

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 13 Issue 3

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The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an

American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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DEP Announces Testing for Radioactivity of River Water Downstream of Marcellus Water Treatment Plants

Shows Water Is Safe

The Department of Environmental Protection announced results of in-stream water quality monitoring for radioactive material in seven of the commonwealth's rivers. All samples showed levels at or below the normal naturally occurring background levels of radioactivity.

The tests were conducted in November and December of 2010 at stations downstream of wastewater treatment plants that accept

flowback and production water from Marcellus Shale drilling.

"We deal in facts based on sound science," said DEP acting Secretary Michael Krancer.

"Here are the facts: all samples were at or below background levels of radioactivity; and all samples showed levels below the federal drinking water standard for Radium 226 and 228."

Krancer said that these sampling stations were installed last fall specifically to monitor stream quality for po-

tential impacts of Marcellus development.

Krancer explained that the water tested is the raw water in the river before it enters public water suppliers' intakes where the water receives further treatment.

The river testing stations that were evaluated are the Monongahela at Charleroi in Washington County; South Fork Ten Mile Creek in Greene County; Conemaugh in

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EPA Approves New Coolant for Car Air Conditioning Systems

Better climate protection without harming the ozone layer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has is-

sued final approval for a new refrigerant for use in motor vehicle air conditioning systems that does not deplete the ozone layer, which helps protect the envi-

ronment and people's health. The new chemical, HFO-1234yf, may now be used in air conditioning for new cars

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Testing for Radioactivity of River (continued)



Indiana County; Allegheny at Kennerdell in Venango County; Beaver in Beaver County; Tioga in Tioga County; and the West Branch of the Susquehanna in Lycoming County.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

EPA Approves New Coolant for Car Air Conditioning Systems

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and light trucks. When used appropriately, this chemical can reduce the environmental impact of motor vehicle air conditioners and has a global warming potential that is 99.7 percent less than the current chemical (HFC-134a) used in most car air conditioners.

"This new chemical helps fight climate change and ozone depletion," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "It is homegrown innovative solutions like this that save lives and strengthen our economy."

EPA assists in the transition to green technologies by identifying alternatives that are better for people's health and the environment. EPA's recent standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty motor vehicles provide an opportunity for automakers to receive credit for adopting a chemical with less

climate impact as a cost-effective way to meet the new standards. Using HFO-1234yf is one option available to automakers.

Prior to HFC-134a, car air conditioners generally used CFC-12, a potent greenhouse gas and ozone-depleting substance. Depleting the stratospheric ozone

layer leads to higher levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation reaching the Earth's surface. UV radiation has several harmful effects, including skin cancer, cataracts, immune system suppression, and premature aging and wrinkling of the skin. For these reasons, it is important to

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EPA Approves New Coolant for Car Air Conditioning Systems

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check the UV Index and remember sun safety: wear hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen.



Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

President Obama Announces Plan for Community-Based Conservation through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative

President Barack Obama announced the administration's action plan, under the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, to achieve lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power our nation's economy, shape our culture, and build our outdoor traditions. This initiative seeks to

reinvigorate our approach to conservation and reconnect Americans, especially young people, with the lands and waters that are used for farming and ranching, hunting and fishing, and for families to spend quality time together. Recognizing that many of these places and re-

sources are under intense pressure, the president established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative last April to work with the American people in developing a conservation and recreation agenda that makes sense for the 21st century.

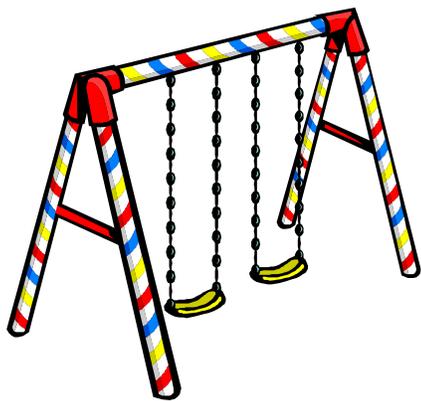
The report released today outlines ways in which the federal government will help empower local communities to accomplish their conservation and recreation priorities by recognizing that the best ideas come from outside of Washington. Last summer, senior administration officials held

51 listening sessions across the country to gather input from Americans about the outdoor places and activities that they value most. These sessions drew more than 10,000 participants and more than 105,000 written comments, shaping an action plan that, based on local initiatives and support, when implemented will result in:

- Accessible parks or green spaces for our children.
- A new generation of great urban parks and community green spaces.

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Plan for Community-Based Conservation through the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative (continued)



- Newly-restored river restorations and recreational “blueways” that power economic revitalization in communities.
- Stronger support for farmers, ranchers, and private landowners that help protect rural landscapes and provide access for recreation.
- The reinvestment of revenues from oil and gas extraction into the permanent protection of parks, open spaces,

wildlife habitat, and access for recreational activities.

- A 21st century conservation ethic that builds on local ideas and solutions for environmental stewardship and connects to our historic, cultural, and natural heritage.

“With children spending half as much time outside as their parents did, and with many Americans living in urban areas without safe access to green space,

connecting to the outdoors is more important than ever for the economic and physical health of our communities,” said Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. “Through the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, this administration will work together with communities to ensure clean and accessible lands and waters, thriving outdoor cul-

tures and economies, and healthy and active youth.”

“The America’s Great Outdoors Initiative is born out of a conversation with the American people about what matters most to them about the places where they live, work, and play,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said. “It’s about practical, common-sense

ideas from the American people on how our natural, cultural, and historic resources can help us be a more competitive, stronger, and healthier nation. Together, we are adapting our conservation strategies to meet the challenges of today and empowering communities to protect and preserve our working lands and natural landscapes for generations to come.”

“America’s farmlands and woodlands help fuel our economy and create jobs across the rural areas of our country,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “This plan seeks to work in partnership with landowners, conservation groups, states and others to conserve our working

lands and our public lands and to reconnect Americans – especially our nation’s youth – with opportunities to stay active. This blueprint was developed with input from the over 100,000 Americans in all corners of our country who joined our national listening sessions and who contributed their ideas online.”

“This initiative is an effort to reconnect Americans with the valuable resources all around them and shape a 21st century plan for protecting our great outdoors,” said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson.

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Plan for Community-Based Conservation through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (continued)



“It is important that our waters, lands and greenspaces are brought back into our daily lives. President Obama’s initiative will help make these critical resources a national focus once again, and involve people of every background in conservation of the places that we hold dear.”

Specifically, the report calls for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, establish-

ing a 21st century Conservation Service Corps to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration, and extending the deduction for conservation easement donations on private lands beyond 2011, among other measures.

The full report and additional information is available at:
<http://www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov>

Source: U.S. EPA

What are Invasive Species?

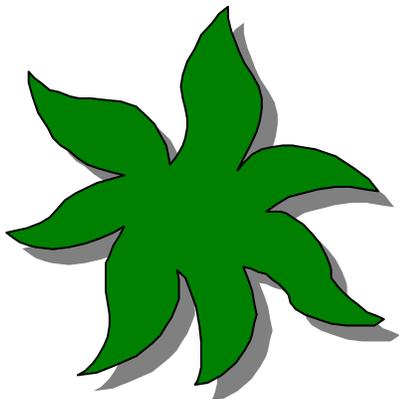
Invasive species are organisms that are introduced into a non-native ecosystem and which cause, or are likely to cause, harm to the economy, environment or human health. It is important to note that when we talk

about a species being invasive, we are talking about environmental boundaries, not political ones. In addition to the many invasive species from outside the U.S., there are many species from within the U.S. that are in-

vasive in other parts of the country.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the only agency of the U.S. Government whose primary responsibility is the conservation of the nation’s fish, wildlife, and

What are Invasive Species? (continued)



plants. Because of our responsibilities, the Service is very concerned about the impacts that invasive species are having across the Nation. Invasive plants and animals have many impacts on fish and wildlife resources. Invasive species degrade, change or displace native habitats and compete with our native wildlife and are thus harmful to our fish, wildlife and plant resources.

For more information...

- News and Resources - Information and links to FWS Frequently Asked Questions, Invasive Species related contacts, Injurious wildlife information, and links to information on specific species.
- What You Can Do - Information and links on what you can do to prevent the introduction and
 - FWS Invasive

spread of invasive species.

- Invasive Species Activities - Learn more about what the Service is doing under various common categories of invasive species activities.

Programs - Find invasive species information for a specific Service program.

- Partnerships and Grants - See how the Service works with other stakeholders to address invasive species.

- Laws and Regulations - Links to the various pieces of legislation under which the Service operates.

Source: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

EPA Announces New Energy Star Requirements for Televisions and Cable/Satellite Boxes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the completion of updates to the Energy Star requirements for televisions and cable and satellite boxes. Effective in Septem-

ber 2011, these products must be 40 percent more efficient than conventional models in order to qualify for the Energy Star label. The updates are the first of more than 20 revisions to product requirements the Energy Star pro-

gram is expected to complete this year.

The new television requirements reflect an acceleration of pending

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EPA Announces New Energy Star Requirements for Televisions and Cable/Satellite Boxes (continued)

changes made possible by a rapid market response to the current Energy Star requirements. Sustained consumer demand and strong retailer support for the program could lead to sales of the current Energy Star qualified televisions representing as much as 70 percent of the market this year. With more than 19 million large screen (greater than 40 inches) televisions expected to ship this year, this means substantial overall energy bill savings and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reductions. For exam-

ple, under the new requirements, a 60 inch television must use less than 108 watts, compared to the average 282 watts used by a standard model that size.

The new Energy Star requirements for cable and satellite boxes specify that they enter a deep sleep mode while not in use, dropping their energy consumption from about 16 watts to 2 watts or less. The new requirements also encourage the deployment of multi-room “thin client” devices to transmit pro-

gramming from one central DVR to other televisions in the home.

In order to earn the Energy Star label under these new requirements, product performance must be certified by an EPA-recognized third-party based on testing in an EPA-recognized lab. In addition, manufacturers of the products must participate in verification testing programs run by recognized Certification Bodies. If all televisions, cable and satellite boxes in the U.S.



were to meet the new Energy Star requirements, consumer energy cost savings would grow to more than \$5 billion each year and reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions equal to those of more than 7 million cars.

More information on TVs:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.television_spec

More information on cable/satellite boxes:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.settop_box_spec

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency