

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508

June 13, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I write to you today to voice my serious opposition to Secretarial Order 3321, the “National Blueways System” and the designation as such for the White River Watershed.

This new designation will directly impact numerous areas located in Missouri’s 8th Congressional District. Not the least of which is the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers which make up the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The waters that flow through this part of our state are a vital part of the local culture and tradition to the people that live and work along them. They are also the life blood of the local economies. It is very disturbing to me that any federal agency would attempt to implement any type of initiative with open ended guidelines and no Congressional oversight that could potentially harm the hard working Missourians I represent.

I have serious concerns over the apparent attempt by your agency to call this a “local initiative” while local groups and governments in my district have been excluded in this process. The absence of transparency by your agency on this issue has only fueled my concerns that this is nothing more than an attempt by a federal agency to gain more control over the designated watersheds.

It is my strong opinion that no such programs should be created without Congressional consideration and extensive input from the local areas impacted. I urge you to rescind Secretarial Order 3321 the “National Blueways System” immediately.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS