



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Chair

Gary R. Herbert
Governor of Utah
Vice Chairman

Pam O. Inmann
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

February 16, 2012

Bob Abbey
Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Abbey:

We write to you in your capacity as chairman of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR). We applaud the federal government's efforts to coordinate recreation policies, programs and procedures. FICOR has a historic opportunity to break away from "business as usual" and break down traditional stovepipes that frustrate citizens who want to enjoy our nation's public and private lands for recreation.

We look forward to working with the Council on its recommendations relating to state lands. We believe that people who participate in outdoor recreation do not care whether they are on federal, state, tribal or private land. We should set a goal to work toward a seamless system that integrates federal and state information, permitting, and requirements through joint portals based upon geographic location.

On the FICOR objectives, we offer the following thoughts:

Coordinate recreation management, access, and policies. We believe this is crucial to improving the recreation experience. We recognize there are legitimate disagreements on some issues but some policies at the federal level should be harmonized where possible. The goal should be to create consistent, understandable, equitable and common sense policies that encourage responsible recreation.

Improve conservation and outdoor recreation planning efforts. We believe this planning should occur in local geographic regions with all landowners and stakeholders at the table. Joint planning can improve outcomes and be more cost-efficient.

Provide the public with reliable and up-to-date web-based information on outdoor recreation that is easily accessible with modern communication devices. We agree that making information available on mobile devices for planning and

participating in recreation is an important objective. The private sector has already started filling this need and federal and state governments should work with them rather than compete against them.

Identify and support interagency demonstration projects. We support interagency and intergovernmental projects. Again, the goal should be a seamless experience for people enjoying our great outdoors.

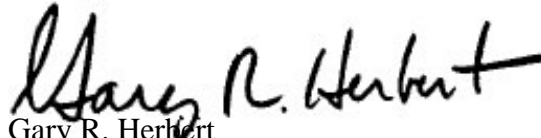
Improve access and engagement in outdoor recreation and expand opportunities for all Americans. We applaud the Forest Service's "Discover the Forest" PSA campaign as a mechanism to reach out to the public about getting out into America's great outdoor places. We think there is a great opportunity to work together to elevate and broaden this campaign and would be interested in your thoughts on this idea.

We look forward to FICOR's proposed action items and stand ready to collaborate on implementation of action items where it makes sense.

Sincerely,



Christine O. Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
Chair, Western Governors' Association



Gary R. Herbert
Governor, State of Utah
Vice Chair, Western Governors' Association

cc: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ken Salazar, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior