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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE DOMBECK,
CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE

TO: Mike Dombeck
Chief, Forest Service
May 22, 2000

FROM: Carol A. Wettstein
USDA Environmental Justice Coordinator
Carol A. Wettstein

SUBJECT: **Upcoming Announcement:** Release of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda, **Wednesday May 24, 2000**

I would like to inform you that Michael McCabe, Acting Deputy Administrator for EPA will announce the release of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda on Wednesday, May 24, 2000 at the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Meeting in Atlanta, GA. The NEJAC serves as a federal advisory committee to the Administrator, U.S. EPA on matters related to environmental justice. A recent briefing on the Action Agenda was presented by Mr. McCabe to the President's Management Council (PMC). A report on this activity indicated that it was well received by those in attendance, and no issues were raised concerning this recommitment by the federal agencies in carrying out the Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.

Additional briefings on the Action Agenda that have been made under the leadership of Charles Lee, Associate Director for Policy & Interagency Liaison, Office of Environmental Justice, EPA include: White House Livability Task Force (Keith Laughlin), the President's Community Empowerment Board (Ben Hamm), CEQ, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Chair of the President's Council on the Future of Princeville, NC (OMB), and others including representatives from environmental justice networks, grassroots representatives, NEJAC, state governments, and Native American grassroots organizations (Summary of Outreach Listening Sessions enclosed).

In June 1999, the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) as established by the the EO, began to develop the concept of an Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda as a result of a commitment made to all stakeholders at the conference on "Environmental Justice: Strengthening the Bridge Between Economic Development and Sustainable Communities" (Hilton Head, South Carolina, June 9-12, 1999). A copy of the conference proceedings is enclosed for your information.



The purpose of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is:

- To build dynamic and proactive partnerships that access the initiatives and resources of Federal agencies to improve the quality of life of minority and low income communities that suffer disproportionate environmental impacts.
- To promote cooperation and collaboration among Federal agencies to ensure that the full range of environmental justice concerns are addressed in a coherent manner because environmental justice problems do not occur along departmental lines.
- To promote Federal support of community-based solutions in addressing environmental justice concerns and sustainable community issues.

The Action Agenda has four key objectives including "Initiate Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects to develop integrated place-based models to address community livability issues." Fourteen Demonstration Projects were identified as part of this initial activity; USDA is represented as a participant in five of the projects. The Forest Service is a partner in the following two Demonstration Projects:

- Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: "Connecting Community and Environment" (Boston, MA)
- Bridges to Friendship: "Nurturing Environmental Justice in Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC" (Washington, DC)

Additional projects identified that have the potential to be enhanced by USDA and FS participation include: "Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues" and "New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign" with activities related to planting trees to decrease dust contaminants. Planning for The Native American Roundtable has recently been started under the leadership of Derrick Watchman, DOE, and included Tribal and federal agency representatives. A copy of the Project proposal is enclosed for your interest.

If you have any questions concerning the Action Agenda (copy enclosed) or any of the information provided through this memo, please call me at (202) 205-1588.

Enclosures

Cc: James R. Lyons, Under Secretary, Natural Resources & Environment, USDA,
Washington, DC
Janice McDougle, Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry, Forest Service, Washington, DC

**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION AGENDA
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
May 3, 2000**

**1. Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: "Connecting Community and Environment"
(Boston, MA)**

Ongoing partnership of 39 community-based organizations, universities, and federal, state, and local agencies will undertake efforts to achieve more coordinated and sustainable use of financial and technical resources in the Greater Boston area. Project components include: (1) developing a centralized database of environmental and public health projects; (2) convening meetings to bridge existing funding gaps and enable better use of annual grants program; and (3) conducting new comparative risk assessment in the heavily contaminated Chelsea Creek area.

Federal Partners: USDA, EPA, HUD, HHS
Key Agency Contact: James Younger (617-918-1061)

2. Camden—City of Children Partnering for a Better Future (Camden, NJ)

Federal partners will work with local educational institutions in the distressed City of Camden, which has a high population of children, to build capacity of residents, particularly youth, to address environmental justice issues by improving educational, economic development and health care opportunities. Activities to include: (1) Asthma and Lead Poisoning Outreach, (2) Student Air Congress, (3) Rutgers University Masters Degree Program in Environmental Studies, and (4) Youth Corp Training.

Federal Partners: HUD, DOL, EPA
Key Agency Contact: Maureen O'Neill (212-637-5025)

3. New York City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit (New York, NY)

Partnership of federal agencies, local officials, and community organizations will conduct a series of meetings culminating in an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit. Project goal is to accelerate the conversion of vehicular fleets operating in NYC metropolitan area to cleaner fuels. This is intended to result in better air quality for heavily congested environmental justice neighborhoods.

Federal Partners: DOE, DOT, DOI, HUD, EPA, GSA, USPS
Key Agency Contact: Robert Moore (202-586-4758)

4. Addressing Asthma in Puerto Rico—A Multi-Faceted Partnership for Results (Puerto Rico)

Partnership of federal agencies, local health departments, community groups, foundations and universities will seek local community input to gain a better understanding of what accounts for the high prevalence of asthma in Puerto Rico. This effort includes a major conference and augments current interagency efforts to develop a community asthma intervention program for Puerto Rico. Project will result in a geographic action plan that maximizes asthma prevention for children in Puerto Rico's low-income, under served populations.

Federal Partners: HHS (HRSA, HCFA, NIH), EPA
Key Agency Contact: Maureen O'Neill (212-637-5025)

5. Bridges to Friendship Nurturing Environmental Justice in Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC (Washington, DC)

The well-established Bridges to Friendship Partnership, consisting of community organizations, businesses, D.C. government agencies, and federal agencies, will focus on environmental justice concerns related to the revitalization of Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC neighborhoods next to the Washington Navy Yard. Efforts will center around turning environmental liabilities to opportunities by better orchestrating job training and employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, identification of community assets, and strategies to address gentrification and community displacement.

Federal Partners: DOL, DOD, EPA, HUD, GSA, DOT, DOI, USDA
Key Agency Contact: David Ouderkirk (703-603-9030/202-433-3817)

6. Community Cleanup and Revitalization in Arkwright/Forest Park (Spartanburg, SC)

Project will assist Re-Genesis, a community based organization in the Arkwright/Forest Park area of Spartanburg, SC, in involving a broad variety of stakeholders to foster identification, inventory, assessment, remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites. Project will help build a community-based partnership to include local and state agencies in a dynamic process of stakeholder education, structured dialogues, and planning charrettes to create short and long term development strategies.

Federal Partners: EPA, HUD, DOE, DOT
Key Agency Contact: Jewell Harper (404-562-8629)

7. Protecting Children's Health and Reducing Lead Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships (East St. Louis, IL)

Community groups, local hospitals, federal, state and local agencies in East St. Louis and St. Clair County will collaborate to implement a comprehensive strategy to improve children's health by reducing lead poisoning. Project will address both lead based paint and uncontrolled lead releases to surface soil. Removal actions, where necessary, will promote opportunities for redevelopment in neighborhoods and eliminate illegal dumping.

Federal Partners: HUD, USACE, EPA
Key Agency Contact: Noemi Emeric (312-886-0995)

8. Bethel New Life Power Park Assessment (Chicago, IL)

Federal partners will work to assist Bethel New Life, a faith-based community development corporation located in the West Garfield section of Chicago, IL, to fulfill its vision of turning the neighborhood's environmental liabilities into assets. Project will conduct a feasibility study to determine the opportunities for incorporating energy efficient technologies. This will enable design and construction of a mixed-use development that takes advantage of existing rail links and converts an abandoned industrial area into a revitalized economic center to provide much needed housing, jobs, commercial and industrial development.

Federal Partners: DOE, HUD, EDA, EPA
Key Agency Contact: Robert Moore (202-586-4758)

9. New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO)

An EPA-USDA partnership works with state and local agencies to address three areas which impact children's health: lead, asthma/allergies, and water quality. Project came about when three rural towns in New Madrid County, MO saw the potential benefits of working together. Subsequent request to federal and state agencies for assistance resulted in this project. While community education and capacity building is an ongoing part of this project, efforts will include proactive actions such as planting trees to decrease dust contaminants and improving storm water drainage.

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA-NRCS

Key Agency Contact: Althea Moses (913-551-7649)

10. Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farmworker Communities in Colorado (Colorado)

This new partnership will bring together farmworkers, environmental and community groups, and government agencies to identify the location and assess the safety of drinking water sources for Colorado migrant worker communities. Project will build sustainable support networks to implement policy recommendations and community education needs.

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA, HHS, DOL

Key Agency Contact: Elisabeth Evans (303-312-6053)

11. Environmental Justice and Public Participation Through Technology: Defeating the Digital Divide and Building Community Capacity (Savannah, GA and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, MT)

Partnership of federal, tribal and local agencies, community organizations, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities will work to help communities gain access to information technology and gain capacity to participate in environmental decision-making. Federal agencies will provide both excess computers and technical assistance to establish community technology centers. Project will target two communities: the first in Savannah, GA and the second at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. These will serve as models for eventual replication by other communities and tribes. Along with federal agencies, Howard University will provide training and ongoing technical support.

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA

Key Agency Contact: Melinda Downing (202-586-7703)

12. Protecting Community Health and Reducing Toxic Air Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships in Barrio Logan (San Diego, CA)

Federal, state and local agencies will work with local partnerships led by the Environmental Health Coalition to conduct a model project on ways to improve air quality in the predominantly Latino community of Barrio Logan. The project will provide information to the community by utilizing an air monitoring station in a local high school recently established by California Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB envisions the project providing a model for the new Neighborhood Impacts Program and plans to duplicate this community-involvement and participation effort in other low-income, minority communities in California. Project also will involve clinical studies to substantiate the high rate of asthma and will work to improve health care delivery.

Federal Partners: EPA, NIEHS, US Navy

Key Agency Contact: Clarice Gaylord (619-235-4767)

13. Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative (Portland and Rural Communities, Oregon)

A partnership comprised of federal, tribal, state, and local government and community partners, will work to address three community-identified needs in the State of Oregon that impact children's health: reduce lead exposure in urban areas, reduce pesticide exposure in rural areas, and eliminate illegal dumping on tribal lands. Initiative will include targeted inspections. It also will include community based research, outreach, and education projects such as a mobile "lab" for blood lead testing, development of PC-based Geographic Information System profile of Oregon consisting of environmental and health databases, community-based environmental monitoring, two federal-tribal-state summits, and "Safe Food"--a farmworker youth-designed research project to identify pesticide residues.

Federal Partners: EPA, DOJ-USAO, HUD

Key Agency Contact: Monica Kirk (503-326-3269)

14. Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues

Federal agencies in collaboration with tribes, tribal organizations, and other interested parties will conduct a roundtable to identify the broad range of tribal cultural, religious, economic, social, legal and other issues related to environmental justice in Indian country. Project grew out of a commitment by federal agencies to tribal groups at the June 1999 environmental justice conference in Hilton Head, SC. Both tribal leaders and federal agencies have been struggling to properly interpret and implement the principles of environmental justice in a manner that is consistent with the needs of tribal communities and the complexities of federal-tribal trust relationships. This demonstration project proposes to produce a coherent implementation strategy based upon substantive input from tribes.

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA, DOI, HHS, HUD, DOD, USDA

Key Agency Contact: Derrick Watchman (202-586-0211)

AN INTEGRATED FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION AGENDA

May 3, 2000

The Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is a living framework for the integration of environmental justice into the missions of federal agencies. It provides a blue print for charting the future direction for better coordination of interagency strategies on environmental justice.

GOAL

To build dynamic and proactive partnerships among federal agencies that identify, mobilize, and utilize existing federal initiatives and resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. It provides a template for building collaborative efforts among all stakeholder groups, including communities, businesses, academia, public health organizations, and federal, tribal, state and local governments.

BACKGROUND

Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, signed February 11, 1994, calls for the following: identify disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations; coordinate research and data collection; conduct public meetings; and develop interagency model projects. It established an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) composed of representatives of Federal agencies. In June 1999, the IWG began to develop the concept of an Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda as a result of a commitment to all stakeholders at the conference on "Environmental Justice: Strengthening the Bridge Between Economic Development and Sustainable Communities" (Hilton Head, South Carolina, June 9-12, 1999). The Action Agenda seeks to provide proactive and comprehensive strategies for addressing the multi-faceted issues confronting environmentally and economically distressed communities.

COMPONENTS

Promote Greater Coordination and Cooperation Among Federal Agencies

- Develop Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

- Promote communications among Federal agencies on national and regional levels

Make Government More Accessible and Responsive to Communities

- Develop directory of federal agency environmental justice contacts

- Conduct interagency listening sessions in local communities

- Compile set of environmental justice success stories

- Conduct ongoing outreach to all stakeholder and tribal groups

Initiate Environmental Justice Pilot Projects to Develop Integrated Place-Based Models for Addressing Community Livability Issues (See listing of demonstration projects on next page)

- To learn how Federal agencies can better collaborate to ensure local problem-solving

- To achieve concrete beneficial results for affected communities

- To promote greater partnership with State, tribal and local governments

- To enhance existing assets within affected communities

- To document lessons learned to positively impact more communities

- To recommend changes in Federal policy, where appropriate

Ensure Integration of Environmental Justice in Policies, Programs and Activities of Federal Agencies

- Promote agency specific initiatives to benefit environmental justice communities

- Develop and implement environmental justice training

- Conduct a National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting to focus on federal interagency environmental justice strategies

INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

1. Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: "Connecting Community and Environment" (Boston, MA)

Federal Partners: USDA, EPA, HUD, HHS

2. Partnering for a Better Future for the Children of Camden (Camden, NJ)

Federal Partners: HUD, DOL, EPA

3. New York City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit (New York, NY)

Federal Partners: DOE, DOT, DOI, HUD, EPA, GSA, USPS

4. Addressing Asthma in Puerto Rico—A Multi-Faceted Partnership for Results (Puerto Rico)

Federal Partners: HHS (HRSA, HCFA, NIH), EPA

5. Bridges to Friendship Nurturing Environmental Justice in Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC (Washington, DC)

Federal Partners: DOL, DOD, EPA, HUD, GSA, DOT, DOI, USDA

6. Community Cleanup and Revitalization in Arkwright/Forest Park (Spartanburg, SC)

Federal Partners: EPA, HUD, DOE

7. Protecting Children's Health and Reducing Lead Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships (East St. Louis, IL)

Federal Partners: HUD, USACE, EPA

8. Bethel New Life Power Park Assessment (Chicago, IL)

Federal Partners: DOE, HUD, EDA, EPA

9. New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO)

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA-NRCS

10. Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farmworker Communities in Colorado (Colorado)

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA, HHS, DOL

11. Environmental Justice and Public Participation Through Technology: Defeating the Digital Divide and Building Community Capacity (Savannah, GA and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, MT)

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA

12. Protecting Community Health and Reducing Toxic Air Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships in Barrio Logan (San Diego, CA)

Federal Partners: EPA, NIEHS

13. Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative (Portland and Rural Communities, Oregon)

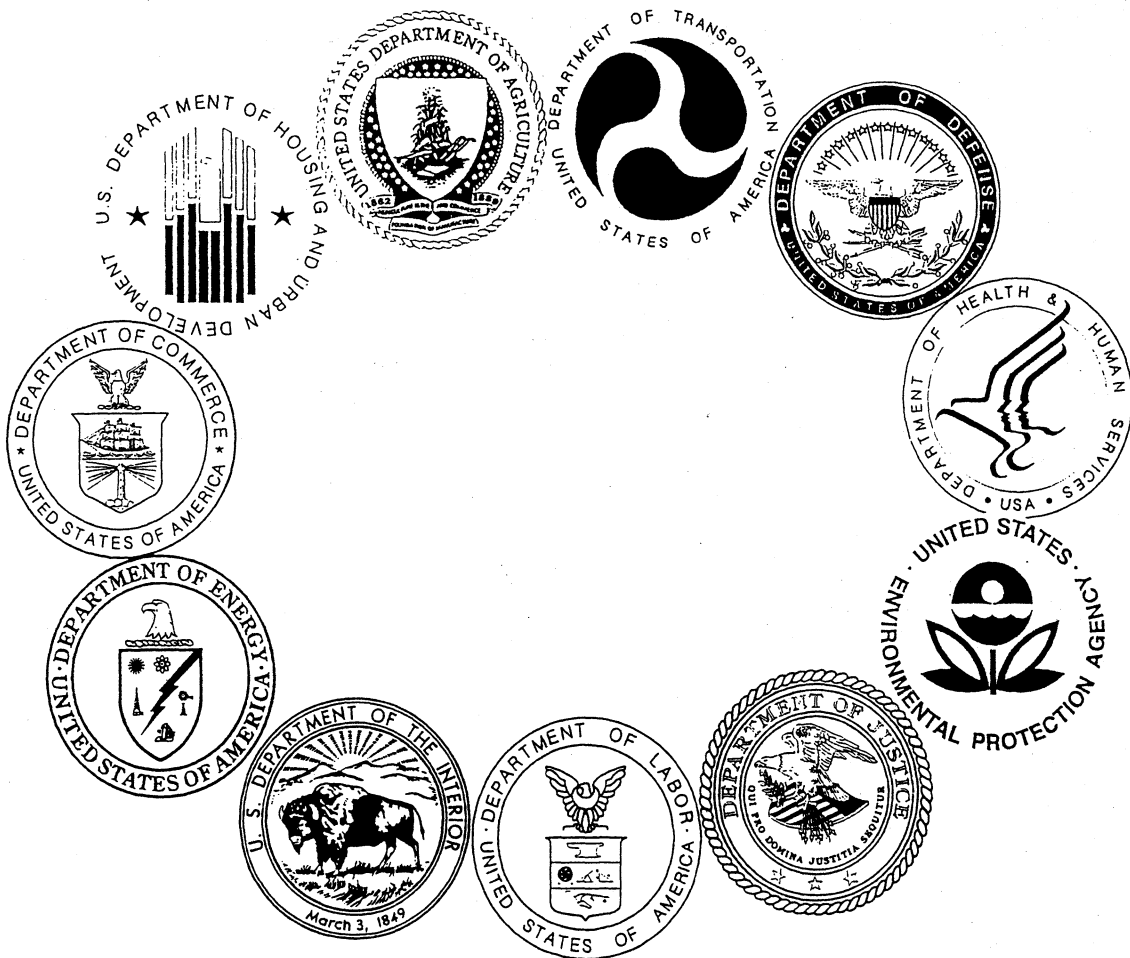
Federal Partners: EPA, DOJ-USAO, HUD

14. Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA, DOI, HHS, HUD, DOD, USDA

An Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda

Draft #6
(May 2, 2000)



Updated Version (5/24/00) to
be provided ASAP

Draft

Draft

Draft

An Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda Draft #6 (May 2, 2000)

GOAL

The goal of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize and efficiently utilize Federal resources in a coordinated effort to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. This Action Agenda seeks to build dynamic and proactive partnerships that access the initiatives and leverage the resources of Federal agencies to improve the quality of life of minority and/or low-income populations that suffer disproportionate environmental impacts. These populations may include indigenous/tribal communities.

The Action Agenda intends to accomplish the following:

- To ensure that no segment of the population, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, suffers disproportionately from adverse human or environmental effects, and all people live in clean, healthy and sustainable communities.
- To create opportunities for building partnerships between specific Federal agencies that will promote comprehensive solutions to environmental justice issues.
- To promote models based in an integrated approach to addressing environmental, public health, and economic and social concerns of distressed communities.
- To ensure that those who live with environmental decisions (community residents; State, tribal, and local governments; and the private sector) have meaningful opportunity for public participation in the making of those decisions.
- To provide a lasting framework for the integration of environmental justice into the missions of Federal agencies.

It will include examples of significant interagency supported environmental justice projects and agency-specific initiatives that various Federal agencies intend to initiate or conduct during the year 2000. The Action Agenda will seek to build the constructive problem-solving capacity of communities in partnership with State, tribal, and local governments. The Action Agenda is not intended to replace or impede existing federal/state/tribal/local processes.

BACKGROUND

This Action Agenda advances the President's Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, signed February 11, 1994. Executive Order 12898 calls for making environmental justice an integral part of the mission of 17 Federal agencies to the extent practicable and permitted by law. It mandates objectives in the following areas: identify disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations; coordinate research and data collection; conduct public meetings; and develop interagency model projects. It also establishes an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) composed of representatives of Federal agencies to accomplish these objectives.

In June 1999, the IWG began to develop the concept of an Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda as a way of incorporating environmental justice in all policies, programs, and activities of Federal agencies. Two White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Environmental Justice listening sessions (the first July 11, 1998 in Los Angeles, CA; and the second March 6, 1999 in New York City) and a national conference entitled "Environmental Justice: Strengthening the Bridge Between Economic Development and Sustainable Communities" (June 10-12, 1999 in Hilton Head, SC) provided new energy to Federal interagency efforts to secure a healthy and sustainable environment for all Americans regardless of race, color, ethnicity, or economic status. These events provided new opportunities for senior Federal officials to respond directly to affected communities and for meaningful dialogue among all stakeholders (communities, businesses, academia, public health organizations, and Federal, State, tribal, and local governments). These efforts clarified the need to address concurrently disproportionate environmental impacts, economic concerns, and community empowerment.

Experience has demonstrated that efforts to address the environmental problems of minority and low-income communities without meaningful community input will result in failure. An informed and involved community is a necessary and integral part of the decision-making process in addressing environmental protection and its integration with the community's economic and social goals. Experience also has demonstrated that environmental problems suffered by such communities cannot be fully addressed within the authority of any single governmental entity. Therefore, within the context of this Federal Action Agenda, environment is defined relative to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance but also encompasses those elements that affect a community's quality of life.

ACTION AGENDA COMPONENTS

The Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is an ongoing “living” framework. The key areas of the Action Agenda are:

Promote Greater Coordination and Cooperation Among Federal Agencies

- Continue to support Regional Interagency Task Forces responsible for commitments made at CEQ listening session at Los Angeles and New York City.
- Conduct National Interagency Working Group meetings on a regular basis.
- Coordinate communications among Federal agencies on national and regional levels.
- Encourage regional Federal interagency strategies or action plans.

Make Government More Accessible and Responsive to Communities

- Ensure that core values and principles of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Model Plan for Public Participation are included in Federal environmental justice activities.
- Develop a Directory of environmental justice contacts. Initially the Directory will list Federal agencies; future editions will include state and local environmental justice contacts.
- Compile a set of web-based environmental justice success stories from Federal agencies.
- Conduct interagency listening sessions in local communities in support of the Action Agenda.
- Develop new models for interagency collaboration on regional, state, tribal, and local levels.

Initiate Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects to Develop Integrated Place-Based Models for Addressing Community Livability Issues

Demonstration Project Objectives:

- To learn how Federal agencies can better collaborate to ensure local problem solving.
- To achieve concrete, beneficial results for affected communities.
- To promote greater partnership with State, tribal and local governments.
- To enhance existing assets within affected communities.
- To document lessons learned to positively impact more communities.
- To recommend changes in Federal policy, where appropriate.

The initial Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda Demonstration Projects that have been selected are:

1. Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: "Connecting Community and Environment" (Boston, MA)

Federal Partners: USDA, EPA, HUD, HHS

2. Partnering for a Better Future for the Children of Camden (Camden, NJ)

Federal Partners: HUD, DOL, EPA

3. New York City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit (New York, NY)

Federal Partners: DOE, DOT, DOI, HUD, EPA, GSA, USPS

4. Addressing Asthma in Puerto Rico—A Multi-Faceted Partnership for Results (Puerto Rico)

Federal Partners: HHS (HRSA, HCFA, NIH), EPA

5. Bridges to Friendship Nurturing Environmental Justice in Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC (Washington, DC)

Federal Partners: DOL, DOD, EPA, HUD, GSA, DOT, DOI, USDA

6. Community Cleanup and Revitalization in Arkwright/Forest Park (Spartanburg, SC)

Federal Partners: EPA, HUD, DOE

7. Protecting Children's Health and Reducing Lead Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships (East St. Louis, IL)

Federal Partners: HUD, USACE, EPA

8. Bethel New Life Power Park Assessment (Chicago, IL)

Federal Partners: DOE, HUD, EDA, EPA

9. New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO)

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10. Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farmworker Communities in Colorado (Colorado)

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Federal Partners: EPA, DOJ-USAO, HUD

14. Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA, DOI, HHS, HUD, DOD, USDA

See Section II for detailed descriptions of Demonstration Projects

Demonstration Project Selection Criteria:

- Areas selected should be composed of predominantly minority or low-income populations that face negative environmental, public health, and/or socio-economic effects.
- Projects selected should be community-based where there is a demonstrable community interest in participating in and support of the project.
- Projects selected should emphasize means for building upon existing capabilities and assets within affected communities.
- Projects selected should demonstrably benefit the quality of life of affected communities.
- Projects selected should recognize and promote input from and collaboration with appropriate State, tribal or local governments.
- Projects selected must have the commitment of at least two Federal agencies.
- Projects selected must be new or have a new component which a

Ensure Integration of Environmental Justice in Policies, Programs and Activities of Federal Agencies.

- Promote agency-specific initiatives to benefit environmental justice communities.
- Compile summary of notable Federal government environmental justice accomplishments.
- Develop and conduct national and regional environmental justice training that is agency-specific and interagency.
- Promote opportunities for community-based assessment, intervention and prevention strategies to reduce health disparities, particularly within minority and/or low-income communities where disproportionate environmental effects may contribute to such disparities (To be addressed at National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting, May 23-26, 2000).
- Develop strategies to enhance Federal interagency efforts to address needs of environmentally and economically distressed communities (To be addressed at National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting, Winter 2000).

SECTION II

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION AGENDA DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

1. Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: "Connecting Community and Environment" (Boston, MA)

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Key Agency Contact: Jewell Harper (404-562-8629)

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Key Agency Contact: Robert Moore (202-586-4758)

9. New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO)

An EPA-USDA partnership works with state and local agencies to address three areas which impact children's health: lead, asthma/allergies, and water quality. Project came about when three rural towns in New Madrid County, MO saw the potential benefits of working together. Subsequent request to federal and state agencies for assistance resulted in this project. While community education and capacity building is an ongoing part of this project, efforts will include proactive actions such as planting trees to decrease dust contaminants and improving storm water drainage.

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA-NRCS
Key Agency Contact: Althea Moses (913-551-7649)

10. Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farmworker Communities in Colorado (Colorado)

This new partnership will bring together farmworkers, environmental and community groups, and government agencies to identify the location and assess the safety of drinking water sources for Colorado migrant worker communities. Project will build sustainable support networks to implement policy recommendations and community education needs.

Federal Partners: EPA, USDA, HHS, DOL
Key Agency Contact: Elisabeth Evans (303-312-6053)

11. Environmental Justice and Public Participation Through Technology: Defeating the Digital Divide and Building Community Capacity (Savannah, GA and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, MT)

Partnership of federal, tribal and local agencies, community organizations, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities will work to help communities gain access to information technology and gain capacity to participate in environmental decision-making. Federal agencies will provide both excess computers and technical assistance to establish community technology centers. Project will target two communities: the first in Savannah, GA and the second at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. These will serve as models for eventual replication by other communities and tribes. Along with federal agencies, Howard University will provide training and ongoing technical support.

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA
Key Agency Contact: Melinda Downing (202-586-7703)

12. Protecting Community Health and Reducing Toxic Air Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships in Barrio Logan (San Diego, CA)

Federal, state and local agencies will work with local partnerships led by the Environmental Health Coalition to conduct a model project on ways to improve air quality in the predominantly Latino community of Barrio Logan. The project will provide information to the community by utilizing an air monitoring station in a local high school recently established by California Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB envisions the project providing a model for the new Neighborhood Impacts Program and plans to duplicate this community-involvement and participation effort in other low-income, minority communities in California. Project also will involve clinical studies to substantiate the high rate of asthma and will work to improve health care delivery.

Federal Partners: EPA, NIEHS, US Navy
Key Agency Contact: Clarice Gaylord (619-235-4767)

13. Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative (Portland and Rural Communities, Oregon)

A partnership comprised of federal, tribal, state, and local government and community partners, will work to address three community-identified needs in the State of Oregon that impact children's health: reduce lead exposure in urban areas, reduce pesticide exposure in rural areas, and eliminate illegal dumping on tribal lands. Initiative will include targeted inspections. It also will include community based research, outreach, and education projects such as a mobile "lab" for blood lead testing, development of PC-based Geographic Information System profile of Oregon consisting of environmental and health databases, community-based environmental monitoring, two federal-tribal-state summits, and "Safe Food"--a farmworker youth-designed research project to identify pesticide residues.

Federal Partners: EPA, DOJ-USAO, HUD
Key Agency Contact: Monica Kirk (503-326-3269)

14. Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues

Federal agencies in collaboration with tribes, tribal organizations, and other interested parties will conduct a roundtable to identify the broad range of tribal cultural, religious, economic, social, legal and other issues related to environmental justice in Indian country. Project grew out of a commitment by federal agencies to tribal groups at the June 1999 environmental justice conference in Hilton Head, SC. Both tribal leaders and federal agencies have been struggling to properly interpret and implement the principles of environmental justice in a manner that is consistent with the needs of tribal communities and the complexities of federal-tribal trust relationships. This demonstration project proposes to produce a coherent implementation strategy based upon substantive input from tribes.

Federal Partners: DOE, EPA, DOI, HHS, HUD, DOD, USDA
Key Agency Contact: Derrick Watchman (202-586-0211)

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Fact Sheets on Selected Projects and Projects Near Selection
To Be Inserted

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SECTION III

AGENCY-SPECIFIC

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

(To Be Added)

Section III: Agency-Specific Initiatives

(The following are examples of EPA initiatives and represent a tentative list.)

- Develop and Issue Best Management Practices for Waste Transfer Stations.
- Issue RCRA “Social Siting” Manual.
- Implement Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Support “Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Federal Strategy Targeting Lead Paint Hazards.”
- Develop Environmental Health Decision-Tree Tool.
- Develop Cumulative Risk Assessment Guidance Models and Methodology.
- Implement New Jersey Migrant Labor Camp Drinking Water Initiative.
- Develop Tools for Schools Partnership Program with New York City Board of Education.
- Convene Puerto Rico National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Subcommittee.
- Promote better grants coordination or grants targeting for environmental justice communities.

More EPA-Specific Initiatives To Be Inserted

Agency-Specific Initiatives of Other Agencies To Be Inserted

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SECTION IV

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
SUCCESS STORIES**

Environmental Justice Success Stories
To Be Inserted

Revised 5/02/00

**Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Workgroup
Summary of Outreach Listening Sessions
Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda**

On March 22-24, 2000, the Interagency Workgroup hosted a series of two hour Listening Sessions with representatives from environmental justice network and grassroots representatives, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, state governments, Native American grassroots organizations, the private sector (Business and Industry), and local governments. The purpose of these sessions was to:

1. Provide context for the proposed Action Agenda and some of its intended goals.
2. Ascertain stakeholder concerns about such an Action Agenda.
3. Determine your views about how such a guidance can be useful to you.
4. Explore ideas about alternative mechanisms for meaningful public input into the development of the Action Agenda and the Demonstration Projects.

These meeting were well attended by all of the stakeholder groups, and there was clear support for this effort from all stakeholders participating in the discussions. There were a number of concerns as to how the Action Agenda could impact their respective communities, and many of these have been addressed in the latest draft of the Action Agenda. Notable comments or issues from the Listening Sessions are:

- * demonstration projects need to include communities affected by federal facilities
 - * there is a need for a definitive mechanism for communities, local and state government input in the identification and development of demonstration projects
- * criteria should address the impact of poverty in communities in which the project are sited
- * some projects should focus on involving and training of youth in environmental justice
- * Action Agenda should clearly include Native American input regarding the Agenda and project development
- * projects addressing health issues in communities should be an Agenda priority
- * a protocol should be developed to accommodate state consultation on project identification and selection
- * some Native American stakeholders raised concern about the definition of environmental justice as it affects indigenous populations
- * initiatives involving Federal facilities on reservations, specifically BIA schools, should be included in demonstration projects; BIA and IHS should have a clear presence in the Agenda and project development
- * Agenda should focus on preventing environmental justice problems as well as the promoting successful resolution of these problems

Outreach Listening Sessions Participants

Environmental Justice Leaders

Region 1

Larry Charles - Connecticut
One Chane

Region 2

Neftali Garcia Martinez - Puerto Rico
Servicios Cientificos y Tecnicos

Region 3

John Rosenthal - District of Columbia
Howard University

Region 4

Dr. Mildred McClain - Georgia
Citizens For Environmental Justice
Reverend Vernell Cutter - Georgia
Citizens for Environmental Justice
Doris Bradshaw - Tennessee
Memphis Defense Depot Concerned Citizens Committee
Debra Mathews - Tennessee
Alton Park/Piney Woods Neighborhood Improvement Corporation
Klatia Oliveira - Louisiana
Department of Civil Engineering/Louisiana State University
Edgar Mouton - Louisiana
Mossville Environmental Action Now
Jackie Kittrell -Tennessee
American Environmental Health Studies Project

Region 6

Richard Moore - New Mexico
Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice
Evelyn Yates - Arkansas
Pine Bluff Citizens for Safe Disposal

Business and Industry

Region 3

Sue Briggum - District of Columbia
Waste Management Inc.
Kate McBloon - District of Columbia
Chemical Manufactures Association
Dorthy Kellog - District of Columbia
Chemical Manufacturers Association

Region 4

Pat Hill-Wood - Georgia
Georgia Pacific Corporation

Region 5

Randy Armstrong - Louisiana
Shell

Region 9

Robert Harris - California
Pacific Gas
Robert Doss - California
Pacific Gas
Jack McKenzie - California
BG&E

State Government

Region 2

Edith Pestana - Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection

Region 3

Carol Leftwich - District of Columbia
Environmental Council of States

Region 4

Linda Diane Long - North Carolina
Department Environment and Natural Resources
Lea Lang - North Carolina
Department of Transportation
Rebecca Lee Smith - Georgia
CDC

Region 5

Placida Venegas - Minnesota
Pollution Control Agency

Region 6

James Friloux - Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Kay Long - Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Roger Ward - Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Jerry Darosa - Arizona
Department of Environmental Quality

Region 9

Nancy Sutley - California
California EPA Deputy Secretary for Policy and Intergovernmental Relations
Joyce Whiten - California
Governors Office of Planning and Research
Senior Policy Advisor

Tribes

Region 5

Lea Fouchée - Minnesota
North American Water Council
Charlotte Caldwell - Minnesota
Indigenous Environmental Network
Twila Martin Kekabah - Minnesota
National Indian Health Board

Region 6

Gilbert Sanchez - NM
Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance

Jan Stevens - Montana
Sach and Fox
Jessica Alcorn - New Mexico
Council of Energy Resource Tribes

Region 8

Gail Small - Montana
Northern Cheyenne

NEJAC

Region 1

Robert Varney - New Hampshire
Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Dr. Marinelle Payton - Massachusetts
Harvard Medical School

Region 4

Harold Mitchell - SC
South Carolina Environmental Watch/ReGenesis

Region 9

Jess Womack - CA
Senior Corporate Council, ARCO Law

Local Government

Region 3

Dorthy Morrison- DC
ICMA

Region 9

Lillian Kawasaki - CA
Environmental Affairs Department, City of Los Angeles

Project Title

Roundtable to Define the Political, Statutory, and Conceptual Bases of Environmental Justice in Indian Country

Location

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Proposed Date

Late July or early August, 2000

Community Served

All American Indian Tribes and their respective constituents

Benefits

Tribal Level—This Roundtable will bring discussion and attention about pressing environmental issues in Indian Country to the federal and congressional level. Current federal environmental justice policies do not address the parameters of Indian law, which have resulted in federal environmental justice policies that either do not include Tribes, or in conflict with Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationship. The Roundtable will address the political, statutory, and conceptual bases of environmental justice in Indian Country, and establish a process to implement the agenda set forth by the Roundtable.

Federal Level—Environmental Justice is a concept that federal departments and agencies have struggled to interpret and implement in a manner that is consistent with the environmental justice movement's goal of community empowerment. The federal departments and agencies will receive valuable information about how to reform their policies to better address environmental justice in Indian Country.

Congressional Level—The primary goal of the Roundtable is to develop a roadmap for how to address environmental justice in Indian Country. This information will be invaluable to Congress when developing possible legislative measures in Congress for environmental justice.

Proposal

The organizing entities propose to assemble a group of approximately 50 Indian and other environmental protection experts, legal scholars, ethicists, religious leaders, cultural specialists, policy experts and others to participate in a 2-day facilitated roundtable that will examine the ethical, moral, cultural, legal and other dimensions of environmental justice in Indian country. The purpose of this roundtable is to:

- identify the broad range of tribal cultural, religious, economic, social, legal and other issues related to environmental justice in Indian country;
- identify the gaps in policy, technical, scientific, social and legal research that can help guide the development of policy and regulations related to environmental justice in Indian country;
- identify the deficiencies and limitations of existing tribal law and policies on, *inter alia*, administrative law including due process, public participation, freedom of information;
- set out a research agenda, communications strategy and tribal capacity building program that will enable tribes and federal agencies to develop the data and analyses required to support

- development of tribal environmental justice programs; and
- evaluate/modify/scope best practice "Models" on environmental clean-up/remediation in partnership agency partners and tribal governments.

Approach

Source Book

To prepared the Roundtable participants for the facilitated discussions on environmental justice, the organizing entities will perform the necessary research and writing to produce a Source Book on Environmental Justice in Indian Country. To stimulate dialogue, the Source Book will pose a series of purposefully provocative questions such as:

- Can development in Indian country be just?
- Does the distributive justice paradigm apply in Indian country?
- How does the federal-Indian trust obligation affect environmental justice in Indian country?
- Is it environmental injustice; breach of trust; or poor negotiating?
- Don't Indians have to be environmentally just also?
- How do we know if it's environmentally just?

The Source Book will not include any analyses, recommendations or conclusions, but will be a compendium of news articles, statutes, treaties, books and other works of differing opinions, positions, and philosophies that generally respond to the questions posed.

Reports

The Roundtable will be videotaped and audiotaped. A transcription of the dialogue and a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the Roundtable will be prepared and distributed to the Roundtable participants and their agencies and will be published on a website. The organizing entities will distribute the recommendations of the Roundtable to the chief elected or appointed official of all federally recognized Indian tribes and to all tribal college libraries.

Communication Strategy and Tribal Capacity Building

After the roundtable is completed, organizing entities will develop an implementation strategy to implement a research agenda, communication strategy, and tribal capacity building program as identified in the Roundtable. A working group will be established composed of tribal leaders, tribal colleges and other interested parties to develop research issues set out in the Roundtable. The working group will accomplish this goal by setting up additional conferences throughout the following year for training and research discussion enabling the group to write and publish scholarly papers that communicate their research into these issues, present the papers at national conferences, and advise federal and congressional decision-makers. The working group will also set out to implement a communication strategy so that all tribes have access to the working group for input during the research, and environmental justice training.

Project Duration

8-12 months

Financial Support

The organizing entities look to all federal departments and agencies for financial support.

Proposed Federal Partners

Department of Energy—Lead Agency

DOE will be one of the primary federal departments to assist with the planning and implementation of the roundtable. As participants in the Roundtable, DOE will be expected to provide information on their Indian programs and how DOE has worked to increase tribal capacity through their activities. DOE will also provide personnel to assist in IWG's Tribal Outreach Plan.

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA will be a key federal agency to ensure and assist with the communication and tribal capacity building component of the Roundtable. As participants in the Roundtable EPA will provide technical and policy expertise on environmental laws and regulations in Indian country. EPA is also expected to explain the conflict EPA has when enforcing federal environmental laws on tribal lands without financially burdening the tribe.

Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs

DOI will play a major role in the planning of the Roundtable and assist with ensuring follow-up and implementation of action items identified during the Roundtable. DOI will have a key role during the Roundtable to provide expert knowledge of the federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes and give insights to how environmental justice impacts the trust responsibility. The organizing entities also look for DOI to explain how the Department manages their facilities on Indian lands to comply with all federal environmental laws.

Department of Human Health Services Indian Health Services

IHS has the primary responsibility of providing health care for all federally recognized tribes. IHS also has the responsibility for building some infrastructures on reservation that ensures the community's health, such as drinking water systems, solid waste disposal and sewer systems. The organizing entities look to IHS to provide information on what barriers the Department faces for starting construction on much needed infrastructure, and to explain how IHS handles waste disposal of their own facilities in Indian Country.

Department of Defense

DoD has a large presence in Indian Country and has developed programs and policies to implement the Department's Indian Policy. The organizing entities would like DoD to participate in the Roundtable to provide information on their Indian policy and how the Department is implementing their policy and partnering with Indian tribes during cleanups on Indian lands. They would also like the Department to provide information on how they manage the waste disposal for their facilities in Indian Country to comply with all federal laws.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture will participate in the roundtable by providing information on how their rural development programs help economic development in Indian country. The organizing entities also look to the Department to provide information on how some of their programs could provide grants for infrastructure development in Indian Country, as well as to discuss the Department's Indian policy and how it is implemented.

Complied by: Jessica Alcorn, Department of Energy, EM-11
Submitted by: Derrick Watchman, Department of Energy ED-1

Planning Session

for the

Tribal Environmental Justice Roundtable

Proposed Agenda

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Greeting

Introductions

Purpose of the Planning Session and the Roundtable

Facilitated dialogue on the following issues:

What makes tribal governments different from other stakeholders? How are they the same?

What are the responsibilities owed Indian tribes by the United States government under:

The federal-Indian trust relationship;

Treaties;

Tribal-specific laws;

Federal Indian policy;

Laws, programs, etc. for the benefit of U.S. citizens generally.

Can the failure of the trustee to carry out these responsibilities result in injustice?

What is the role of the federal trustee in assuring environmental justice in Indian country? Is there a conflict between the trust obligation and self-determination? If so, how should those conflicts be resolved?

How do we know if an action or program is just? What are the indicia of environmentally just development in Indian country? How do we measure or evaluate these indicia? What systems and institutions should be in place at the tribal and federal level to ensure that tribal development and resource management decisions are environmentally just?

How should environmental justice in Indian country be defined?

Facilitated small group sessions to:

Identify case studies.

Identify Roundtable participants.

Identify material to be included in Source Book.

Draft
IWG Environmental Justice Project
Native American Round Table

		<u>Estimated Cost</u>
a. <u>Planning Meeting (1) in Washington DC</u>		
Labor	Contractor	3,500
Travel	Planning Committee (10)	6,000
Materials		<u>3,000</u>
Subtotal		12,500
b. <u>Roundtable in Albuquerque, NM (July, 2000)</u>		
Facilitation/Documentation		14,500
Travel -	Participants @ 50	25,000
Materials		<u>5,000</u>
Subtotal		59,000
Project Total		<u>71,500</u>
10- Agency Contributors		10,214
15- Agency Contributors		4,767



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500

Date: MAY 26 2000

The Honorable Calvin Dooley
United States House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0520

Dear Representative Dooley:

I have been asked to respond to your letter of April 13, 2000, in which you expressed some concerns about the establishment of a new national monument in the Sequoia National Forest. The President established the Monument on April 15, 2000, and we are now in a much better position to address your concerns.

We share your concern about the susceptibility of the Monument area to unnaturally intense and catastrophic fires. We are committed to working with you to ensure that adequate programs are in place to reduce such risks within the Monument and elsewhere within the National Forest System.

The creation of the monument should not have an adverse impact on renewal of special use permits for the several private organizational camps located within the monument. At this time, three organizational camps within the Monument have requested an early renewal of their special use permit, and we anticipate that a final decision for these camps will be made by the end of this year. Since the earliest any of the three permits expires is July 7, 2004, the processing of the renewals this year represents a substantial acceleration of the renewal process for those facilities.

We also share your desire to ensure that the management plan required by the Proclamation addresses local concerns and issues. I believe that the public input processes required by both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act in developing a management plan for the Monument provide the most flexible and sure method of assuring that local needs and concerns are heard and addressed. To ensure that local concerns are adequately considered, I will direct the Forest Supervisor to work closely with each of the elected County Board of Supervisors, as well as the leadership of the Tule River Indian Tribe, in developing the plan. This can be accomplished by inviting the County Boards and the Tribal Council to co-host public meetings with the Forest Supervisor and the planning team, so that the local officials themselves can ensure that interested local parties are invited and have the opportunity to communicate their concerns directly. These meetings, as well as meetings with other local citizen groups, will provide an excellent forum for offering advice and recommendations to the Forest Service as they develop the Monument management plan over the next three years.



We also look forward to working with you in establishing economic development opportunities in the communities affected by designation of the Monument. As the Secretary has repeatedly stated, the Department of Agriculture is committed to using all of its programs and authorities to assist the local communities in adjusting to the existence of the Monument. I share the Secretary's commitment. However, any economic development assistance must have the full support of the local communities involved. We will do all in our power to provide the local communities the resources necessary to address economic impacts resulting from creation of the Monument, and look forward to receiving ideas from County Supervisors and tribal officials for consideration.

Finally, in a recent meeting with Senator Feinstein, concerns were expressed about the limitation of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to roads within the Monument area. The President's decision to prevent motorized use on **trails** within the Monument does not eliminate all use of OHVs within the Monument area. The Proclamation explicitly provides that these vehicles may continue to use designated roads; only trails must be avoided. Moreover, the quality of experience on hiking trails may be enhanced for hikers and horseback users by preventing motorcycle use. Thus, while OHV opportunities within the Monument area may be somewhat fewer than existed before monument designation, OHVs continue to be a valid use within the area.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the creation of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dornbeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



File Code: 1500

Date: MAY 23 2000

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3102

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for your letter dated May 19, 2000. Like you, I am deeply concerned about the potential for unnaturally intense, catastrophic fires and their impact on communities in New Mexico and throughout the United States. The events of recent weeks make clear that we cannot stand by idly and allow the health of our forest and grassland ecosystems to deteriorate to the point that they cannot provide basic ecological services and pose a risk to the safety of our communities.

Unhealthy forest ecosystems evolved through decades of past management and fire suppression. Restoring their health and resiliency and protecting our communities from unnaturally severe wildland fires will take many years. That reality, however, is no excuse for inaction.

If emergency funds were made available, we would limit their use to the urban-wildland interface or within designated municipal watersheds that are determined to be at highest risk of unnaturally occurring catastrophic fire. Our activities would focus on the least controversial areas by concentrating on restoring fire-dependent ecosystems and reducing fire risks adjacent to wildland urban interface areas. We would define urban-wildland interface in one of the two following ways:

- Where urban or suburban populations are directly adjacent to unpopulated areas characterized by wildland vegetation. (Urban and suburban areas are defined as places where population densities exceed 400 people per square mile of area.)
- Where people and houses are scattered through areas characterized by wildland vegetation. These are areas where population density is from 40 to 400 people per square mile.

Treatment methods to minimize fire risk and restore land health in the interface areas would include: thinning, removal of over-accumulated vegetation and dead fuels, prescribed fire, and fuel breaks. All required project level planning, monitoring, consultation, and implementation would be included in our vegetation treatments. Our objective would be to leave forested areas in the interface in a range of stand densities that more fully represent healthy forest conditions.

Priority for treatment will be given to interface areas that historically experienced low intensity, high frequency fire and where current conditions favor uncharacteristically intense fires.



Projects may also be undertaken in other fire regimes where threats to populations or their water supplies are acute.

We would ensure that additional appropriations are spent in a manner that maximizes on-the-ground accomplishments and minimizes controversy, delay, and litigation. For example, projects would be implemented using service contracts that hire local people, volunteers and Youth Conservation Corps members, or by using Forest Service work crews, where appropriate. Where tree removal is necessary to reduce fire risks, these emergency appropriations would only be used to remove trees that are under 12 inches in diameter. Merchantable material that is generated as a byproduct of vegetative treatments could be sold under a separate contract to local industry or the public. We must also monitor our progress and report our results to Congress and the American people to demonstrate our accountability.

The type of program I describe will lead to demonstrable results and improvements in the near future. I must make clear, however, that a one-year emergency appropriation will not remedy what ails our forests and threatens our communities. We must fund and build a constituency for active forest restoration based on ecological principles. For example, we can partner with local communities to reduce fuel hazards, improve building codes, and suggest fire resistant landscaping to reduce fire risk. Such efforts can reduce insurance premiums, prevent wildland fires from destroying homes, reduce costs associated with fire suppression, and protect our treasured forests.

We expect to soon release a strategy to more broadly address wildland fire risks across National Forest System lands. We need a sustained level of funding to ensure that we can restore fire-dependent ecosystems and protect the lives and property of people in our communities. Restoring our forests not only makes our communities safer, it provides jobs — high paying, quality, family wage jobs.

Thank you for your continued interest in the health of our lands and the well being of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dornbeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 E. Independence SW
P.O. Box 960770
Washington, DC 20090-6070

File Code: 1500

Date: 5-23-00 = aut

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3102

Dear Senator Bingaman:

I thank you for your letter dated May 19, 2000. Like you, I am deeply concerned about the potential for unnaturally intense, catastrophic fires and their impact on communities in New Mexico and throughout the United States. The events of recent weeks make clear that we cannot stand by idly and allow the health of our forest and grassland ecosystems to deteriorate to the point that they cannot provide basic ecological services and pose a risk to the safety of our communities.

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Priority for treatment will be given to interface areas that historically experienced low intensity, high frequency fire and where current conditions favor uncharacteristically intense fires.



cc: Faxed to all Forest Supervisors

Caring for the Land and Serving People

FOREST SERVICE



Honorable Jeff Bingaman

2

Projects may also be undertaken in other fire regimes where threats to populations or their water supplies are acute.

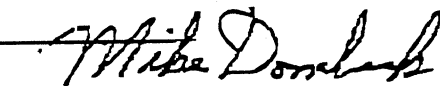
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The type of program I describe will lead to demonstrable results and improvements in the near future. I must make clear, however, that a one-year emergency appropriation will not remedy what ails our forests and threatens our communities. We must fund and build a constituency for active forest restoration based on ecological principles. For example, we can partner with local communities to reduce fuel hazards, improve building codes, and suggest fire resistant landscaping to reduce fire risk. Such efforts can reduce insurance premiums, prevent wildland fires from destroying homes, reduce costs associated with fire suppression, and protect our treasured forests.

We expect to soon release a strategy to more broadly address wildland fire risks across National Forest System lands. We need a sustained level of funding to ensure that we can restore fire-dependent ecosystems and protect the lives and property of people in our communities. Restoring our forests not only makes our communities safer, it provides jobs - high paying, quality, family wage jobs.

Thank you for your continued interest in the health of our lands and the well being of our communities.

Sincerely,



MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500

Date: **MAY 26 2000**

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have been asked to respond to your letter of April 13, 2000, in which you expressed some concerns about the establishment of a new national monument in the Sequoia National Forest. The President established the Monument on April 15, 2000, and we are now in a much better position to address your concerns.

We share your concern about the susceptibility of the Monument area to unnaturally intense and catastrophic fires. We are committed to working with you to ensure that adequate programs are in place to reduce such risks within the Monument and elsewhere within the National Forest System.

The creation of the monument should not have an adverse impact on renewal of special use permits for the several private organizational camps located within the monument. At this time, three organizational camps within the Monument have requested an early renewal of their special use permit, and we anticipate that a final decision for these camps will be made by the end of this year. Since the earliest any of the three permits expires is July 7, 2004, the processing of the renewals this year represents a substantial acceleration of the renewal process for those facilities.

We also share your desire to ensure that the management plan required by the Proclamation addresses local concerns and issues. I believe that the public input processes required by both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act in developing a management plan for the Monument provide the most flexible and sure method of assuring that local needs and concerns are heard and addressed. To ensure that local concerns are adequately considered, I will direct the Forest Supervisor to work closely with each of the elected County Board of Supervisors, as well as the leadership of the Tule River Indian Tribe, in developing the plan. This can be accomplished by inviting the County Boards and the Tribal Council to co-host public meetings with the Forest Supervisor and the planning team, so that the local officials themselves can ensure that interested local parties are invited and have the opportunity to communicate their concerns directly. These meetings, as well as meetings with other local citizen groups, will provide an excellent forum for offering advice and recommendations to the Forest Service as they develop the Monument management plan over the next three years.

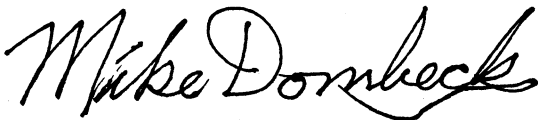


We also look forward to working with you in establishing economic development opportunities in the communities affected by designation of the Monument. As the Secretary has repeatedly stated, the Department of Agriculture is committed to using all of its programs and authorities to assist the local communities in adjusting to the existence of the Monument. I share the Secretary's commitment. However, any economic development assistance must have the full support of the local communities involved. We will do all in our power to provide the local communities the resources necessary to address economic impacts resulting from creation of the Monument, and look forward to receiving ideas from County Supervisors and tribal officials for consideration.

Finally, in a recent meeting, you expressed some concern about the limitation of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to roads within the Monument area. The President's decision to prevent motorized use on **trails** within the Monument does not eliminate all use of OHVs within the Monument area. The Proclamation explicitly provides that these vehicles may continue to use designated roads; only trails must be avoided. Moreover, the quality of experience on hiking trails may be enhanced for hikers and horseback users by preventing motorcycle use. Thus, while OHV opportunities within the Monument area may be somewhat fewer than existed before monument designation, OHVs continue to be a valid use within the area.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the creation of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dornbeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



United States
Department of
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Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 26 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Awards Ceremony

To: All WO Employees

Success is no accident, it is created by people. Please join me on June 5, at 5:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the 2000 Chief's Awards recipients. These awards honor our people for achievements that cross the full spectrum of the services we provide as public servants. The honors they will receive are the highest awarded in the Forest Service. The Forest Service recipients of the 2000 Secretary's Honor Awards will also be recognized at this ceremony.

There will be a reception immediately following the presentation of awards.

I look forward to seeing you!

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 30 2000

Subject: Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Edna Decker

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for your leadership and continued efforts toward improving accountability for the Forest Service through the nationwide implementation of the Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS). We are proud to honor you for your outstanding hard work and dedication toward accomplishing the mission of the Forest Service. You play a significant role as a key member of the financial management leadership team. Keep up the good work!

An invitation is extended to you to attend the Chief's Awards ceremony on June 5, at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, to receive this award.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Carolyn Adlan at (703) 605-5239.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 30 2000

Subject: Recipient of the Chief's Honor Award

To: Al Ferlo

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's honor award for your excellent leadership role in the President's designation of the Giant Sequoias national monument. Your hard work and dedication will lead to the protection of some of our Nation's most unique and rare treasures that people for many generations will now enjoy. I am proud of your success and I appreciate your loyalty to me and to the Forest Service.

You are extended an invitation to attend the Chief's Honor Awards Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on June 5 at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

I look forward to seeing you there.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 30 2000

Subject: Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Hank Kashdan

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for your leadership and continued efforts toward making widespread budget reforms that will directly address many of the Agency's longstanding fiscal and program accountability issues. We are proud to honor you for your outstanding hard work and dedication toward accomplishing the mission of the Forest Service. You play a significant role as a key member of the financial management leadership team. Keep up the good work!

An invitation is extended to you to attend the Chief's Awards ceremony on June 5, at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, to receive this award.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Carolyn Adlan at (703) 605-5239.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 30 2000

Subject: Recipient of the Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Chris Wood

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for your excellent coordination and communication of the Agency's and the Administration's initiatives that have led to restoring public trust and the sustainability of resources on public lands for generations to come. Your relationship with the Administration, Congress and our myriad partners has moved the Forest Service to be more proactive in our policy decisionmaking rather than continuously being in a reactive mode. Your hard work and dedication has helped fulfill the mission of the Agency – to care for the land and serve people.

You are extended an invitation to attend the Chief's Honor Awards Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on June 5 at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

I look forward to seeing you there.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100

Date: MAY 31 2000

Route To:

Subject: 2000 Chief's Awards

To: Dallas Emch

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for exceptional Leveraging of Forest Service dollars (x4) through partnerships in the establishment of the Ecosystem Restoration Technology Center. We are proud to honor you for your outstanding hard work and dedication toward advancing the mission of the Forest Service.

An invitation is extended to you to attend the Chief's Awards Ceremony on June 5, at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, to receive this award.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090

File Code: 6140

Route To:

Date: MAY 31 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Andrew J. Gillespie
Thru: Staff Director, SPPII

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you as a recipient of the 2000 Chief's Award of Excellence for your success in building strong partnerships in support of the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. In particular, your fine work in development of the memorandum of understanding between the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Your accomplishments directly support the Natural Resource Agenda's emphasis on sustainable forests.

You exemplify the high quality and commitment of Forest Service employees. I appreciate your fine work and invite you to be recognized at the Honor Awards Ceremony on Monday evening, June 5. The ceremony will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Arlington beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1570
Route To: 6140

Date: May 31, 2000

Subject: Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Legislative Affairs Staff

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for improving our congressional relationships and preparing the leadership team members for numerous hearings. We are proud to honor you for your outstanding hard work, professionalism, and dedication toward accomplishing the mission of the Forest Service. You play a significant role in your work with Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the leadership team on key issues such as roads and roadless policies, payments to states, land acquisitions and exchanges, recreation, fire, and Alaska issues.

We invite the entire staff to attend the Chief's awards ceremony on June 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, in Arlington, Virginia.

Please contact Carolyn Adlan, Human Resources Staff, if you need more information.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100

Date: **MAY 31 2000**

Route To:

Subject: 2000 Chief's Awards

To: Marcia MacNaughton

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for outstanding contributions in the area of Litigation Management, through expert analysis and advice, as well as exceptional management and coordination efforts. We are proud to honor you for your exceptional hard work and dedication toward advancing the mission of the Forest Service.

An invitation is extended to you to attend the Chief's Awards Ceremony on June 5, at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, to receive this award.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100

Date: MAY 31 2000

Route To:

Subject: 2000 Chief's Awards

To: Vaughn Stokes

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award of Excellence for significant contributions in advancing the Natural Resource Agenda through agency-wide policy changes in road management. We are proud to honor you for your exceptional hard work and dedication toward advancing the mission of the Forest Service.

An invitation is extended to you to attend the Chief's Awards Ceremony on June 5, at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, to receive this award.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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File Code: 6140
Route To:

Date: MAY 31 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Award for Excellence

To: Denny Truesdale

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award for Excellence for your outstanding work to protect and enhance the resources of the nation's Federal, State and private forests through fire.

I am pleased to acknowledge your excellent work most recently in representing the Forest Service in meetings at the highest levels of the Administration on issues surrounding Los Almos and the Cerro Grande fires. You are highly effective in communicating technical information and practical field experience about fire management to policy officials within the Administration and Members and staff on Capitol Hill. Within the last year, your work with Regional Forester Lyle Laverty, Area Director Michael Rains, and Regional Forester Bob Jacobs in completing three critical fire reports and presenting briefings on them, has brought the serious issues of hazardous fuels management, fire workforce issues, and the policy impacts of big fires to the National Leadership Team and the serious consideration they deserve.

Please join me and the other Chief's Awardees from across the country at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia, on June 5 at 5:30 p.m. We are planning a special evening with light refreshments and entertainment to present you with your award and to celebrate the achievements of all of the honorees of the 2000 Chief's Awards.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1600

Date: MAY 31 2000

Route To:

Subject: 2000 Chief's Award of Excellence

To: Joseph P. Walsh

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you as a recipient of the 2000 Chief's Award of Excellence for your dedication and superb contributions in representing the USDA Forest Service to the American people through the news media. Exceptionally noteworthy is your ability to provide timely and sound media relations counsel to Forest Service leadership at all levels, and your tremendous efforts in developing long-term relationships with news media organizations and their representatives.

You exemplify the highest quality and commitment of Forest Service employees to which we all aspire. I appreciate your commitment and hard work, and invite you to be recognized at the Honor Awards Ceremony on Monday evening, June 5. The ceremony will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Arlington beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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File Code: 6140
Route To:

Date: MAY 31 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Award for Excellence

To: Melvyn J. Weiss

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a Chief's Award for Excellence for your outstanding work as Acting Director of the Forest Health Protection Staff. I want to honor you for your leadership in protecting the health of the nation's Federal, State, and private forests and for working cooperatively with foreign governments to protect forests in other nations, as well.

During your extended tenure as Acting Director of the Forest Health Protection Staff, you have grappled with complex issues affecting forests on Federal, State, private, and international lands. You have worked cooperatively with the Animal Plant Health Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, State Foresters, State Departments of Agriculture, and Canadian and Mexican Forest Services to protect "at risk" forests from destructive forest insects and diseases. You have nurtured the concept of mapping "at risk" forests in the United States to its completion. You have developed a strategic planning effort to focus the cooperative forest health program for the future.

Please join me and the other Chief's Awardees from across the country at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia, on June 5 at 5:30 p.m. We are planning a special evening with light refreshments and entertainment to present you with your award and to celebrate the achievements of all of the honorees of the 2000 Chief's Awards.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

