

CONSERVATION ROUNDTABLE

The Hon. Barack Obama, The Hon. John Boehner, The Hon. Harry Reid

April 3, 2013

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Majority Leader:

We have gathered recently to renew our commitment to the original premises of American conservation and to find practical ways to make stewardship today more inclusive, concerted, and effective. Important aspects of this vision are evident in the recent designations of five National Monuments.

These new National Monuments represent the diversity of America, its unity, and its beauty. The Colonel Charles Young home is an important marker of diversity and conservation, as Col. Young was the first African-American superintendent of a National Park. The designations in Delaware and Maryland likewise commemorate firsts, greatness, and beauty in America's natural and cultural history. The monuments in New Mexico and the San Juan Islands culminate the work of many in long-running deliberations to conserve these valuable landscapes.

These elements - respect for America's cultural diversity; collaboration that brings divergent views to actionable decisions; and natural beauty that draws people and inspires them toward acts of stewardship - are ones we believe to be fundamental to a renewed, productive environmental conservation agenda.

We write to encourage greater effort in like-minded actions. As more projects and initiatives embody these ideals, we believe more progress will be made in bringing Americans together to preserve and build upon our national conservation legacy.



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