



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>
MAR 3 0 2010



In Reply Refer To:
6240 (WO600)

Mr. Edward W. Moreland
Vice President, Government Relations
American Motorcycle Association
101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Suite 800 West
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Moreland:

Thank you for your February 18, 2010, letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar expressing concern over reported efforts by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of the Interior to protect and conserve America's unique natural landscapes. Secretary Salazar has asked me to respond to your letter.

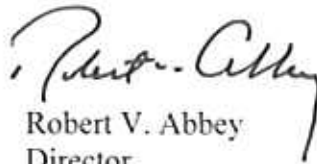
The Department is a primary steward of our Nation's natural, historical, and cultural landscapes, and I believe the BLM must provide wise management of the public lands that are important economic, cultural and recreational resources for so many Americans. In connection with that solemn responsibility, Secretary Salazar asked the Department's bureaus to think about what areas might be worth considering for further review for possible special management or congressional designation. The preliminary internal discussion draft reflects some brainstorming discussions within the BLM, but no decisions have been made about which areas, if any, might merit more serious review and consideration.

Secretary Salazar has demonstrated that any new designations and conservation initiatives work best when they build on local efforts to better manage places that are important to nearby communities. Given his introduction of individual landscape conservation bills and his involvement while in the U.S. Senate in the crafting of the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, he recognizes and respects the importance of public and congressional support in considering protections for our natural, historic, and cultural treasures.

The BLM and the Department look forward to a new public and congressional dialogue on the American value of protecting and conserving the important natural, historic, and cultural landscapes of our Nation. Successful congressional proposals such as last year's S. 2834, Utah's Washington County Land Bill, S. 2229, the Wyoming Range Withdrawal Act, and the bipartisan

annual land acquisition and protective designation appropriations and authorization bills, are a few excellent examples of landscapes deserving of public discussion over their protection and conservation. We welcome and encourage this public dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert V. Abbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Robert V. Abbey
Director