



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240



April 22, 2005

## **A Statement by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton about Capital River Relief 2005**

First, let me say that cleaning up the Potomac and Anacostia rivers is of the utmost importance to me. Like all of you involved with the Capital River Relief project, I firmly believe that the Potomac and Anacostia deserve continued attention and restoration.

With that in mind, I commend and congratulate all who have participated in Capital River Relief 2005!

For the past 23 days, volunteers have worked tirelessly to clean up and restore the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds. To all who have given their time and energy to this project, on behalf of everyone at the United States Department of the Interior, and on behalf of the current and future generations who will benefit from your work, you can rest assured that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

With last year's Capital River Relief project having resulted in the removal of a full barge of refuse from the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, we at the Department of the Interior eagerly awaited this year's effort.

I am proud to report that our department, led by Take Pride in America<sup>®</sup>, played a strong role in Capital River Relief 2005. On April 9, dozens of volunteers representing the Department of the Interior helped remove debris from the banks of the Potomac River. By the end of the day, the group had collected 564 bags of garbage, 18 tires, four metal barrels and two newspaper dispensers, while focusing on two high-trash areas along the Potomac.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the Department of the Interior was also represented by volunteers from the Bureau of Reclamation (led by Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Minerals Management Service, the National Business Center, the National Park Service, the Office of the Inspector General, the



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Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Solicitor, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Needless to say, after such a prolific day of work, our volunteers went home that night feeling energized by what they had achieved!

Since Capital River Relief 2005 began on March 31, Living Lands & Waters – an enterprise focused on the protection, preservation and restoration of the Nation's major rivers and their watersheds – has provided boats and top-notch crews to insure that volunteers would benefit from expert guidance. And each day during the Capital River Relief project, Living Lands & Waters crew members have transported all collected rubbish to a barge. From there, the trash has been sorted and either recycled or taken to a landfill.

Thank you, Living Lands & Waters!

And we appreciate the dedicated coalition of environmental groups, businesses, and community and government organizations that made the Capital River Relief project a reality. Thank you to the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Anacostia Watershed Society, Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Earth Conservation Corps and Potomac Conservancy.

Thank you to the partners that supported this wonderful project, including Koch Industries Inc., Whole Foods Markets, Pepco, Mimi's American Bistro, Ritz Camera & Image, and Rosenthal Automotive.

Each and every one of you did your part to make Capital River Relief 2005 successful!

Once again, congratulations on another outstanding Capital River Relief effort, and I look forward to next year!