



January 11, 2011

[AmericanMotorcyclist.com](http://AmericanMotorcyclist.com)

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) seeks clarification on the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Secretarial Order 3310, and the statutory authority used to create the new "Wild Lands" designation. Additionally, the AMA has questions concerning the definition of "Wild Lands," designations, and implementation plans of this order.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcyclist community and represents the interests of millions of on- and off-highway motorcyclists. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

According to a DOI press release, dated December 23, 2010, "*Secretarial Order 3310 directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), based on the input of the public and local communities through its existing land management planning process, to designate appropriate areas with wilderness characteristics under its jurisdiction as "Wild Lands" and to manage them to protect their wilderness values.*"

While the DOI release states that the new designation is intended to protect the wilderness values of certain lands, many of our members remain concerned that this new label may lead to confusion among users on the differences between Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas and "Wild Lands."

Among the questions we seek to answer for our members about this new designation are:

- What is the DOI's definition of the "Wild Lands" term, and how does it differ from Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas?
- Will the new designation require approval by Congress, congressional delegations or governors of affected states?

The Honorable Ken Salazar

January 11, 2011

Page Two

- Will the agency work with local authorities and user groups to preserve established uses, including responsible motorized recreation routes, prior to any designations?
- How long will designated lands be managed as "Wild Lands" before they are either granted full Wilderness status or de-listed and returned to the public?
- Will the newly created "Wild Lands" designation conform to the tenants of the 1964 Wilderness Act?
- In addition to issuing a Secretarial Order and draft statements, what is the DOI's detailed plan before an area is eligible to be designated "Wild Lands?"
- Does the BLM have specific areas under review where it will apply this new policy and, if so, where are they?
- When does the DOI plan to begin implementation of the "Wild Lands" policy?
- Finally, what is the statutory authority cited to justify the creation of a new "Wild Lands" designation?

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We respectfully request answers to the questions above, and look forward to your timely response to this important matter. Should you have any questions or request additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 202-742-4301, or by e-mail at [emoreland@ama-cycle.org](mailto:emoreland@ama-cycle.org).

Sincerely,



Edward Moreland

Senior Vice President, Government Relations

CC: Mr. Bob Abbey  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 5665  
Washington, DC 20240