



For Immediate Release
February 6, 2013

Contact: Desiree Sorenson-Groves
dgroves@refugeassociation.org
(202) 290-5593

NWRA Applauds Nomination of Sally Jewell as Secretary of the Interior

The National Wildlife Refuge Association today announced its strong support for President Obama's nomination of Sally Jewell to become the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Jewell is currently the CEO of Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) and has played an instrumental role promoting outdoor recreation with the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative. Her appreciation of nature and wild things as well as her knowledge of the economic benefits of our natural world will bring a unique perspective in the President's cabinet.

"Outdoor recreation generates over \$1 trillion for our nation's economy and more than 8 million jobs," said David Houghton, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "Jewell will undoubtedly be an excellent leader for the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative and will continue to bring attention to our nation's great public lands."

Jewell has earned national recognition for her management skills of the nearly \$2 billion outdoor equipment company, REI, and intimately understands the value of healthy ecosystems including the opportunities they provide for people to recreate and connect with the great outdoors.

"Sally Jewell has been a leader in the outdoor recreation industry using innovative strategies to protect and restore wildlife habitat throughout the Pacific Northwest and across the country; as Secretary of the Interior, she will have an opportunity to articulate and implement a larger conservation vision for the nation," said Houghton. "We wish her a speedy confirmation and look forward to working with her to further the goals and mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge System."

If confirmed by the Senate, Jewell will lead the Department of the Interior—the department responsible for the management and conservation of most federal land and natural resources. Additionally, the department is charged with the administration of programs relating to Native peoples.

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity.