Withdrawal of the Designation of the
White River National Blueway

Whereas: Secretarial Order 3321 established the National Blueways System as a program to recognize river systems conserved through diverse stakeholder partnerships that use a comprehensive watershed approach to resource stewardship.

Whereas: National Blueways are nationally and regionally significant rivers and their watersheds are highly valued recreational, social, economic, cultural, and ecological assets for the communities that depend on them.

Whereas: The National Blueways System is intended to help promote best practices, share information and resources, and encourage active and collaborative stewardship of rivers across the country.

Whereas: Secretarial Order 3321 states that nothing in the Order is intended to authorize or affect the use of private property, or to be the basis for the exercise of any new regulatory authority.

Whereas: On August 24, 2012, a wide array of state and local stakeholders involved with the White River Watershed in Arkansas and Missouri nominated their river system for recognition as a National Blueway and demonstrated their interests in the river, its watershed, and the accompanying recreational, natural, and economic resources.

Whereas: On October 23, 2012, the National Blueways Committee established by Secretarial Order 3321 met to review this nomination and recommend the designation of the White River Watershed in Arkansas and Missouri as the Nation's second National Blueway.

Whereas: On January 8, 2013, Secretary Ken Salazar designated the White River and its watershed as a National Blueway, finding that the White River meets the criteria required for designation and noting the efforts of many partner organizations that have benefitted the White River watershed residents and visitors through conservation and restoration of the river and its watershed; expanded environmental education and interpretive efforts; increased economic opportunities; and enhanced recreational access to the river, its tributaries, and public land in the watershed.

Whereas: In letters dated June 28, 2013, and July 2, 2013, State and local stakeholders involved with the nomination of the White River Watershed as a National Blueway requested that the National Blueway designation be withdrawn from the White River watershed.

Whereas: On July 2, 2013, the National Blueways Committee reviewed the State letter and, in recognition of the wishes of State and local partners, recommended that the designation be withdrawn.

Therefore: Based on the foregoing, I hereby withdraw the designation of the White River and its Watershed as a National Blueway and order the National Blueways Committee to advise the nominating stakeholder partnership of the withdrawal of the National Blueway designation.

Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior

Date: JUL 03 2013