

## **SPEAKERS: Green Budget Teleconference**

### **Overview and Context of Green Budget:**

William H. (Bill) Meadows

President

The Wilderness Society ([www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org))

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“Many of these programs have been systematically marginalized and ignored over the past eight years, and we must begin to restore adequate funding to them through the regular appropriations process. Funding for individual land-management programs is low, and staff cuts have made it increasingly difficult for the agencies to achieve their mission on the ground. The new administration has a unique opportunity in the FY 2010 budget to provide jobs and restore economic vitality to many areas in need, while also beginning to address the impacts of global warming. Our natural resources provide economic growth in perpetuity, and investing in them provides our country with long term, lasting benefits.”

### **Lands and Wildlife:**

Mary Beth Beetham

Director of Legislative Affairs

Defenders of Wildlife ([www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org))

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“America’s public lands and wildlife are not only anchors for healthy natural systems, they are also important to our economy, helping to support at least 6.5 million jobs across the nation. The programs that support these vital resources are chronically under-funded, but smart investments will pay returns many times over the years to come. And the value of preserving our natural heritage is immeasurable.”

### **Energy:**

Heather V. Taylor-Miesle

Energy Consultant

Natural Resources Defense Council ([www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org))

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“The economic recovery package made smart investments that will repower America with clean energy and create new jobs quickly. Congress can make good on this down payment with a budget that keeps us on a path to a clean energy economy. By providing the necessary funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency, we can help end our dependence on oil and ensure that America has the tools to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

## **Speakers, Green Budget Teleconference, cont'd**

### **Transportation:**

Colin Peppard  
Federal Transportation Program Manager  
Friends of the Earth ([www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org))  
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“Over the past several years, many innovative transportation programs that protect our environment and reduce pollution have been underfunded, reducing their effectiveness, and increasing the environmental impacts of transportation,” Peppard said. “Our transportation budget recommendations ensure we are once again promoting clean air and water, reducing oil use and global warming, and protecting wildlife and open space.”

### **Environment and Public Health:**

Peter Raabe  
Policy Director for Budget and Appropriations  
American Rivers ([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org))  
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"Nothing is more vital to the health and well-being of our communities than clean water and clean air. “With global warming presenting new challenges to our water, air and public health, we must increase our investments to protect communities from pollution, boost quality of life, and chart a new path to a green economy.”

### **Oceans:**

Roberta Elias  
Senior Program Officer, Marine and Fisheries Policy  
World Wildlife Fund ([www.wwfus.org](http://www.wwfus.org))  
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“Our oceans and coasts are more than a place where people visit. They generate a \$117 billion in economic revenues each year, provide us with food and recreation, and are home to fish and marine wildlife. On top of that, oceans play a critical role in regulating our climate. Unfortunately, ocean health, fisheries sustainability, and marine biodiversity face a growing list of pressures including poorly planned development, damaging fishing levels and practices, pollution of all kinds, as well as global warming and ocean acidification. Putting ocean conservation and management on hold is no longer an option. It is time that we properly invest in the very marine ecosystems and resources – at home and around the world – that we depend on to provide basic ecological functions, to support economies and coastal communities, and to feed a hungry planet.”

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUE EXPERTS: Green Budget Teleconference**

### **National Forests/Fire Management**

Cecilia Clavet

National Forest Policy Analyst

The Wilderness Society ([www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org))

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“We look forward to working with the new administration in re-prioritizing programs to achieve the goals of restoring our national forests. One important first step is to address the effects that increasing fire costs have had on agency programs. This can be accomplished by creating a partitioned account for emergency fires and by more accurately estimating the costs of fire suppression.”

### **Land Acquisition**

Alan Rowsome

Conservation Advocacy Associate

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“As global warming continues to imperil plant and animal species, land acquisition will be critical to help our public lands adapt to the effects of climatic change and mitigate its impacts. Acquiring critical inholdings also allows the land management agencies to manage their lands more effectively and helps return balance to our communities by providing recreational and conservation opportunities that lead to higher property values and economic vitality.”

### **Tribal Issues**

Jerry Pardilla

Executive Director

National Tribal Environmental Council ([www.ntec.org](http://www.ntec.org))

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"Indian tribes have been underfunded by federal agencies for quite some time, leaving tribal communities vulnerable to the greatest of environmental threats, namely global warming. The money earmarked for tribes in the Green Budget will not only help such tribes to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of global warming, but will also assist them in the day-to-day protection of their respective environments."

## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

Stephanie Young, Esq.  
NEPA Campaign Coordinator  
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“The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has served as a foundation for environmental protection since 1970 and has contributed greatly to the level of environmental quality Americans enjoy today. It is essential that agencies receive proper funding for its implementation. Over the past decade, federal agencies have not received adequate resources to implement their NEPA responsibilities, which is critical to carrying out successful projects. With proper funding, analysis, and environmental review, agencies will be able to move forward with the transparency necessary to garner the support of the American people and the tools needed to ensure our environment will not be in harm’s way.”

## **Alaska Arctic Issues**

Kristen Miller  
Government Affairs Director  
Alaska Wilderness League ([www.alaskawild.org](http://www.alaskawild.org))  
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“The Arctic has been called the ‘least studied and most poorly understood area on Earth.’ We have a unique opportunity to take a step back before we lose this unique area forever. We need to provide funding to study the resources of America's Arctic so as to truly assess the effects of climate change and oil and gas development on this irreplaceable ecosystem. We should take a time-out on all industrial activity until we have the tools necessary to develop a comprehensive energy plan. Otherwise, we will doom ourselves to repeating the past with dire consequences that we will end up paying for down the road.”

## **International Conservation Funding**

Will Gartshore  
Policy Associate  
World Wildlife Fund ([www.wwfus.org](http://www.wwfus.org))  
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“Scientists believe that we are dealing with a biodiversity crisis in which fully half of all species on the planet could face extinction by the end of this century. Efforts to conserve global biodiversity are closely intertwined with U.S. development goals and essential to our long-term health and security, yet US government funding for international conservation currently amounts to less than one-hundredth of one-hundredth of one percent of the federal budget. Given existing needs and the growing impacts of global climate change, greater U.S. investment in these areas is urgently needed.”

### **Marine Conservation Biology**

Kassandra Cervený, Congressional Relations Manager  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute ([www.mcbi.org](http://www.mcbi.org))

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“We are at a critical point in ocean management and have the opportunity to take important steps to alter many years of neglect and exploitation. We can reverse the decline of the only endangered marine mammal—the Hawaiian monk seal—whose distribution range is entirely within American waters. We can protect deep sea coral areas while we learn about them, rather than see them disappear before we even know where they are and what secrets they hold. We can have treasured American marine and Great Lakes areas protected for future generations through the National Marine Sanctuary Program. We can do all of this and so much more with simple funding decisions—decisions that reflect prioritization of our ocean health. We *can* do this and our ocean needs us to.”

### **Environmental Education**

Patrick Fitzgerald

Senior Legislative Representative, Environmental Education Campaigns

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“As America moves toward a green economy, Congress must make significant investments in environmental and sustainability education and training. Environmental education is a once-in-a-lifetime golden opportunity to generate the human capital America needs to implement new solutions that will strengthen our economy, achieve energy independence, and secure our new clean energy future.”

### **State Program Funding**

Raenell Nagel

Senior Director of Policy & Strategic Planning

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"More than ever, the federal budget represents a critical source of funding for environmental projects in Ohio. Even as our state administration struggles to bridge budget shortfalls by increasing existing fees and establishing new fees, our state agencies still will experience a significant decline in the valuable general revenue funds that help us to protect our air, soil, and water resources."