



Oregon

John Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

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November 3, 2011

Joel Lynch
National Park Service
Washington, DC
c/o joel_lynch@nps.gov

Dear Mr. Lynch:

In response to the request for feedback on the competitive grants program proposal and to be concise, I am not in favor of the proposal.

If the President's 2012 budget request is approved with the Stateside Grants Program of the LWCF receiving \$200 million, only 39% of those funds will be distributed to the states for local application.

By directing the major portion of the program (\$117 million) to a national competitive grant program, smaller and less populated areas of our nation will be neglected due to their having fewer metropolitan areas.

The new program specifically proposes, "The overall objectives for the program would include: the funding of "signature" projects that promote both outdoor recreation and conservation in large urban centers..."¹ This use of the \$117 million would not benefit states with smaller urban and suburban populations. Additionally, the report states that, "The projects would be expected to be larger in scale and would likely require and receive greater amounts of grant funding than has been typical in recent years for LWCF." This also seems to ensure that smaller communities with fewer resources for match and project development will receive less assistance.

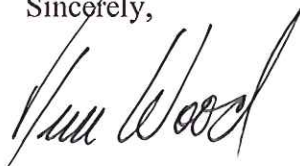
The NPS report also states that, "Additional assistance [assume in the form of funding] in updating current SCORPs may be required to help States address the criteria and goals of the new competitive grant component." SCORP best serves the citizenry when its recommendations are derived from locally and regionally identified needs through surveys and workshops and active community participation. This report suggests that the SCORP would be crafted to meet criteria that was developed outside of local input.

¹ National Park Service FY 2012 Budget Justifications

The real need of the LWCF grant assistance program is to help local communities who are increasingly strapped for resources. The need is to allocate full funding to states for assisting both urban and suburban areas, not just larger populations. Apportionment of the entire appropriation to state conservation grants, as has been the practice, will make greater amounts of funding available to meet locally identified needs and still provide the opportunity for states to fund landscape-scale projects as envisioned under the competitive grants program.

Thank you and Director Jarvis for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tim Wood
Director, and
State Liaison Officer

C: National Association of State Park Directors, Phil McKnelly
National Association of State Outdoor Recreation
Liaison Officers, Doug Eiken