

Action Alert

White House holding a public listening session on recreation and conservation

To: Mid-Atlantic State Horse Councils and Member Organizations

From: Equine Land Conservation Resource and American Horse Council

Date: June 15, 2010

A listening session will be held as part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative June 25th in Annapolis Maryland. State Horse Councils and equestrian associations from the region are encouraged to participate.

In April of this year the President announced the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The goals of the Initiative are: (1) Reconnect Americans with the outdoors by promoting community based recreation and conservation, advance job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and recreation, as well as educate individuals in American's history, culture, and natural beauty; (2) Build upon State, local, private and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic and cultural resources; (3) Use Science-based management practices to restore and protect America's lands and waters. The American Horse Council participated in the initial event on America's Great Outdoors held at the US Department of the Interior on April 16.

As part of the initiative the Administration and federal agencies involved are holding listening sessions around the country with tribal leaders, farmers, and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators State and local governments and recreational and conservation groups. These sessions in conjunction with continued discussions with attendees of the conference and a report due in November will be used to craft future policy to achieve the goals of the Initiative.

The mid-Atlantic public listening session and discussion on the America's Great Outdoors Initiative will be June 25th from 1-5 p.m. in Annapolis Maryland, and will include representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The AHC encourages regional SHCs and equestrian associations to send representatives to the session. It is important that members of the administration hear from individual members of the equestrian community concerning this initiative. Details for the listening session are attached as well as suggested talking points.

If you have any questions please contact Ben Pendergrass at (202)296-4031.

