

Week Ending Friday, April 27, 2007

Statement on Earth Day

April 20, 2007

As we observe the 38th Earth Day this Sunday, we celebrate the rich blessings of our Nation's natural resources, and we renew our commitment to protecting our environment so we leave our children and grandchildren a flourishing land.

By encouraging cooperative conservation, innovation, and new technologies, my administration has compiled a strong environmental record. This Earth Day, harmful air pollutant levels are down more than 10 percent since 2001. Millions more Americans are drinking cleaner, safer water. We have removed hazardous fuels from more than 19 million acres of Federal land. We have created, restored, or protected more than 2.5 million acres of wetlands, and we have conserved almost 200 million of acres of habitat through Farm Bill conservation programs. And we are taking positive steps to confront the important challenge of climate change. Our work is not done. We also have a responsibility to pass on to future generations our commitment to the environment.

To do so, we must ensure that future generations have a strong connection to nature. This will require working together to protect and conserve not only nationally significant natural wonders but also local parks, ponds, and working lands where parents and mentors can teach young people about the outdoors through recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, biking, and nature watching. And we must also encourage Americans of all ages to get involved in conservation-related volunteer activities.

I call on all Americans to commemorate this Earth Day by recommitting to being good stewards of our land and oceans. When we do so, we take an important step forward to a more vibrant future for our country.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8130—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2007

April 20, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to underscore our commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and to recognize those who bring hope and healing to these individuals and their families. During this week, we especially remember and mourn the victims of the senseless acts of violence at Virginia Tech. A grieving Nation honors the innocent lives lost in this tragedy, and we pray for the families of the victims.

My Administration is committed to helping safeguard our communities and to ensuring that the rights of those who have been victimized by crime are protected. My Family Justice Center Initiative, announced in 2003, is now providing assistance and services for victims of domestic violence at centers nationwide. Additionally, last year I signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which helps protect our youth by increasing the penalties for crimes against children and creating a National Child Abuse Registry. My Administration also supports a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution to further protect the basic rights of crime victims.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year, we remember and are grateful to our Nation's victim service providers, volunteers, law enforcement, and community organizations that support victims of crime through their commitment and compassion. To find out more information about victims' rights and volunteer opportunities, individuals may visit www.crimevictims.gov. Together, we can

help ensure that crime victims have the rights and protections they deserve.

Now, Therefore I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 28, 2007, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to help raise awareness and promote the cause of victims' rights in their communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:52 a.m., April 24, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8131—National Park Week, 2007

April 20, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans take great pride in our country's natural beauty, and our Nation is blessed to have a park system of more than 80 million acres that belongs to us all. During National Park Week, we underscore our dedication to conserving these national treasures, and we pay tribute to the dedicated employees and volunteers of the National Park Service who care for them.

Established in 1916, the National Park Service now oversees a National Park System that has grown to include almost 400 sites, with parks in nearly every State. These parks protect beautiful landscapes, tell important stories about our country's past, and encourage our citizens to conserve our natural environment and celebrate our national history. They are places to learn, exercise, and spend time with family and friends. Through her

work with the Junior Rangers and the National Park Foundation, First Lady Laura Bush and others are working to expand access to the riches of our parks.

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, my Administration has launched the National Parks Centennial Initiative. The initiative calls upon government, the private sector, and our citizenry to share in an effort to help prepare our parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. We will work to enhance park habitats, expand visitor services, increase educational opportunities, implement new technologies, and hire additional seasonal park rangers. By maintaining and improving our park system, we can ensure that our national parks will thrive for the next 100 years and beyond.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 29, 2007, as National Park Week. This year's theme is "Your National Parks: Explore, Learn, and Protect." I invite all my fellow citizens to join me in celebrating America's national parks by visiting these wonderful spaces, discovering all they have to offer, and becoming active participants in park conservation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

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