

## U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

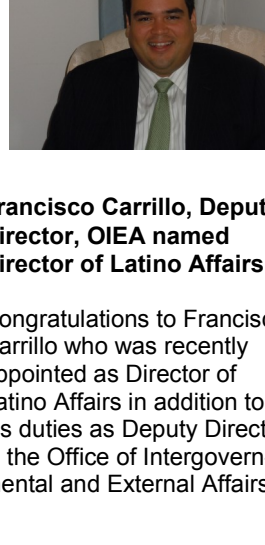
### Message from Gail Adams, Director OIEA

For the past few weeks, our thoughts have been with the victims of the recent western wildfires. The Department of Interior worked with other federal partners to combat these fires, and support those citizens in need of help. Overall, federal partners deployed 11 Incident Management Teams (IMT), National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) teams, and an Area Command Team to help provide a coordinated and aggressive response to wildfires across the country. These teams have been strategically assigned to highly complex wildfires such as, the Waldo Canyon Fire near Colorado Springs, Colorado, the Dahl and Ash Creek fires in Montana, the Seeley and Fontenelle Fires in Wyoming, and others.

We wish the best for the families affected by the wildfires and hope for a speedy recovery.

Gail Adams

July 30, 2012



**Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director, OIEA named Director of Latino Affairs**

### New Report: Interior Activities Contributed \$385 Billion to Economy, Supported Over 2 Million Jobs in FY 2011

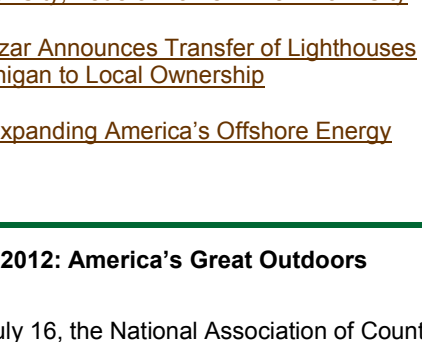
From facilitating energy development to managing America's public lands for tourism and outdoor recreation to assisting Indian tribes with education and economic growth, the activities of the Department of the Interior contributed \$385 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 2 million jobs in 2011, according to a [new report](#) released today.

"The Interior Department has a uniquely diverse mission that benefits the American people by promoting tourism, outdoor recreation, energy development and other economic activities that fuel local economies," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "This report underscores that there are real, lasting impacts on communities and small businesses across the country where Interior is helping to strengthen economies and support families."

The report, The Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions, highlights the impacts of the Department's broad mission, including land and water management; energy and mineral development on public lands; encouraging tourism and outdoor recreation at national parks, monuments and refuges; wildlife conservation, hunting and fishing; support for American Indian tribal communities and Insular Areas; and scientific research and innovation.

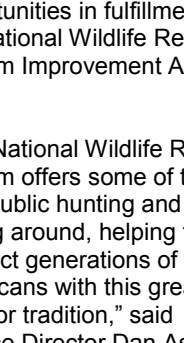
Prepared by Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, today's report underscores the findings of other studies on the economic impacts of Interior Department lands and programs. For example, an earlier study found that recreation in national parks, refuges, and other public lands alone led to nearly \$47 billion in economic contribution and 388,000 jobs in 2010.

Picture: Secretary Salazar and Mayor Bloomberg announce a partnership to cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of city and federal parks in New York City. Credit: Tami Heilemann



Congratulations to Francisco Carrillo who was recently appointed as Director of Latino Affairs in addition to his duties as Deputy Director in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs.

### Bureau Update: Fish and Wildlife Service



### Service Proposes New Hunting Opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges in Fourteen States

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced a proposal to open one new refuge to hunting and to expand hunting opportunities at 16 national wildlife refuges in 14 states. If approved, the proposal would provide additional public hunting opportunities in fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

"The National Wildlife Refuge System offers some of the best public hunting and fishing around, helping to connect generations of Americans with this great outdoor tradition," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "Our goal is to increase hunting opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, wherever these opportunities are compatible with refuge purposes."

Notice of the proposal was published in the Federal Register on July 11, 2012; the public has until August 10, 2012, to comment on the proposed changes. To comment on the proposed hunting rule changes, please click here or visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/huntFishRegs.html>

### NACPRO Conference 2012: America's Great Outdoors

Pittsburgh, PA — On July 16, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) hosted a session on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative. President Obama launched this initiative in 2010 to develop a 21st Century agenda for conservation, outdoor recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors. Will Shafroth, Counselor to the Secretary for America's Great Outdoors and OIEA Deputy Director Francisco Carrillo represented the Interior Department at this event.

Will Shafroth led a discussion on innovative ways the Department is partnering with local governments and how counties can work more effectively with the federal government to advance its conservation and recreation projects. R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation (Arizona) also addressed the crowd and spoke about a successful AGO project occurring in his county. The project is in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and is expanding recreational opportunities in his county.

### DOI Urban Initiatives: Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership, Restoring Waters and Increasing Access

Over two million visitors a year flock to Northwest Indiana to enjoy the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore—15 miles of sandy beaches along Lake Michigan. Tourists camp in the woods, or hike, bike, and ride over 45 miles of trails over rugged dunes, wetlands, sunny prairies, meandering rivers, and peaceful forests. While the Dunes has much to offer in the way of recreational activities, its rivers and streams are severely degraded from decades of unregulated combined sewage overflows (CSOs) and industrial outflows. Past efforts to stop further pollution and reverse the damage to the rivers has met resistance from landowners and businesses alike.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership program — a key initiative of America's Great Outdoors — has proven to be a driving force in uniting landowners, NGOs, and local, state and federal agencies behind an effort to stop pollution of the waterways and make them safe for recreational use. The Grand Calumet River, Little Calumet River and Trail Creek are the main focus of the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Pilot.

The partnership has formed three committees to address the waterways with oversight by Natalie Johnson, who was hired by local partner Save the Dunes with funding from the Forest Service. Natalie, as the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Ambassador, will be coordinating meetings for the focus groups and the partnership, notifying partners of funding and grant opportunities, assisting Save the Dunes with various projects, coordinating project activities among the various partners, and disseminating information relevant to the Urban Waters program.

The Little Calumet River committee, led by Save the Dunes, is developing a watershed plan that addresses non-point source pollution, CSOs levels, obstructions in the river, Emerald Ash borer that is attacking large stands of trees along the river, and creating access to the river for recreational use. A portion of the river flows through the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore whose management plan does not currently have a provision for access to the river for recreational use. The park plans to remove downed trees from the river and to create universal access to the river for paddling and fishing.

Article courtesy of Lisa Pelstring, Advisor, Urban Environmental Issues and the Anacostia Watershed, Office of the Deputy Secretary and America's Great Outdoors

### Let's Move Outside: Outdoor Lab (Arlington, VA) Provides Outdoor Education for Arlington County Public School Students

In honor of the First Lady's *Let's Move Outside!* initiative, I am excited to share an example of how one of our local partners provides outdoor educational and recreational opportunities for children outside the urban Beltway setting. This past weekend, I had the honor of touring the Outdoor Lab, located in Broad Run, Va. A partnership between the Arlington Outdoor Education Association and Arlington (Va) Public Schools, the Outdoor Lab is a natural classroom where urban youth can run in a meadow, climb a mountain, or hike beside a stream or fish in a pond. Visiting the Outdoor Lab allows children to see the fun and value of education and to learn, not only about the environment and the outdoors, but also experience hands-on learning. Additionally, campers and students learn to build and sleep in "lean-to's," identify trees and plants, develop land navigation skills, and enjoy swimming, fishing, and kayaking in the large pond. Since 1967, the Outdoor Lab has hosted thousands of kids enrolled in 3rd grade through high school from the Arlington County public schools system both as a part of the schools' science curriculum, and during their overnight summer camps.

Located on historic grounds, the Outdoor Lab is known to be a civil war era stomping ground for Southern troops, and may have possible ties to the Underground Railroad. The significance of the land is what I found most fascinating — children are learning and enjoying the same space that holds incredibly valuable historic meaning to our country. The commitment of the Outdoor Lab staff and the Arlington Outdoor Education Association to preservation and conservation of this roughly 210-acre property will keep these lands sacred as well continue to provide learning opportunities for children. This was the vision of the Outdoor Lab's founder—Dr. Phoebe Hall Knippling—who was the first female Science Supervisor in the State of Virginia.

As a kid, I spent the majority of my days outside, but wish I had the opportunity to spend time more time in the wilderness, a vastly different setting than my structured neighborhood development with tree lined streets. The Outdoor Lab has been a leader in outdoor education for over 40 years, and teaches children valuable lessons and skills such as: self-confidence, resiliency, and leadership. The Outdoor Lab embodies the spirit of Let's Move Outside! and teaches us that using nature as a classroom will mold our youth into avid recreationists and future stewards of the environment.

This article is courtesy of Isra Pananon, Special Assistant, OIEA. To learn more about the Outdoor Lab, visit [www.outdoorlab.org](http://www.outdoorlab.org).

### Meet the Staff: Valerie Smith, Program Assistant



Favorite National Park:

[East Potomac Park](#)

Valerie V. Smith joined the Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs (OIEA) in May 2012. Valerie came to OIEA after five years of with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she provided administrative and programmatic support to the Assistant Director. Prior to her time at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Valerie worked at the Department of Agriculture. To date, Valerie has served in the federal government for more than 10 years.

Valerie is currently seeking a Bachelor's degree in Business Management at Ashworth College.

## U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

### STAFF:

Gail Adams, Director  
Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director, Director, Latino Affairs  
Terri Johnson, Deputy Director  
Vicki Dixon, Program Analyst  
Isra Pananon, Special Assistant  
Marc Littlejohn, Special Assistant  
Valerie Smith, Program Assistant  
Jarrid Green, Intern  
Michael Beals, Intern

### CONTACT:

[OIEA@ios.doi.gov](mailto:OIEA@ios.doi.gov)  
(202) 208-2923