



August 9, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) seeks additional information on the intent of the Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Discussion Paper." According to a news report on August 5th from Salt Lake City-based KLS-TV (enclosed), a recently obtained BLM document (enclosed) outlines how the federal government is seeking to manage federal lands through more restrictive land management practices. The AMA seeks assurances from you that all dispositions of public lands will be publicly debated before new designations are made.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcycling community, and it 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.

The recently obtained document mentions that some 130- to 140-million acres, roughly the size of Colorado and Wyoming, are under consideration for specialized land designations that would further restrict responsible motorized access. This is approximately half of the 264 million acres currently managed by the BLM.

The document also states that the Administration should support three efforts that, if implemented, will significantly reduce access for responsible motorized recreation on America's public lands (located on pages three and four). They are the following: 1) expand the National Landscape Conservation System legislatively through the designation of new National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Historic Trails; 2) Consider use of the Antiquities Act to set aside new National Monuments; and 3) Use administrative actions, such as the land-use planning process to manage for conservation values.

This new information, along with parts of the same document obtained earlier this year, have led many to conclude that the DOI has a finely detailed plan to exclude Americans from accessing public lands despite the bureau's assertion that these documents are simply the result of "brainstorming discussions."

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While the AMA supports the appropriate designation of Wilderness Areas as they apply to the definition of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the AMA, as stated in its February 18, letter, opposes any process that does not allow full public debate on the disposition of public lands. Again, the AMA requests assurances from you that all dispositions of public lands will be publicly debated before new designations are made.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your timely response to this important matter. Should you have any questions or request additional information, please do not hesitate to me by phone at 202-742-4301 or by e-mail at emoreland@ama-cycle.org.

Sincerely,



Edward Moreland
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

Enclosures