



January 22, 2021

Ms. Shannon Estenoz  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

President  
Linda Lanterman  
Kansas

Vice President  
Eric Feldbaum  
New Hampshire

Secretary  
Doug Beck  
Maine

Past President  
Lauren Imgrund  
Pennsylvania

Executive Director  
Doug Eiken  
Missouri

Board of Directors

Randy Kittle  
South Dakota

Melissa Baker  
North Dakota

Erika Rivers  
Minnesota

Christie Bayus  
Michigan

Mick Rogers  
Arizona

Sedrick Mitchell  
California

Dana Lagarde  
Texas

John Beneke  
Arkansas

Antoinette Norfleet  
Georgia

Gerald Parish  
Tennessee

Janice Keillor  
Nevada

Robert Ehemann  
Delaware

105H, ABNR BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
COLUMBIA, MO 65211-7230  
573-353-2702

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Estenoz:

We are writing to express our strong objection to the outgoing Secretary of the Interior's last-minute Order 3388 and changes to the LWCF Manual which subvert the intent of the Great American Outdoors Act. Together these actions hijack, alter and destroy the purpose of the only outdoor recreation partnership program between the local, county, state and federal governments. We request an immediate rescission or suspension of this Order and associated LWCF Manual Changes.

These changes are at odds with the goals of the Great American Outdoor Act; to provide public outdoor recreation places in close to home locations. Instead it prioritizes projects that already enjoy support through other Interior grant programs and deemphasizes public outdoor recreation to the extent that it would not be required at all. This action eliminates the only federal program that supports state and local parks, places where millions of Americans have flocked to seek relief from the current pandemic.

Specific and significant problems as a result of this action include but are not limited to:

1. It eliminates the only federal cost share program for investments in public outdoor recreation.
2. It eliminates state and local control through the SCORP process whereby local needs are replaced by federal priorities and diminishes public input.
3. It duplicates existing habitat and endangered species programs
4. It eliminates priority funding for urban parks in underserved neighborhoods.
5. It eliminates the capacity of LWCF to serve as an economic driver by prioritizing acquisitions over development.

We respectfully request that you immediately suspend these actions and restore the previous LWCF Manual and state grant requirements. As representatives of our state's outdoor recreation grants programs we are ready and able to work with you, if requested, to refocus the Great American Outdoors Act on outdoor recreation as envisioned by its proponents, reviewed and approved by Congress and enacted in August of last year.

Sincerely,

Douglas K. Eiken  
Executive Director