



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Media Advisory

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Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland, National Park Service Director Jarvis and Administration Officials to Hold *America's Great Outdoors Initiative* Listening Session in Asheville

ASHEVILLE, NC—Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and other senior administration officials will participate in a listening session on President Obama's *America's Great Outdoors Initiative* to hear from people in the region about solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnecting Americans with the outdoors.

Assistant Secretary Strickland and Director Jarvis will be joined by USDA Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate Robert Bonnie and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Will Shafroth. The listening session, part of a series being held across the country, will be preceded by an *America's Great Outdoors* youth stakeholder meeting to brainstorm and share their best ideas on how to reconnect youth to the outdoors.

President Obama inaugurated the *America's Great Outdoors Initiative* at the White House Conference in April. The conference brought together leaders from communities across the country that are working to protect their outdoor spaces and focused on developing and supporting innovative ideas for improving conservation and recreation at the local level.

WHO: Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, DOI
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, DOI
Robert Bonnie, Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate, USDA
Will Shafroth, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, DOI

WHAT: *America's Great Outdoors Initiative* listening session and youth stakeholder meeting

WHEN: Thursday July 15th, 2010
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. AGO Youth Event (brief media gaggle at 11:45 a.m.)
1p.m. – 1:45 p.m. AGO Listening Session (Opening Remarks & AGO Video)

WHERE: Asheville-Buncombe Technical College; Asheville Campus
340 Victoria Road, Asheville NC 28801 ([Map & Directions](#))
*10:00 a.m. Location: Simpson Auditorium
*11:45 a.m. Location: Magnolia Building
*1:00 p.m. Location: Ferguson Auditorium

More Info: You can find more information on the America's Great Outdoors Initiative at:
www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/.

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