



August 13, 2010

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION ON THE PRESIDENT'S
AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE**

Please join senior representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a public listening session and discussion in the Penobscot River region of Maine on conservation, recreation, reconnecting people to the outdoors and enhancing related economic opportunities. The session will be held September 2nd from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Bangor, Maine.

This past April, at the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors, President Obama signed a memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation agenda worthy of the 21st century and to reconnect Americans with our great outdoors. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level.

Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserving our lands and waters and reconnecting Americans to the outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local governments, and recreation and conservation groups.

In Maine, diverse partnerships of federal, state and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners have successfully collaborated on a creative project to restore fisheries on the Penobscot River, as well as a wide variety of other efforts to enhance public access to the great outdoors and maintain traditional uses such as forest management, hunting, fishing, hiking and snowmobiling. While more remains to be done, these collaboratives exemplify ecosystem-based restoration efforts that are aimed at improving communities and their natural resources, providing cleaner water, improved critical habitat for sensitive species, and an economic resource for the future.

The September 2nd public listening session and discussion is an opportunity for leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to hear from you and other voices in Maine about solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and for

reconnecting people with the outdoors, strengthening natural resource based economies and enhancing economic opportunities. Please join us. Here are the details.

When Thursday, September 2nd, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Where Bangor Civic Center
100 Dutton Street,
Bangor, Maine 04401

Who Senior Washington, D.C. and local leadership from USDA, DOI, CEQ, and EPA will be present to hear your thoughts and to participate in a conversation with you about America's Great Outdoors.

Please This event is free and open to the public. For planning purposes it would be

Register helpful if you would pre-register by August 26th by sending an email to elaine.tremble@me.usda.gov with your name, the name of the organization with which you are affiliated, if any, and your telephone number. We will make every effort to accommodate everyone. Please also let us know if you need any special accommodations.

In the event you are unable to participate in person, please submit your comments and stories via the America's Great Outdoors website at <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>.

If you have questions, please call Elaine Tremble at 207-990-9569. We hope you will participate and look forward to hearing from you.