

### **AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS: Salazar Highlights Two Proposed Projects in Minnesota to Promote Outdoor Recreation, Conservation - *Projects Will Be Part of 50-State Report***

WASHINGTON — Just days before the release of a 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today highlighted two projects in the state of Minnesota that will be included in the final report — representing what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country.

Establishing the Upper Minnesota River Watershed as a National Blueway and expanding recreational opportunities at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in the Twin Cities are among 100 projects nationwide that will be highlighted in next week's report — two in every state — as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to establish a 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

The report is a result of 50 meetings with governors and stakeholders held by Salazar and other senior Interior officials to solicit ideas on how to best implement AGO in their states. These projects were identified for their potential to conserve important lands and build recreation opportunities and economic growth for the surrounding communities as part of close engagement with Gov. Mark Dayton and the state of Minnesota as well as private landowners, local- and tribal-elected officials, community organizations and outdoor-recreation and conservation stakeholders. The full 50-state report will be released in the coming weeks.

"Under the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we are listening to the people of Minnesota and communities across America and working with them on locally-based projects that will conserve the beauty and health of our land and water and open up more opportunities for people to enjoy them," Salazar said. "My staff and I have been asking each governor for the most promising projects to support in their states, and we will do all we can to help move them forward."

The two projects in Minnesota highlighted by Salazar in the forthcoming report are:

- Upper Minnesota River Watershed - The 335-mile-long Minnesota River flows through an agricultural watershed that encompasses 20 percent of the state. The upper Minnesota River Valley corridor has a high density of county and state parks, wildlife or aquatic management areas, natural areas, a National Wildlife Refuge, a Wild and Scenic River, a National Scenic Byway, and a Minnesota Water Trail designation. This corridor also has a rich natural and cultural history of regional and national significance.

The area is a focus of numerous partnerships — between local governments, citizens, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies — to plan and implement programs to connect people to the river. Supporting the expansion of the infrastructure in parks and trails along the river is a key component of this project that will help connect more people to the river.

The Upper Minnesota Watershed project furthers AGO goals through the protection of additional critical natural areas for wildlife migration and expanding and improving access to the river for public use and enjoyment.

- Twin Cities Parks: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area - The confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers in the Twin Cities is an area of immense importance for conservation and recreation by virtue of the tremendous water, geologic, vegetative, and cultural resources there. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service, includes 72 miles of the Mississippi River stretching from the cities of Dayton/Ramsey through the heart of Minneapolis/St. Paul. State agencies, the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many local governments

and nongovernmental organizations have a presence along the river in this area. This area has potential for accelerated work that supports the goals of America's Great Outdoors to increase recreational access in an urban area, restore the natural systems, and engage young people and communities of color in activities along the river.

Fort Snelling State Park and its historic and cultural resources could also be better integrated into the river experience. Partners believe that the federal government needs to take a leadership role in coordinating the restoration and management of, and increased access to the Mississippi River upstream, through, and downstream of the Twin Cities. Designating the Mississippi River in this region as a National Blueway could also benefit the region by helping to attract more tourists.

The report will also include potential actions by Interior and its bureaus to support the projects identified. In Minnesota, for example, the Department could create a Mississippi River recreation and wildlife coordinating body to maximize local, state, federal, and private partners' restoration, recreation, and education accomplishments. The Department could also designate the upper Minnesota as a National Blueway and provide technical or financial support for expansion and improvement of river access.

The Department of the Interior will work with each of its key bureaus — including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — to direct available resources and personnel to make these projects a reality.

“The America's Great Outdoors Initiative turns the conventional wisdom about the federal government's role in conservation on its head,” Salazar said. “Rather than dictate policies or conservation strategies from Washington, it supports grassroots, locally driven initiatives.”

For more information on the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative, click [here](#). To view a map of the projects already announced, click [here](#).

#### Live Web Chat

This Thursday at 12:00 pm CST, the Department of the Interior will release the final 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the great outdoors. As part of that launch, Secretary Salazar will participate in a live web chat, where he will answer your questions about the America's Great Outdoors initiative, Ft. Monroe National Monument, and how conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives are strong economic engines for our nation's economy. You can watch the chat live by going to [www.doi.gov/live](http://www.doi.gov/live).

[Click here](#) to send your questions in advance or tweet them at #askken.

#### **ARE YOU A LUXEMBOURGER?**

The Nicollet County Historical Society will be presenting information about Luxembourgers immigrating to the Midwest and in peculiar to Nicollet County, Minnesota on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Treaty Site History Center.

Olga Carlson of St. Peter will show a film, “Where Luxembourg Immigrants Settled in the Midwest.” Olga was born in Luxembourg and now resides in St. Peter, MN.

MaryAnn Zins has been researching Luxembourg born ancestors in Nicollet County for the National Society located in Port Washington, WI. Based on the 1880 Federal Census for those pioneers who listed as being born in Luxembourg, she had been able to identify 70 surnames to date.

Newspaper obituaries, courthouse records and other documentation have been gathered to verify these settlers as “Luxies.” But we know there are a lot more of you out there. In 1815, after Napoleon was defeated, French-occupied Luxembourg was divided up and lost much of its territory to the Netherlands, France, Prussia and Belgium. The remaining Luxembourg became the Grand Duchy. In the 1830's another revolution broke out and much of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg became the predominantly German state, although French cultural influence remain strong.

By the time our ancestors came to America they were born in "Luxembourg, Germany," which would account for the birthplace on the 1880 census marked as Germany.

These are the people we are looking for today.

Please join us on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Treaty Site History Center and discover your Luxembourg roots. Admission to the event is free. Please contact Jessica at 507-934-2160 or [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org) for more details.

The Treaty Site History Center is located one mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic. The Center features a national award-winning exhibit on the Traverse des Sioux Treaty of 1851 and its consequences, as well as local history, and a full-service research archive.

## **Grant Opportunities:**

### **Conservation Funding Opportunities**

#### **Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program**

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) has posted the U.S. Forest Service 2012 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program.

The Council supports innovative urban and community forestry projects that have national or multi-state application and impact. The Grant Program offers \$900,000 in funding for three or more innovative grants for fiscal year 2012. Proposals must demonstrate the reach, resources and expertise needed to address the following three strategic priority issues: climate change, public health, and economic development.

This opportunity is available to any U.S. non-Federal organization, and all grant funds must be matched at least equally (dollar for dollar) with non-Federal source funds. Applications are due by December 1. For more information on this funding opportunity, [click here](#).

#### **Temper of the Times Grants**

The Temper of the Times Foundation is offering grants from \$5-10,000 to non-profit 501(c)3 organizations. The grants will provide funding for projects that lead to measurable outcomes for wildland ecosystem conservation and restoration in the U.S. Grants may be used to fund the production of print, radio or television ads; to pay for advertising space or airtime; or to produce or distribute pamphlets, books, videos, or press packets.

Applications are due by December 15. For more information on this funding opportunity, [click here](#).

## **Job Announcements:**

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Positions**

We are filling 8 fisheries biologist positions around the state. I've asked that the exam be open for a month so that applicants would have sufficient time given that hunting seasons and Thanksgiving will overlap with the recruitment period.

These positions will also be posted on the American Fisheries Society website as well. Please forward this information to others that you think would be interested.

The positions are the two positions on Lake Superior, the two treaty biologists, inland positions in Barron, Hayward and Poynette, and a Lake Michigan position.

[http://wisc.jobs/public/job\\_view.asp?annoid=55632&jobid=55147&index=true](http://wisc.jobs/public/job_view.asp?annoid=55632&jobid=55147&index=true)

Thanks! Steve Hewett, Section Chief, Fisheries Policy Section, Bureau of Fisheries Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, (608) 267-7501 or [steven.hewett@wisconsin.gov](mailto:steven.hewett@wisconsin.gov)

### **Environmental Scientist/Engineer – Maple Grove, MN**

Houston Engineering, Inc., a civil engineering, surveying and environmental consulting firm with six locations throughout North Dakota and Minnesota has an immediate opening for an **Environmental Scientist/Engineer** in the Maple Grove, MN location.

Duties include:

- Coordination and management of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies
- Water quality sampling, data analysis and report preparation; Hydrologic analysis
- Preparation of TMDL study reports and implementation plans
- Assist with the preparation of Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements
- Prepare and present projects at public meeting to audiences with varied interests
- Assist with the preparation of watershed plans and technical reports for the management of rural nonpoint pollution and water chemistry
- Business development activities including direct client contract and managing environmental projects

Qualifications:

- Strong statistical skills demonstrated through a minimum of 2 to 4 courses in graduate-school level statistics, which have been applied in the preparation of one or more technical publications or reports
- The ability to work independently, apply reasoning skills and logic to reach technical conclusions
- The ability to independently develop and prepare technical reports with a moderate amount of guidance
- Proficiency with computer software applications in word processing, computer models, spread sheets, data bases GIS and CADD operations.
- Intimate knowledge of the use of GIS in addressing scientific issues

A Master's degree in a scientific discipline including aquatic terrestrial biology, ecology, limnology, natural resources management, soils, and zoology or an appropriate engineering degree is required plus a minimum of 5 years of professional experience addressing environmental issues with civil engineering and water resource projects. An engineer applying for this position MUST understand, be conversant and be technically competent with the biological, ecological, and limnological concepts related to water quality and water resources.

This is a full-time position offering competitive pay and an excellent benefit package including company paid health, dental, vision, short and long term disability, life insurance, PTO, paid holidays, 401(k), and profit sharing.

For consideration, please submit your resume, cover letter, and salary history to: Houston Engineering, Inc.; Human Resources; 1401 21st Avenue North; Fargo, ND 58102; or email [jhardina@houstoneng.com](mailto:jhardina@houstoneng.com).

The website: <http://www.houstonengineeringinc.com/>

**Events:**

November 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Rain in a Dry Land*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families moved to the U.S. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

November 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the workshop: "**Claim the Commons We're in it Together**" at the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato (170 Good Counsel Drive) sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry. In this conference you will learn more about the commons, explore the dangers it is facing, understand our part in protecting it, and find ways to claim and protect it for all. Claiming the commons can instill us with a new vision of politics, culture and community. A new vision of the power we have together. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/commonsworkshop.pdf>

November 21, 2011 (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board meeting** at Camp Sacajawea Lodge (5121 McAndrews Road) in Apple Valley. The Executive Committee meeting starts at 8:00 a.m. and the Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. Agenda items include Asian Carp Planning Process (Tim Schlagenhaft, DNR), Turbidity Reduction Discussion (Paul Nelson, Scott WMO), and Vermillion River Watershed (Mark Zabel, WRWJPO). Full agenda is found at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverboardagendanov.pdf>

December 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Reel Injun*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

December 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Green Fire*** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame (170 Good Counsel Drive) in Mankato at 7:00 p.m. *Green Fire* is the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Many Rivers Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiast, Center for Rural Ministry and Earth Spirituality, and the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304.

January 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Okie Noodling*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of "noodling" still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar>

**[Environmental/Conservation Articles:](#)**

[Legacy reporting: What's there, what's missing from state's website](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). An MPR News analysis shows a quarter of the \$456 million allocated in the first two years of the Legacy Amendment is missing from the [state website](#).

[Reports to public lagging on how Legacy funds being spent](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Nearly three years after Minnesotans authorized a new sales tax to send additional money to conservation, arts and parks, there is no public comprehensive list of the funded projects and their outcomes.

[Editorial: Assault on the EPA comes at a bad time](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). At a time when Congress is assaulting Environmental Protection Agency regulations designed to keep Americans safe, new studies indicate that mercury levels are on the rise once again for some fish and wildlife, according to the Great Lakes Commission.

[Don Shelby: Climate skeptic admits he was wrong](#) (MinnPost). The Los Angeles Times ran a story Thursday under this headline: "[Climate skeptic admits he was wrong to doubt global-warming data](#)."

[Discussion surrounds Legacy funds, Vikings stadium](#) (Faribault Daily News). Minnesota Vikings fans may be excited about the prospect of a new stadium, but the question of funds for the facility is causing some debate.

[Area pols sound off on Legacy option for stadium](#) (Marshall Independent). The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment approved by the voters in 2008 was designed to spread new revenue to everything from wetlands and prairies, to parks and trails, to arts and cultural heritage in Minnesota.

[Sheila Smith: Legacy funds for a Vikings stadium? I hope this proposal isn't serious](#) (MinnPost). Late last week a legislator [floated the idea](#) of using the Legacy Arts and Culture Fund to pay for a Vikings stadium.

[Koch open to using Legacy funds for stadium](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Senate Majority Leader Amy Koch said Thursday she would consider using money from the state's Legacy Amendment for a Vikings stadium.

[Time is ripe for drainage water management](#) (Agri News). Landowners are installing new and additional tile to improve soil productivity at the same time the Natural Resources Conservation Service is releasing reports that show nutrients are leaving farm fields via that subsurface drainage.

*A nation will destroy its land and therefore itself if it does not foster in every possible way the sort of thrifty, prosperous, permanent rural households and communities that have the desire, the skills, and the means to care properly for the land they are using. – Wendell Berry*

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

**The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:**  
<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Thanks,

Scott

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