



50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

1964-2014

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the 50th Conference Planning Committee, we would very much appreciate you delivering a keynote address at the **National Wilderness Conference** in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**. The 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson—the law establishing the National Wilderness Preservation System—gives us the opportunity to celebrate one of our nation’s most significant conservation achievements.

The conference will be held **October 15-19, 2014**, at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. If you accept our invitation, then please let us know your first and second choices of keynote session dates and times, so we can best work within your schedule:

- (1) The evening of Wednesday October 15th
- (2) The morning of Thursday October 16th
- (3) The evening of Thursday October 16th
- (4) The afternoon of Friday October 17th
- (5) The morning of Saturday October 18th
- (6) The afternoon of Saturday October 18th
- (7) The evening of Saturday October 18th
- (8) The morning of Sunday October 19th

First Choice (enter number) _____

Second Choice (enter number) _____

You will be appearing before a diverse group of conservation advocates, public land professionals and government representatives. Attendees will include employees of U.S. federal land-managing agencies, representatives from environmental and Wilderness NGOs, academic institutions and Native peoples. The National Wilderness Conference is being designed to encourage dialogue among all the people and organizations needed for the conservation of Wilderness and other kinds of protected areas.

We would like to ask you to reflect on where you see wilderness going in the near future, particularly with respect to changing demographics and climate change. There has been considerable discussion in the past few years as to whether Wilderness has a role in today’s environment. With increasing demands from society, can we afford to leave these large blocks of land undeveloped and relatively free from man’s influence? In contrast some advocates speak of an expanded system, which creates linkages and preserves key habitats or watersheds.

Conference details can be found at the conference website <http://www.wilderness50th.org/conference>. There is an incredible group of sponsors that have come together for this conference; you can see the listing at this web site: <http://www.wilderness50th.org/about.php?useraction=about-sponsors>

Your point of contact: Lee Lambert, Executive Director, Society for Wilderness Stewardship. Phone: 303-670-1642 Email: leelambert55@gmail.com. Please email your first and second choices.

Thank you again for considering our invitation. We look forward to working with you.

Garry Oye---Vicky Hoover---Tisha Broska---Susan Fox---Lisa Eidson
National Park Service---Sierra Club---New Mexico Wilderness Alliance---Forest Service---Wilderness Institute