

From: Terry Woods
Sent: 2/16/2015 1:58:31 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: National Park Service Wilderness Responsibilities

Secretary of the Interior
1825 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to request your assistance in protecting wilderness in the national parks.

Although Congress has designated wilderness in 47 parks, past administrations have recommended that Congress designate federal lands as wilderness in another 19 parks. We would ask you to forward these recommendations to the new Congress.

In addition, there are a number of languishing national park wilderness proposals over which your office possesses authority. The parks include:

• Channel Islands National Park, California, where internal an NPS assessment found over 68,000 acres of the park to be suitable as wilderness;

• Guadalupe National Park, Texas, where an approved wilderness suitability assessment identifies more than 38,000 acres of land both in the additions and original boundaries of Guadalupe Mountains, and

• Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan with another proposed 11,799 acres recommended as wilderness.

While the National Park Service administers more wilderness acres than any other federal agency, the agency has a huge unfinished legacy of long-stalled wilderness proposals that would increase park wilderness by more than half, putting at least an additional 26 million acres – an area the size of Tennessee – under wilderness protection.

In this the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we ask that you advance the wilderness review process for these parks and do whatever is in your power to redeem the orphaned wilderness legacy of the national park system.

Sincerely,

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