THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
POSITION PAPER
The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific
research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as
appropriate funding to ensure quality results.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS

America believes that public lands are held in trust for American citizens under a mandate of conservation
stewardship, with the goal of preserving them for future generations. More than twenty percent of the land in the
United States is under federal supervision.¹ Agencies charged with caring for these lands must set an example by
using the best management practices available.

There is ever-increasing pressure for multiple uses of federal lands. The Garden Club of America urges the
responsible agencies to make resource protection and preservation their first priority when establishing public land
policy. The future sustainability of these public lands should be carefully considered prior to any natural resource
development. Federal lands are a water source for more than 90 million US citizens.² Preservation of our vital water
resources must be a priority of public land agencies.

Therefore, The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy that addresses the
following:

BIODIVERSITY
- Connecting public lands and conservancies to create wildlife corridors for migration of plants and animals
  threatened by climate change.
- Placing a priority on conservation and preservation practices that help mitigate the effects of climate
  change, foster biodiversity, and protect native plant communities and endangered species.
- Preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive species.
- Providing adequate financial support for botanists to inventory, assess, and participate in the management
  of public lands.
- Protecting public lands from extractive processes.
- Increasing public land preservation to harness its ecological resources (such as water filtration, carbon
  sequestration, and wildlife habitat) and to provide recreational space.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION
- Encouraging collaborative efforts between government managers and private landowners to provide
  incentives for landowners to follow good conservation practices.
- Provide full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965 and use the federal
  portion of the funds for its intended purpose: the purchase of public lands.
- Requiring federal agencies to uphold the same environmental laws that apply to private landowners.
- Adequately funding the National Landscape Conservation System, the National Wildlife Refuge System,
  the National Marine Sanctuary System, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National
  Arboretum, and government agencies charged with protection of public lands.
- Basing the evaluation of public lands management on the condition of the land.
- Including the right of citizens to comment in a timely fashion in an open forum on public lands issues.

¹ The two major agencies responsible for public lands are the Department of the Interior (National Park Service,
Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management) and the Department of Agriculture (Forest Service).
² http://www.DOI.gov/facts.html (Website of the Department of the Interior)