a total of approximately 1.5 million fish, were depopulated due to ISA in Maine. The United States spent \$8.6 million combating ISA in the State between 2001 and 2007, including the cost of indemnifying farmers for animals destroyed.

The value of the salmon fishery in Alaska is worth over \$600 million annually (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyfisherysalmon.salmoncatch>). As mentioned previously, the management of ISA in free-ranging populations is not feasible, and the potential economic impact of ISA on wild salmon cannot be estimated. However, there is much evidence that wild stocks of various fish species are resistant to clinical ISA infection, as well as laboratory evidence that Pacific salmon are also resistant to ISA infection.

#### (7) Any role foreign salmon farms may have in spreading ISA to wild populations.

As previously mentioned, ISA is a disease of farmed Atlantic salmon. There is no evidence in regions of the world that have ISA that it has spread to wild populations in marine waters. Further, the disease has yet to be found in the waters of the Pacific Northwest in either Canada or the United States. Historic disease surveillance programs, both active and passive in the Pacific Northwest (the United States and Canada) have not confirmed either ISA or the

virus that causes ISA. There is evidence for fish pathogens other than ISAV to spread from fish farms or from public/tribal hatcheries to wild stocks, particularly “wild” fish that are residing in the outfall from freshwater hatcheries. However, it is also known that wild fish can spread disease to farmed fish (Anderson et al. 2000).

Given that ISA has not been found in the Pacific Northwest, it would be difficult to develop research objectives to answer this question. Surveillance by NMFS and FWS in the vicinity of fish farms in Maine undergoing ISA outbreaks has produced only two examples of presence of ISAV in a wild fish. These observations were not concomitant with disease or clinical condition in the fish that showed presence of ISAV.

(8) The identity of any potential Federal, State, and international research partners.

Several research groups working with ISAV are established nationally and internationally that represent potential collaborators:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle, Washington  
USGS National Fish Health Research Laboratory, Kearneysville, West Virginia  
USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa  
Kennebec River Biosciences, Richmond, Maine  
Atlantic Veterinary College, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada  
Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada  
Research and Productivity Council, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada  
Fisheries Research Services Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen, United Kingdom  
National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway  
University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

(9) Available baseline data, including data from collaborating entity(ies).

To date, there have been no confirmed cases of ISAV in the U.S. Pacific Northwest. However, there are gaps in knowledge, and surveillance monitoring for ISAV is warranted. The strongest evidence of regional ISAV status in the U.S. Pacific States derives from (1) passive surveillance at marine Atlantic salmon farms, (2) active testing of enhancement hatchery populations and anadromous adults of native species returning to spawn in freshwaters.

1. Based on experience in Maine as well as in foreign countries, ISA disease in Atlantic salmon marine net-pens typically escalates once introduced to a point clearly requiring disease investigation and coordinated response. Consequently, if a pathogenic strain of ISAV were introduced to Atlantic salmon net-pens in the Pacific Northwest, passive surveillance should be sufficient to ensure its eventual detection. This assertion, however, depends on a well-functioning veterinary or fish



health professional/industry partnership and passive surveillance and reporting infrastructure. Periodic Federal or State government audits of this system would ensure its credibility as evidence for future disease freedom claims, whether ISAV or other pathogens of concern. Routine diagnostic testing of moribund fish would further augment confidence in early disease detection.

2. However, given the limited distribution of farmed Atlantic salmon populations on the U.S. west coast, it is prudent to also consider the ISAV infection status of native species that could serve as ISAV reservoirs. ISA infection is unlikely to produce clinical signs in marine populations of Pacific salmonid species, and/or freshwater populations of any salmonid (including Atlantic salmon), but high sample volumes between State, USFWS, and Tribal monitoring activities provide strong confidence that we would have detected the North American genotype if it were present in the Pacific Northwest. Future inclusion of salmon head kidney (SHK) or Atlantic salmon kidney (ASK) cell lines, concurrent with existing (or even reduced) sampling, would allow us to also surmise the absence of the European genotype. Though export facilities include SHK cell lines that should also detect the European genotype, these closed facilities are not likely to reflect disease status in the surrounding region.

To conclude, existing surveillance efforts provide substantive evidence of absence of the ISAV North American genotype in the Pacific Northwest. It is important to note that the ability to isolate ISAV in cell culture is highly dependent on the amount of virus in the sample, and nature of the virus present; and, not all ISAV strains can be isolated in cell culture (reviewed in Kibenge et al., 2004; Plarre et al., 2005). However, the historical testing volume compensates for some of the limitation in sensitivity. From July 2010 to June 2011 alone, over 36,000 salmonids from 51 watersheds were tested in Washington (State and Tribe co-manager report). By comparison, just 1,200 fish would be sufficient to substantiate 95-percent confidence of disease absence at a detection threshold of 1 percent even if diagnostics are credited with only 25-percent sensitivity (FreeCalc Version 2, online software, <http://www.ausvet.com.au/content.php?page=software#freecalc>). Consequently, despite the relatively low sensitivity of cell culture, the high volume of ongoing State, Tribal, and Federal efforts to oversee native populations provides credible general evidence of North American ISAV genotype absence. However, one cannot extend this assurance to the European genotype of ISAV. Currently utilized cell lines (epithelioma papulosum cyprinid [EPC] and Chinook salmon embryo [CHSE]) do not produce cytopathic effects when infected with some European strains and may not support replication of other strains of the European genotype. Hatcheries that produce salmonid eggs for export do include SHK cell lines in their health certification testing. However, these facilities are closed to their surroundings and therefore less representative of regional disease status. Consequently, current regional knowledge of European ISAV status rests predominantly on the absence of



passive surveillance findings in marine Atlantic salmon net-pens, which are limited in geographic distribution. Further, because reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction for ISAV is not routinely employed in this region, we have even less knowledge regarding the presence or absence of the putative non-cultivable, non-pathogenic strains. Consequently, we propose a State-Tribal-Federal-Industry coordinated enhanced surveillance strategy to formally assess ISAV status in the Pacific Northwest.

(10) Other ISA research priorities.

The Task Force has also developed a proposed research plan. The plan has three stages and is dependent upon isolation of virus: 1) Determine additional genetic information about the virus, if present; 2) Develop improved detection tools for the virus, if present; 3) Assess the risk of the strain of virus, if present, in Pacific salmon. The last stage is dependent upon the results of the previous two, and the overall plan is closely linked with surveillance.

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: MOU between APHIS, FWS, and NOAA Fisheries

## Appendix 1

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON SHARED AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS),  
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NOAA FISHERIES)  
AND  
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)**

### **Purpose:**

Recognizing the legal authorities and mandates of the respective Federal Departments and associated Agencies for the management of aquatic animal health in the United States and its territories, this memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service( NOAA Fisheries), and the United States Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), will formally pledge our shared commitment to promoting and facilitating national aquatic animal health in the context of good environmental stewardship and the facilitation of our aquaculture industry's growth.

### **Legal authorities allowing APHIS to enter into this MOU:**

APHIS enters into this agreement pursuant to the Department of Agriculture's statutory authorities to participate in such activities including the Animal Health Protection Act (7 USC 8301-8316).

### **Legal authorities allowing NOAA Fisheries to enter into this MOU:**

NOAA Fisheries enters into this agreement pursuant to the Department of Commerce's statutory authorities to participate in such activities including the Agriculture Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 USC 1621-1627), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 USC 742e), the Reorganization Plan No. 4, dated 1970 (84 Stat. 2090), and the National Aquaculture Policy Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. sec. 2801 et seq.).

### **Legal authorities allowing FWS to enter into this MOU:**

FWS enters into this agreement pursuant to the Department of Interior's statutory authorities to participate in such activities including the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 USC 742e) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 et seq.).

## **Overarching Objectives**

APHIS, NOAA Fisheries, and FWS recognize the need to efficiently apply our Agencies' complementary skills and resources to ensure the health of aquatic species within our jurisdictions. The health of aquatic species is not only of concern relative to wild aquatic animals, but also for aquatic animals being reared in private and public facilities, aquatic animals being exported to other countries and aquatic animals moving between States and other jurisdictions within our country. We are also concerned about the health of aquatic animals being imported into our country, as they may ultimately affect the health of both domestic wild and cultured aquatic animals.

To ensure aquatic animal health, this MOU is intended to:

- Provide the foundation for a consistent, internationally recognized national aquatic animal health plan (NAAHP) for the well-being of our commercial aquaculture industries and our national aquatic resources;
- Provide general guidance for our Agencies to develop and implement such a NAAHP through a commitment to complete cooperation and consultation between our Departments, and with our various public and private sector partners and stakeholders;
- Formally recognize the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, as authorized by the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 and the National Aquaculture Improvement Act of 1985 and its task force, the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force on Aquaculture (NAAHTF) as the proper medium through which our concerted efforts should be directed; and
- Formally pledge our Agencies commitment to working with each other to be strong environmental stewards and facilitators of private aquaculture industry growth.

## **Specific Objectives**

By virtue of this MOU, new or revised regulations, policies, and/or guidelines; and/or additional need-specific MOUs, we will minimally do the following to ensure the health of our Nation's aquatic animals:

1. Identify our respective roles and responsibilities, minimizing overlapping and/or redundant functions;
2. Engage in full and open inter-Agency cooperation and consultation under all conditions;
3. Identify existing authorities and amendable regulations needed to achieve our shared goals;
4. Develop a consistent approach to disease detection and certification procedures for import, export and interstate movement of aquatic species, which is consistent with international standards;
5. Establish joint and/or shared competent authorities consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines;

6. Establish a prioritization of aquatic animal diseases/pathogens vis-à-vis importation, exportation and interstate movement protocols, and domestic and international reporting disease/pathogen status; and
7. Establish a designated Agency staff-position (if one does not already exist) for these activities and empower that person to make decisions on behalf of their respective Agency for ongoing activities of the NAAHTF. The scope of these activities could include approving elements of the NAAHP, approving import/export protocols and permits, participating in day-to-day interagency consultations on aquatic animal health decisions, and other decisions that are required for cooperatively operating a health management program, recognizing that all of these activities are within the scope of the existing legal authorities for the respective Agency.

### **General Provisions**

Nothing in this MOU is intended to obligate any appropriated funds from any agency in conflict with any federal law or regulation.

### **Length of time for MOU to be in force:**

This MOU shall be in effect for a period of not more than 5 years, commencing on the effective date of this agreement. By written agreement of the signatories, the MOU may be extended for an additional 5 years at the end of the first 5 years of this agreement.

### **Effective date of agreement:**

This MOU between APHIS, FWS, and NOAA Fisheries shall become effective by the signatures of the representing authorities on the date of signature by the Directors/Administrator.

### **Termination of memorandum of understanding**

Nothing herein is intended to conflict with the current authorities of the parties. If the terms of this memorandum of understanding are inconsistent with existing directives of the respective Agencies entering into this agreement, then those portions of the agreement which are determined to be inconsistent may be considered to be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement not affected by inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect. At the first opportunity for review of the memorandum of understanding, such changes as deemed necessary will be accomplished by either an amendment or entering into a new agreement, whichever is deemed expedient by the parties.

Any signatory to this memorandum of understanding wishing to terminate their participation may do so thirty (30) days following the written notification of the other signatory parties.



**Authorized Signatories to this MOU on shared Federal responsibilities for aquatic animal health in the United States.**

*Cindy Smith*

Ms. Cindy Smith, Administrator  
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

11-14-08

Date

*H. Dale Hall* ACTING  
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

8/8/08

Date

*James W. Balsiger*  
for James W. Balsiger, Ph.D., Acting Assistant Administrator for  
Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

10-29-08

Date

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

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October 4, 2012

The Honorable David J. Hayes  
Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Hayes:

On Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. AKDT, in Room 106 of Gorsuch Commons at the University of Alaska in Anchorage, Alaska, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold a hearing, "Preparing for Offshore Drilling in the Arctic: Lessons Learned from the First Season." As Chairman of the Committee, I invite you to testify. Senator Begich will preside.

The Committee asks that you testify on the Department of the Interior's efforts to date to facilitate safe and environmentally responsible offshore oil and gas development in the Arctic, and lessons learned from this first season of exploratory activity offshore. I also request that your testimony address developments relating to the Administration's Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska.

Please submit your written testimony to the Committee two business days prior to the hearing. While your full statement will be made part of the hearing record, I ask that you limit your oral remarks to five minutes, highlighting or summarizing the most important points. Attached to this letter are more detailed instructions for Committee witnesses.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Barrett of the Democratic staff at (202) 224-4912 or Kelly Pennington of the Republican staff at (202) 224-3826. We appreciate your efforts to provide this information to the Committee and the Senate.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman

## **RULES FOR HEARING WITNESSES**

**ORAL REMARKS** Each witness will have FIVE (5) MINUTES to present oral remarks.

### **ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TWO BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE**

- In *both* Microsoft **Word** (as a .docx) and **PDF**.
- This includes the prepared statement and any supplemental materials.
- A/V material, including video presentations, PowerPoint presentations, and slideshows must be submitted at this time as well.
- Electronic materials should be sent to all of the following:
  - Sean\_Houton@commerce.senate.gov;
  - Collenne\_Wider@commerce.senate.gov;
  - Andrew\_Clough@commerce.senate.gov; and
  - docs@commerce.senate.gov.

**HARD COPIES ARE ALSO REQUIRED, 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE** Forty (40) stapled copies must be delivered at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing to the attention of Clare Boersma, 510 L St., Ste. 750, Anchorage, AK 99501.

**REVIEW OF TRANSCRIPT FOR THE RECORD** Approximately two weeks following the hearing, a staff assistant will send a copy of your sections of the hearing transcript as recorded by a court reporter. You will be given a period of time—the staff assistant will give you a date—to review the document and provide corrections.

You may also be provided with a list of questions for the record to which you are required to respond. Specific instructions will be included with a copy of your transcript at that time.

These Rules ensure that your testimony is published in the official hearing record and on the Committee's website (<http://commerce.senate.gov>) and reduce costs associated with printing. Thank you for your testimony. Exceptions to these rules may be made by the Chairman or the Presiding Committee Member.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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520651 March 1, 2013

2013 MAR 11 PM 4:03

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Nancy H. Sutley  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chair Sutley:

We write in support of providing *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) protections to curb the unsustainable trade on manta rays and five shark species, as identified in the Administration's recent announcement.

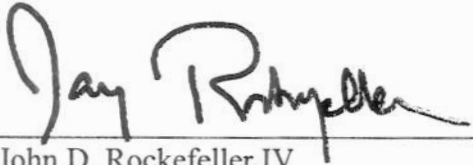
Due to threats such as shark fin harvesting, habitat degradation, overfishing, and bycatch mortality, many shark populations have declined by over 90% over the past 50-100 years, according to studies. Over 70 million sharks are caught each year. The five shark species recommended for CITES protections - porbeagle, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and oceanic whitetip - are declining particularly dramatically. Oceanic whitetip sharks, for example, have declined by over 99% in just four generations in some areas. With their slow maturation and low reproductive rates, sharks are prone to sudden population collapse. These sharks live on the high seas and are highly migratory, and therefore require international protection. Similarly, populations of manta rays are threatened by overharvesting for their gill rakers, marine debris entanglements, boat strikes, and bycatch mortality.

Along with Colombia and Brazil, the United States is co-sponsoring a proposal to list the oceanic whitetip shark in Appendix II, and will support proposals by other countries to list manta rays and the other four shark species in Appendix II. If approved by a two-thirds vote of CITES Parties at the upcoming meeting, the listings will increase protection of, while still allowing legal and sustainable trade in, these species.

As apex predators, sharks play a critical role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems across the food chain. Fishermen and communities in the United States have already been affected by the decline in shark populations, which, due to food chain disruptions, caused the

collapse and closure of the 100-year old bay scallop fishery in multiple East Coast states. Securing CITES protections for these species is therefore an important and necessary step in the long-term best interests of both global shark populations and the health of the world's oceans.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV



Brian Schatz



Mazie K. Hirono



Barbara Boxer



Mark Begich



Maria Cantwell



Frank R. Lautenberg

cc: The Honorable Rebecca M. Blank  
Acting Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior

RON WYDEN, Oregon, *Chairman*

TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota  
MARY L. LANDRIEU, Louisiana  
MARIA CANTWELL, Washington  
BERNARD SANDERS, Vermont  
DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan  
MARK UDALL, Colorado  
AL FRANKEN, Minnesota  
JOE MANCHIN, III, West Virginia  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, Delaware  
BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii  
MARTIN HEINRICH, New Mexico

LISA MURKOWSKI, Alaska  
JOHN BARRASSO, Wyoming  
JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho  
MIKE LEE, Utah  
DEAN HELLER, Nevada  
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United States Senate  
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COMMITTEE ON

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
SAM E. FOWLER, CHIEF COUNSEL  
KAREN K. BULLUPS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR  
PATRICK J. MCCORMICK III, REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I would like to invite you or your designee to testify at the Subcommittee's hearing on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on several bills, the following which pertain to the Department of the Interior:

S.27, to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes";

S. 159, to designate the Wovoka Wilderness and provide for certain land conveyances in Lyon County, Nevada, and for other purposes;

S. 241, to establish the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes;

S. 255, to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws;

S. 256, to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa;

S. 258, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes;

S. 327, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with State foresters authorizing State foresters to provide certain forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protecting services;



S. 340, to provide for the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes;

S. 342, to designate the Pine Forest Range Wilderness area in Humboldt County, Nevada;

S. 353, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes;

S. 360, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service;

S. 366, a bill to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to require the Bureau of Land Management to provide a claimant of a small miner waiver from claim maintenance fees with a period of 60 days after written receipt of 1 or more defects is provided to the claimant by registered mail to cure the 1 or more defects or pay the claim maintenance fee, and for other purposes;

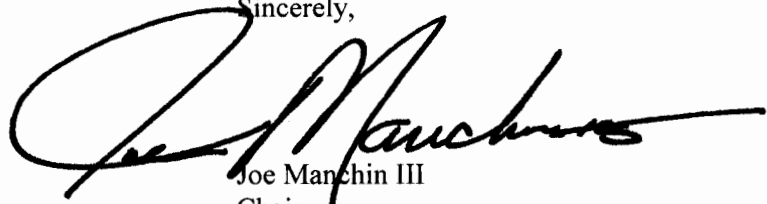
S. 368, to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes;  
and,

S. 609, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for other purposes.

In order to maximize time available for Subcommittee Members to ask questions, it would be helpful if you would summarize your written testimony. Your written testimony will be included in its entirety in the Committee's printed hearing record.

Please provide the Subcommittee with an electronic copy as well as 20 printed copies of your written testimony at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Meghan Conklin at (202) 224-8046, [Meghan\\_conklin@energy.senate.gov](mailto:Meghan_conklin@energy.senate.gov), or John Assini at (202) 224-9313, [john\\_assini@energy.senate.gov](mailto:john_assini@energy.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands,  
Forests, and Mining

RON WYDEN, Oregon, *Chairman*  
TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota  
MARY L. LAND, Louisiana  
MARIA CANTWELL, Washington  
BERNARD SANDERS, Vermont  
DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan  
MARK UDALL, Colorado  
AL FRANKEN, Minnesota  
JOE MANCHIN, III, West Virginia  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, Delaware  
BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii  
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JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho  
MIKE LEE, Utah  
DEAN HELLER, Nevada  
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona  
TIM SCOTT, South Carolina  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, Tennessee  
ROB PORTMAN, Ohio  
JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota

# United States Senate

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COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150  
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July 17, 2013

JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
SAM E. FOWLER, CHIEF COUNSEL  
KAREN K. BILLUPS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR  
PATRICK J. MCCORMICK III, REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I would like to invite you or your designee to testify at the Subcommittee's hearing on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on several bills, the following which pertain to the Department of the Interior:

S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes;

S. 343, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes;

S. 364, to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and for other purposes;

S. 753, to provide for national security benefits for White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss;

S. 1169, to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the State of Montana for the Limestone Hills Training Area, and for other purposes;

S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects;


S. 1309, to withdraw and reserve certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior for military uses, and for other purposes, and;

H.R. 507, to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

In order to maximize time available for Subcommittee Members to ask questions, it would be helpful if you would summarize your written testimony. Your written testimony will be included in its entirety in the Committee's printed hearing record.

Please provide the Subcommittee with an electronic copy as well as 20 printed copies of your written testimony at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863, [David\\_Brooks@energy.senate.gov](mailto:David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov), or John Assini at (202) 224-9313, [john\\_assini@energy.senate.gov](mailto:john_assini@energy.senate.gov).

Sincerely



Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests,  
and Mining

RON WYDEN, Oregon, Chairman  
TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota  
MARY L. LANDRIEU, Louisiana  
MARIA CANTWELL, Washington  
BERNARD SANDERS, Vermont  
DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan  
MARK UDALL, Colorado  
AL FRANKEN, Minnesota  
JOE MANCHIN, III, West Virginia  
MARIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii  
MARTIN HEINRICH, New Mexico  
TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin  
LISA MURKOWSKI, Alaska  
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JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho  
MIKE LEE, Utah  
DEAN HELLER, Nevada  
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona  
TIM SCOTT, South Carolina  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, Tennessee  
ROB PORTMAN, Ohio  
JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota

JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
SAM E. FOWLER, CHIEF COUNSEL  
KAREN K. BILLUPS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR  
PATRICK J. MCCORMICK III, REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate  
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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150  
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SECRETARY  
2013 NOV 12 PM 11:22  
October 31, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I would like to invite you or your designee to testify at the Subcommittee's hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on several bills, the following which pertain to the Department of the Interior:

S. 182, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City;

S. 483, to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes;

S. 771, to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes;

S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, and for other purposes;

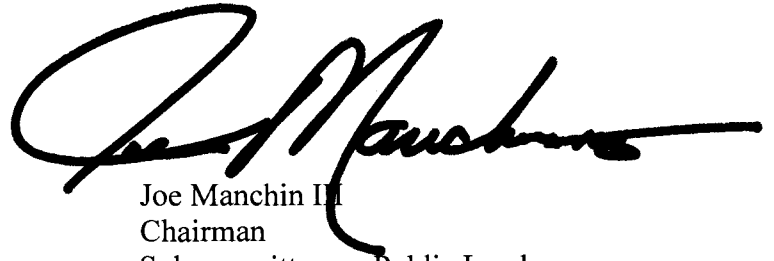
S. 1414, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians;

S. 1415, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and;

S. 1479, to address the forest health, public safety, and wildlife habitat threat presented by the risk of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, on National Forest System land and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to expedite forest management projects relating to hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, and economic development, and for other purposes.

Please provide the Subcommittee with an electronic copy as well as 20 printed copies of your written testimony at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Meghan Conklin at (202) 224-8046, [Meghan\\_Conklin@energy.senate.gov](mailto:Meghan_Conklin@energy.senate.gov), or John Assini at (202) 224-9313, [john\\_assini@energy.senate.gov](mailto:john_assini@energy.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joe Manchin III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands,  
Forests, and Mining

RON WYDEN, Oregon, *Chairman*  
TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota  
MARY L. LANDRIEU, Louisiana  
MARIA CANTWELL, Washington  
BERNARD SANDERS, Vermont  
DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan  
MARK UDALL, Colorado  
AL FRANKEN, Minnesota  
JOE MANCHIN, III, West Virginia  
BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii  
MARTIN HEINRICH, New Mexico  
TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin  
LISA MURKOWSKI, Alaska  
JOHN BARRASSO, Wyoming  
JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho  
MIKE LEE, Utah  
DEAN HELLER, Nevada  
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona  
TIM SCOTT, South Carolina  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, Tennessee  
ROB PORTMAN, Ohio  
JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota

JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
SAM E. FOWLER, CHIEF COUNSEL  
KAREN K. BILLUPS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR  
PATRICK J. MCCORMICK III, REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

638527

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

WWW.ENERGY.SENATE.GOV

October 31, 2013

RECEIVED  
2013 NOV 12 PM 11:22

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I would like to invite you or your designee to testify at the Subcommittee's hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on several bills, the following which pertain to the Department of the Interior:

S. 182, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City;

S. 483, to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes;

S. 771, to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes;

S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, and for other purposes;

S. 1414, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians;

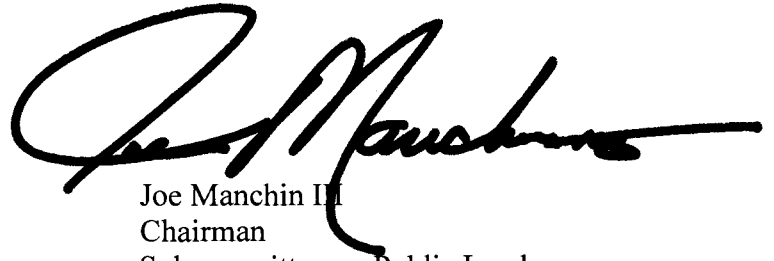
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands,  
Forests, and Mining

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
1650 Pennsylvania, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20504

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Burwell and Secretary Jewell:


As longtime champions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we are writing on behalf of sportsmen, business, recreation, community and conservation leaders concerned with America's outdoor heritage to express our strong continuing support of full, permanent and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—especially in this, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year—and a 1.5 percent or more set-aside of the annual authorized LWCF amount for projects that secure public access to existing public lands for hunting, fishing and other recreational uses. As you finalize your budget request for Fiscal Year 2015, we urge you to maintain your commitment to preserving our iconic landscapes and ensuring public access. Both goals can be accomplished by requesting full funding for the program, with a continued focus on recreation access, in your budget request for Fiscal Year 2015.


We all share a commitment to addressing our nation's ongoing need for job creation and economic growth. This program makes a crucial contribution to this effort as the outdoor industry continues to be a bright spot in our economy. Outdoor recreation supports more than six million jobs, generates \$646 billion in annual spending and results in nearly \$80 billion in federal, state and local taxes. Equally impressive, the outdoor economy grew at about five percent annually between 2005 and 2011 while many other sectors shrank due to the recession. Investing in LWCF and using a small portion of those funds for public access projects will continue to grow our outdoor economy and put more Americans back to work.

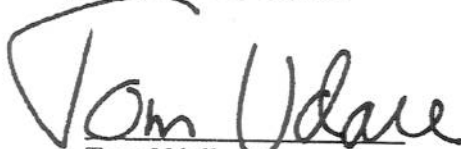
Our federal, state and local parks and public lands represent a tremendous economic asset nationwide. For example, rural western counties with more than 30 percent of their land under federal protection saw increased job creation at a rate four times faster than rural counties with no federally protected lands. Not only does access to quality outdoor recreation areas allow our states to attract new businesses, it allows those businesses to recruit the skilled employees they need to succeed.


We appreciate the Administration's work to preserve our country's breathtaking landscapes and Congress responded by providing more than \$300 million for this critical initiative this year. We will continue working in the U.S. Senate to do our part to ensure that Americans can enjoy these national treasures. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on these important issues.

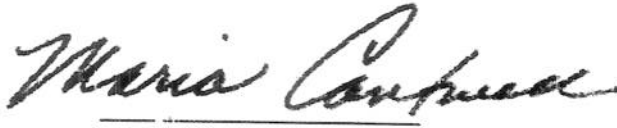
Sincerely,

  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator


  
Max Baucus  
United States Senator


  
Tom Udall  
United States Senator

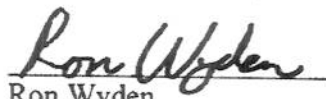
  
Mark Udall  
United States Senator

  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

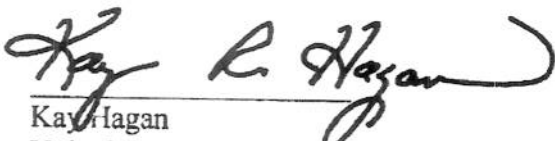
  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

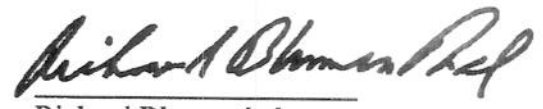
  
Joe Manchin  
United States Senator

  
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator

  
Kay Hagan  
United States Senator

  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

Chris Murphy  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

Tim Johnson  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

Al Franken  
United States Senator

Chris Coons  
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

Angus King  
United States Senator

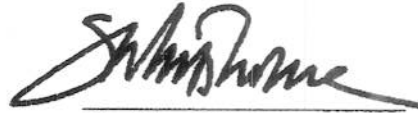
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Vaught, Daniel &lt;daniel\_vaught@ios.doi.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Sen. LWCF Letter**

2 messages

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**Feeney, Tim** <tim\_feeney@ios.doi.gov>  
To: Daniel Vaught <daniel\_vaught@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 12:31 PM

This one is your's I think.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Iudicello, Fay** <fay\_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>  
Date: Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 12:28 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Sen. LWCF Letter  
To: Tim Feeney <tim\_feeney@ios.doi.gov>  
Cc: Robert Howarth <robert\_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Pls task

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nicole Buffa** <nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov>  
Date: Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 12:11 PM  
Subject: Sen. LWCF Letter  
To: Fay Iudicello <fay\_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, Rhea Suh <rhea\_suh@ios.doi.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon\_jarvis@nps.gov>, neil kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <Tommy.Beaudreau@boem.gov>, Rachel Jacobson <rachel\_jacobson@ios.doi.gov>

In case you haven't seen.

-

Fay S. Iudicello

Director, Office of the Executive

Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs

1849 "C" Street NW MS-7328

Washington, DC 20240-0001

(202) 208-3181 Office

(202) 219-2100 Fax

(202) 251-0135 Cell

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**2014-01-29 LWCF & set-aside letter to OMB & DOI.pdf**

 835K

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**Vaught, Daniel** <daniel\_vaught@ios.doi.gov>  
To: "Feeney, Tim" <tim\_feeney@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 12:44 PM

Got it, thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Daniel Vaught  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
202-208-6540





THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

MAY 16 2014

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter of January 29, 2014, supporting the Department of the Interior's (DOI) initiative to secure full, permanent, and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). I am responding on behalf of DOI and the Office of Management and Budget.

As stated in your letter, Congress appropriated more than \$300 million for this critical initiative in Fiscal Year 2014. While this will provide funding for some of our top priorities in 2014, it represents approximately one-third of the amount deposited into LWCF from offshore oil and gas revenues each year. The Administration's FY 2015 Budget seeks better alignment between offshore receipts and conservation investments, in line with the original intent of the law, by supporting an annual investment of \$900 million.

The LWCF 2015 request includes \$4 million in discretionary funding and \$15 million in mandatory funding for Sportsmen/Recreational Access to Federal lands managed by DOI agencies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service. This funding request is focused on acquiring parcels that will provide access to Federal lands and will increase the opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

The Budget proposes \$900 million for LWCF in FY 2015, of which \$350 million is discretionary funding and \$550 million is mandatory funding. This would support \$672 million in DOI programs and \$228 million in USDA Forest Service programs. Beginning in FY 2016, the Budget proposes to permanently authorize \$900 million in annual mandatory funding for the DOI and USDA LWCF programs. Phasing in mandatory funding and retaining some discretionary funding in FY 2015 helps to ensure the Appropriations Committees are not left with an unbudgeted discretionary funding need if authorization legislation is not enacted in time.

Of the total \$900 million requested for LWCF in the President's 2015 Budget, \$575 million, or 64 percent, is for Federal Land Acquisition and \$325 million, or 36 percent, is for programs administered by the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund grants to states for conservation and recreation. The DOI and USDA work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities for easement acquisitions. The LWCF funds support simpler, more efficient land management; create access for hunters and anglers and other recreation opportunities; create long-term cost savings; address urgent threats to some of America's most unique places; and support conservation priorities that are set at the state and local level.

The LWCF has an important role within the economies of local communities. Nationally, visitation, tourism, and jobs related to nearby public lands contribute \$646 billion to the economy annually and support 6.1 million jobs. Moreover, LWCF is a sound investment. The Trust for Public Land's 2010, "Return on the Investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund," stated for every \$1.00 invested in Federal land acquisition through LWCF there is a return of \$4.00 – a return on investment of 4 to 1.

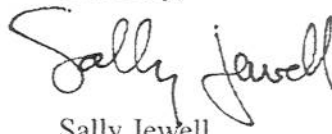
The LWCF is currently constrained by uncertainty surrounding annual discretionary appropriations. This hinders agencies and local and state partners from engaging in the multiyear planning that large-scale conservation and effective collaboration requires. The chronic uncertainty and funding of the LWCF at less than the authorized level has made it increasingly challenging for Federal, state, and local managers to address the development threats facing the Nation's most important open spaces, pristine habitats, recreation areas, and cultural sites – the lands and waters that provide communities with vibrant conservation economies, recreational areas, and historic preservation.

The Administration proposes to address these challenges by pursuing full and permanent funding for LWCF programs. Permanent funding will increase the financial certainty needed to build and enhance local and community conservation partnerships and optimize valuable investments by leveraging other Federal and non-Federal funds. Mandatory appropriations will support the efficiencies demonstrated by the LWCF programs and facilitate a more predictable, transparent, and inclusive process. Mandatory funding will also finally achieve the original intent of the LWCF Act: to dedicate a meaningful portion – \$900 million – of the royalties that private companies pay to access the Nation's offshore oil and gas reserves, to help preserve the Nation's lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans, now and in the future.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared conservation goals.

A similar letter is being sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Jewell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

SEP 10 2014

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2014, providing comments on the development of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (Five Year Program) for 2017–2022.

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. §1344) prescribes the major steps involved in developing the Five Year Program, including extensive opportunities for public comment. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) seeks a wide array of input during development of a Five Year Program, including information on the economic, social, and environmental values of all OCS resources. The BOEM also seeks input on the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on other resource values of the OCS and the marine, coastal, and human environments.

We appreciate your comments very much and will consider them closely as we move forward with developing the Five Year Program. Thank you for your interest in this issue. A similar letter is being sent to each co-signer of your letter.

Sincerely,

  
Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

SEP 12 2014

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter dated August 4, 2014, cosigned by your colleagues, to Secretary Vilsack and me, urging the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to consider the merits of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* as a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) project and to provide funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget to support landscape level conservation in this area.

The LWCF is a cornerstone of the President's conservation agenda which emphasizes collaborative community-driven efforts and outcome-focused investment to protect and restore our national endowment of lands and waters. The LWCF has played a critical role in connecting people to the great outdoors for 5 decades and in today's constrained fiscal climate, LWCF projects continue to be sound investments. Through conservation easements, state recreation grants, wildlife grants, and Federal acquisitions, LWCF funds create jobs, keep working farmers and ranchers on the land, and stimulate local economies.

Since FY 2013, DOI and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have included a new component in the Federal land acquisition program. This component emphasizes collaborative efforts between agencies and local communities to develop strategic, outcome-focused, landscape level plans to achieve measurable conservation goals.

The DOI is currently formulating the FY 2016 budget request. Your letter will be included, as a letter of support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal. In addition to the CLP, the land acquisition program continues the mission-related land acquisition projects that support our bureaus' goals in regards to conservation as the core component. The President's FY 2016 budget for DOI is anticipated to be sent to Congress and released publicly in early 2015.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Department of the Interior and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared conservation goals.

Sincerely,

  
Sally Jewell

cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

SEP 12 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter dated August 4, 2014, cosigned by your colleagues, to Secretary Vilsack and me, urging the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to consider the merits of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* as a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) project and to provide funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget to support landscape level conservation in this area.

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Thank you for your continued interest in the Department of the Interior and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared conservation goals.

Sincerely,

  
Sally Jewell

cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

646387 August 4, 2014

RECEIVED

2014 AUG 19 PM 2:07

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

OFFICE OF THE  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In May of 2009, President Obama declared the Chesapeake Bay a "National Treasure" by Executive Order 13508, making the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries an especially worthy selection as one of the collaborative conservation focal areas of the LWCF in the FY16 President's budget.

As the U.S. Senators representing the states encompassing the proposal area, we commend the exceptional work being done by a variety of federal agencies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore and protect this extraordinary natural resource. For nearly 30 years, federal agencies, tribes, six states, local governments and scores of land trusts and river and watershed protection organizations across the Chesapeake have collaborated in an effort to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. While great progress has been achieved, there is still much to be done to restore water quality, revive and sustain natural landscapes, protect cultural resources and fill severe gaps in water access and outdoor recreation. The need to take effective, collaborative action on a landscape scale is recognized by members of Congress and the agencies, themselves.

*Executive Order #13508: Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* report calls for actions that include protecting an additional 2 million acres of land; adding 300 public access sites; restoring large areas of wetlands and riparian forests; restoring crabs, oysters, threatened and endangered species, black ducks and other migratory birds in decline and other wildlife species; and achieving major water pollution reductions, all by 2025. Furthermore, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the six Chesapeake watershed states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal government signed a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, reemphasizing the two million acre and public access goals. In order to advance these goals, the *Executive Order Strategy* explicitly calls for increasing LWCF allocation for Chesapeake watershed landscapes that can be leveraged with state, local, private, and non-profit investment. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF proposal would provide critical federal resources needed to achieve these important actions.

The six focus areas in this proposal are linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and multiple America's Great Outdoors (AGO) projects, including the John Smith Watertrail, Chesapeake Gateways, and the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. Conservation priorities are reflected in management plans developed for wildlife refuges, national parks, and forests; the Chesapeake Bay public access plan; military base buffer programs; and state and non-governmental organization projects.

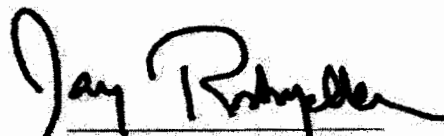
Funding the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal in the FY16 budget would result in collaborative conservation actions to protect important wetlands, riparian forests, American Indian sites, Civil War battlegrounds, wildlife habitat, and scenic and historic views, totaling approximately 9,000 acres, and adding 15 new public access site locations. Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would allow Chesapeake conservation partners to make substantial strides toward shared goals, and allow federal agencies to accomplish far more in partnership with others than they could alone and would be a step toward fulfilling some of the commitments outlined in the *Executive Order Strategy* and recent Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

We urge you to include *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the FY16 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator



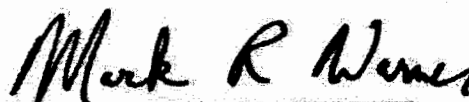
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator




Robert P. Casey  
United States Senator




Mark Warner  
United States Senator

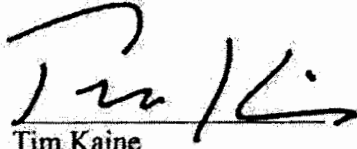




Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

BLC:jrk

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

RECEIVED

646387 August 4, 2014

2014 AUG 19 PM 2:07

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

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*Executive Order #13508: Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* report calls for actions that include protecting an additional 2 million acres of land; adding 300 public access sites; restoring large areas of wetlands and riparian forests; restoring crabs, oysters, threatened and endangered species, black ducks and other migratory birds in decline and other wildlife species; and achieving major water pollution reductions, all by 2025. Furthermore, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the six Chesapeake watershed states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal government signed a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, reemphasizing the two million acre and public access goals. In order to advance these goals, the *Executive Order Strategy* explicitly calls for increasing LWCF allocation for Chesapeake watershed landscapes that can be leveraged with state, local, private, and non-profit investment. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF proposal would provide critical federal resources needed to achieve these important actions.

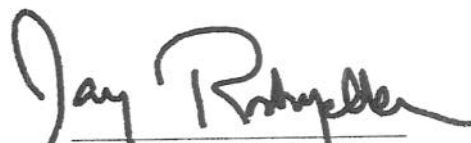
The six focus areas in this proposal are linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and multiple America's Great Outdoors (AGO) projects, including the John Smith Watertrail, Chesapeake Gateways, and the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. Conservation priorities are reflected in management plans developed for wildlife refuges, national parks, and forests; the Chesapeake Bay public access plan; military base buffer programs; and state and non-governmental organization projects.


Funding the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal in the FY16 budget would result in collaborative conservation actions to protect important wetlands, riparian forests, American Indian sites, Civil War battlegrounds, wildlife habitat, and scenic and historic views, totaling approximately 9,000 acres, and adding 15 new public access site locations. Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would allow Chesapeake conservation partners to make substantial strides toward shared goals, and allow federal agencies to accomplish far more in partnership with others than they could alone and would be a step toward fulfilling some of the commitments outlined in the *Executive Order Strategy* and recent Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

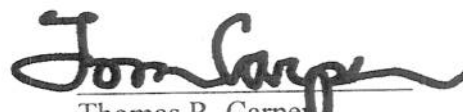
We urge you to include *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the FY16 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.


Sincerely,


  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator


  
John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator

  
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

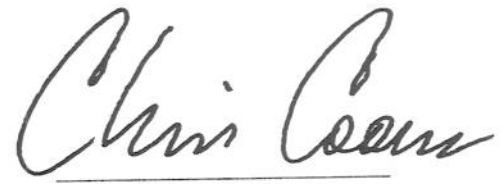
  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

  
Robert P. Casey  
United States Senator

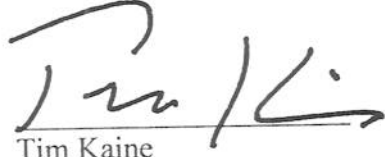
  
Mark Warner  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

BLC:jrk

United States Senate  
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ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

2014 DEC 29 PM 3:57

December 18, 2014

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I write with an urgent request on behalf of the National Youth Science Foundation (NYSF), a non-profit organization that means so much to my state of West Virginia. It has been brought to my attention that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering relocating the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge visitor center and administrative headquarters to the Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) facility in Tucker County, West Virginia. I oppose this relocation and respectfully request you do not move forward with it.

As you may know, NYSF and CVI entered into an agreement in 2006 recognizing their shared educational interest. This agreement specifically included language stating that NYSF would have first rights to manage the CVI facility should the institute cease to exist or become an inactive property. Further, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which currently controls the facility, acknowledged this use agreement in 2009 when it approved NYSF's purchase of 111 acres of land near the CVI facility for the planned National Center for Youth Science Education. In light of this, I find it troubling that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering interfering with the agreement between the institute and NYSF. If the Fish and Wildlife Service moves forward with relocation of the refuge, it would compromise the intent of the use agreement to advance STEM education in West Virginia and jeopardize future investments surrounding these state-of-the-art facilities.

The CVI facility is a natural fit for the NYSF's mission to inspire lifelong engagement and ethical leadership in STEM professions. NYSF is determined to enhance and stimulate the interest of students in West Virginia and across the nation to pursue careers in STEM-related fields. The Foundation is actively working with the West Virginia Department of Education to use this facility as a hub for STEM Education across the state, and plans to utilize the site as a part of its renowned National Youth Science Camp. I am confident that if NYSF takes control of operations at the facilities, they will continue to build strong partnerships with supporting organizations in the area, including the refuge, to deliver the highest-quality math and science education to its students.

The NYSF and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge each play an important role in Tucker County and our state, and I believe there are opportunities for each entity to experience continued success in the region. The refuge supports key conservation, education, and volunteer initiatives vital to the sustainable protection of the land in Canaan Valley. However, by allowing NYSF to operate the institute, the refuge would have the opportunity to expand its education efforts among the students attending programs sponsored by the foundation. The programs offered by NYSF are an important educational investment in the next generation of innovators and leaders.

The CVI complex is an essential part of the NYSF plan to grow its efforts in Tucker County, and future investments made by NYSF would have a significant economic impact on the area. I urge you to allow the National Youth Science Foundation to take control of the Canaan Valley Institute facility in question, and work with local officials in Tucker County to find a location that better suits the needs of the refuge.

Please feel free to contact Lance West, a member of my staff, if you have any questions. He can be reached at 202-228-6688 or [lance\\_west@manchin.senate.gov](mailto:lance_west@manchin.senate.gov). Thank you so much for your time and I look forward to your response.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

CC:

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

Edward Horton

Dan Ashe, USFWS

Wendi Weber

Ron Hollis

Judge Ron Pearson

Dr. Andrew Blackwood

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin

Dr. Michael Martirano

The Tucker County Commission

The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito

The Honorable David McKinley

The Charleston Gazette

The Parsons Advocate



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 8, 2014

Ms. Janice Schneider  
Assistant Secretary Nominee  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW – M.S. 6038  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Schneider:

We are writing in regards to your nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior (DOI).

On December 20, 2013, the Inspector General issued a report detailing how the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) ordered subcontractors to change the method by which they had estimated job losses expected to result from OSM's proposed stream rule. The report raises many troubling questions about the integrity of OSM's rulemaking process. If confirmed, you will oversee OSM. We, therefore, believe it is appropriate that you read the report and address our concerns about issues raised by the Inspector General before the Committee acts on your nomination.

We are especially concerned with OSM's decision to *reverse* its position on how to estimate job losses expected to result from its proposed stream rule. In 2010, OSM directed subcontractors to estimate job losses that would take place if OSM replaced a 1983 stream rule with the proposed stream rule. However, once the subcontractors estimated that 7,000 jobs would be lost as a result of the new rule and the media reported this figure to the public, OSM ordered the subcontractors to estimate job losses by assuming the proposed stream rule would replace a 2008 stream rule—a rule which was more stringent than the 1983 stream rule, but one that OSM had already tried to withdraw and which had not taken effect in any state other than Tennessee and Washington.\*

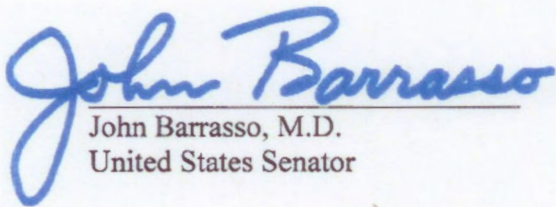
We find OSM's actions to be highly disturbing. The report shows that political appointees at OSM ordered career staff and the subcontractors to change the method for estimating job losses largely for political purposes—specifically, to lower the job loss estimates which embarrassed the Administration. As you know, the rulemaking process must inform the public about the costs and benefits of an agency's proposed regulations. Neither OSM nor any other agency should rig the method by which costs and benefits are estimated in order to achieve a politically desired outcome. Such actions violate Federal law and must not be allowed to take place.

OSM should abide by its original position on how to estimate job losses expected to result from its proposed stream rule and we will only be able to support a nominee who shares this view. Specifically, we will need your commitment that, if confirmed, you will direct OSM and any contractors to estimate job losses by acknowledging that the proposed stream rule would replace the 1983 stream rule—not the 2008 stream rule—in states other than Tennessee and Washington. We also need your commitment that agencies under your oversight will estimate job losses from

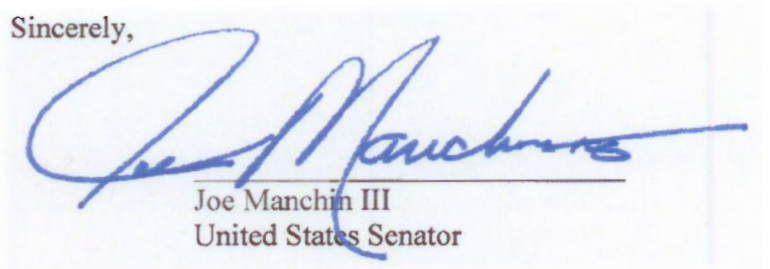
any ongoing or future rulemakings by assessing the impacts that would take place if the new rule replaced a rule currently—*not* hypothetically—in effect. We believe our requests are reasonable and, if granted, will only help to restore the public’s confidence in DOI’s rulemaking process.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your prompt response.

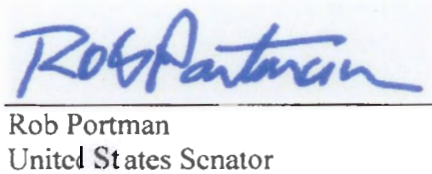
Sincerely,



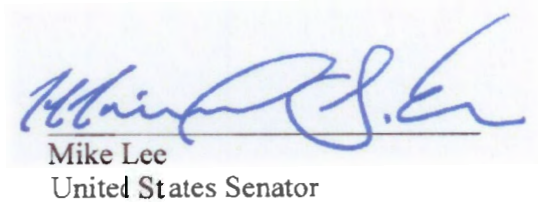
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Mike Lee  
United States Senator

\*The 2008 stream rule also applies to Indian lands.



MARY L. LANDRIEU  
LOUISIANA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

646212

July 31, 2014

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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As Senators committed to a comprehensive domestic energy strategy, we are pleased that the Department of the Interior has begun its preparation of the new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 with the recent release of the Request for Information and ask that the Department proceed with a broad plan. This Program occurs at a critical time as our nation continues to advance as an energy superpower. A robust Five Year OCS Program is a key component of the administration's all-of-the-above energy strategy and will continue to advance the U.S. economy and our energy security.

The U.S. energy renaissance is radically changing our energy picture and advancements in technology have reversed our nation's energy paradigm from one of scarcity to abundance. As noted in the President's May 2014 all-of-the-above energy strategy, increased oil and natural gas production is a boost to the U.S. economy and is a significant contributor to American job creation, the shrinking trade deficit and increased government revenues. Our energy picture must have a long-term view and in addition to the growth in onshore development that vision must include a robust offshore leasing and development plan.

As such, we ask that the Department keep the 2017-2022 Five Year Program very broad and include areas that the administration and industry are on record as indicating will provide new information and data to help inform decisions. We believe the Department should move forward with a Five Year Program that continues to lease ~~currently~~ open areas but ~~also~~ allows for the consideration of exploration for all areas with reasonable potential for future resource development. We know from experience in the Gulf of Mexico that these unexplored areas very likely hold much more potential than outdated resource estimates suggest. As you have testified several times before Congress, it will be important to keep the Program broad so that new information can be gathered and informed decisions can be made.

There is strong bipartisan support from members of Congress, governors, state legislators, local leaders and the general public for allowing oil and natural gas development in more areas of the U.S. OCS. Areas that have not seen the direct benefits of offshore development are anxious to reap them. Offshore energy production must play a key role as we continue down the path as an energy superpower creating more American jobs, providing much-needed federal and local government revenue, and enhancing our nation's energy security.

Robust offshore energy development should also provide equitable distribution of revenues to states supporting that production, especially those who currently do not benefit from revenue sharing and royalty payments, which will allow for much needed coastal protection and resiliency efforts and for necessary related infrastructure investments. These investments, are vital to the continued productivity of the Federal OCS, as it is the states along the coast who house the workers, the resupply ports and the pipeline networks needed to produce this energy, whether traditional or renewable, and move it to market. With over \$7 billion sent each year to the Federal treasury and billions more expected, it is both fair and forward thinking to use a portion of these revenues to support the coastal states who host this energy production for our country.

As you consider areas to include in the 2017-2022 Draft Proposed Program, we note that the administration and the Department of the Interior have made considerable changes to the structure and regulations that govern offshore energy development to enhance safety. The industry has also stepped up with the development of best practices and technologies focused on the areas of spill prevention, containment, and recovery. We are confident that these changes will allow offshore exploration and development to proceed in an environmentally responsible way.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in the early stages of the 2017-2022 OCS Five Year Program planning process and look forward to working with you on this important proposal. We are at a critical time in developing our energy policy, and decisions we make today will have an impact on future U.S. oil and natural gas production. We feel that it is important that we are forward thinking in our energy development planning and that we do not prohibited via regulation the future development of potential energy assets. We hope the Administration will take steps to continue to grow the U.S. into an energy superpower not only for the next decade, but for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Sanchez

Paul Manchunas

Mark R. Werner

Paul Bepler