



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Office of Conservation and Technical Services

Mr. Jon Jarvis  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the framework for a proposed competitive grant program as an element of the Stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The vitality of this program is important to the conservation and recreational programs of the Commonwealth. We appreciate the work of the Department of Interior and the National Park Service on the America's Great Outdoor (AGO) initiative that highlights the importance of these resources to the health, economic well being, and quality of life of this country. The administration's support for increasing the appropriation to the Stateside of the LWCF is also an important new direction.

The idea of setting broad national priorities to leverage the impact of government's investments and to incentivize high impact projects in conservation and recreation has merit. In addition, increased funding and increased coordination of that funding might encourage collaboration of multiple partners on a larger scale and would help advance landscape level initiatives. The framework for the competitive program also has many elements worth considering. However, it is important that this new approach to allocating LWCF funding not result in reduced funding of available dollars to state recreation and conservation programs. The proposal to create a competitive state program assumes a Stateside LWCF appropriation of \$200 million with \$78 million apportioned equally to states and \$177 million for a new national competitive program.

More information is needed on how the Stateside LWCF funding would be allocated at different levels of appropriations. What would those scenarios look like? Also, what is the status of the current Stateside funding formula? The proposal seems to default to equal funding for all states as base funding. These funding issues need further discussion to ensure that the stateside partners can maintain current programs based on close to home state planning and priorities as well as join in any new national partnerships for conservation and recreation.

Overall the national priorities identified in the AGO public process: to create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces, to develop public access to blueways, and to support conserving large landscapes align well with the findings in our award winning State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) *Pennsylvania Outdoors: The Keystone for Healthy Living* 2009-2013. Pennsylvania already is implementing many innovative

conserve      sustain      enjoy

projects and partnerships around these identified goals. The National Park Service should be looking for opportunities to engage all states through the SCORP process and seek to find joint initiatives around place.

Finally, as the State Liaison officer for Pennsylvania I am interested in volunteering to serve on the workgroup to provide more in depth feedback. The National Association of State Outdoor recreation Liaison officers (NASORLO) has also recommended me for this role in their letter to Will Shafroth dated September 30, 2011.

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide input on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Adams Dunn".

Cindy Adams Dunn  
Deputy Secretary