

PNTS ENews AGO Listening Session Dates Sent 6-14-2010

America's Great Outdoors Listening Sessions Coming soon to a city near you!

The Obama Administration has announced a second round of Listening Sessions for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. These listening sessions will be crucial opportunities for the National Trails Community to bring the National Trails System into the spotlight as a national priority for the Obama Administration. Please plan on attending at least one of these sessions near you with as many colleagues and organization members as you can round up. The National Trails System needs to have a significant presence in these sessions, so gather as many voices as you can!

June 25	Annapolis, MD
June 28	Charleston, SC
July 1	Seattle, WA
July 8	Los Angeles, CA
July 15	Asheville, NC
July 25	Minneapolis, MN
July 29	Hudson River, NY
August	Maine/New Hampshire
	Anchorage
	Denver

We will send additional updates, specifics, and announcements of additional listening sessions as soon as we are notified about them. We are also preparing press kits so your local media can be alerted to your presence at these sessions.

Background on America's Great Outdoors Initiative

During a White House Conference on April 16th before 600 conservation and environmental leaders from throughout the country, President Obama signed a Memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors. The Initiative will support a 21st century conservation agenda that builds on successes in communities across the country.

The listening sessions mentioned above will be a significant way to have the public contribute ideas and opinions on the direction of America's natural resources. Another major part of this initiative involves an online forum that allows citizens to author and comment on ideas regarding three major categories:

- Reconnect with the Great Outdoors
- Private lands conservation
- Public lands conservation.

The forum can be found at: <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/>

Don't forget to vote for the PNTS-posted idea "Complete the National Trails System"!

Please share this message with leaders and activists in your organizations and other interested allies.