

FOIA Marker

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Office of Laura Bush - Chief of Staff

McBride, Anita - Chron Files

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	22	18	8	2	7361	20296	7885	7984

Folder Title:

04/05/2006 - Voyage to Kure

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Memorandum	Schedule Proposal - To: Melissa Bennett, et al. - From: Jim Connaughton	2	02/14/2006	P5;
002	Memorandum	Preserve America Summit Update - From: Maria Miller	1	02/13/2006	P5;
003	Briefing	Preserve America Summit	2	10/2006	P5;
004	List	[Potential Guests]	8	N.D.	P5; P6/b6;
005	Email	RE: Movie Screening - To: Anita McBride, et al. - From: Susan Ralston	2	02/22/2006	P5;
006	Email	FW: Note - To: Anita McBride - From: Lindsey Lineweaver	2	02/22/2006	P5; P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:
Office of Laura Bush - Chief of Staff

SERIES:
McBride, Anita - Chron Files

FOLDER TITLE:
04/05/2006 - Voyage to Kure

FRC ID:
7361

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE: 2/14/06

TO: Anita McBride
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Sonya Medina
Special Assistant to the President and
Director of Projects

FROM: James Connaughton
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

REQUEST: Keynote Address for National Oceans Literacy Conference

PURPOSE: To highlight the Administration's commitment to the U.S. Ocean
Action Plan and to increase public awareness of the importance
of our oceans.

BACKGROUND: The National Oceans Literacy Conference will be inaugurated
this year as a result of a 2004 Executive Order creating the
Cabinet-level "Committee on Ocean Policy" and the U.S. Ocean
Action Plan. In implementing the plan, the Committee is
charged with making our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes
cleaner, healthier, and more productive. A key component of the
Action Plan is to improve the public's understanding of the
importance of the oceans to life on Earth through a
comprehensive education initiative. The National Oceans
Literacy Conference will make great strides toward achieving
this goal. The conference will bring together leaders in
education and government to develop recommendations for
improving ocean literacy and building support among key
constituencies for continued literacy efforts.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: None

DATE AND TIME: June 7, 2006

DURATION: Remarks: 25 minutes

BRIEFING TIME: 5 minutes

LOCATION: Ronald Reagan Building

*"educating a
nation of stewards"*

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
Jim Connaughton, CEQ
Secretary/Deputy Secretary of Commerce
Secretary/Deputy Secretary of Education
Secretary/Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Members of Congress TBD
Jean-Michel Cousteau, President of the Ocean Futures Society
TBD invited guests

*1/3 of programming
is kids*

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

The First Lady arrives at the Ronald Reagan Building, delivers the keynote address to the conference, and departs.

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Brief Remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open Press

FUNDING SOURCE:

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

WORKING CONTACTS:

Gerhard Kuska, CEQ (6-3892)
Khary Cauthen, CEQ (5-7419)

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING



NEWT GINGRICH

February 6, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

I write to call your attention to a marvelous opportunity to leave a historic mark on U.S. and world conservation history by providing permanent protection to the remote chain of uninhabited islands, atolls, submerged banks and surrounding waters known as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which stretch from the main Hawaiian Islands to Midway Atoll. Specifically, it is within your power to designate this area as the largest fully-protected coral reef ecosystem in the world. By such action, a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary would be the marine equivalent of Yellowstone National Park.

The archipelago has a number of unique qualities that make it worthy of permanent conservation. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands:

- account for 10% of the coral reefs out to 100 fathoms under U.S. jurisdiction;
- are the most remote large-scale coral reef ecosystem on the planet, and are less impacted by pollution and use than are reefs closer to human populations;
- are the least-impacted large marine ecosystem in U.S. waters, from which we can learn how coral reef ecosystems operate in a natural state;
- are a predator-dominated ecosystem, unlike all other large-scale coral reef ecosystems in which predator fish have been heavily depleted;
- support the highest degree of endemic coral reef species, meaning species that are found only in the NWHI or in the Hawaiian Archipelago (about 25% of all shallow water coral reef species in the NWHI are endemic);

- harbor the highest proportion of un-described reef species (algae, corals, sponges, other invertebrates) of any reefs on the planet;
- are home to the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the only surviving marine mammal that is wholly dependent on coral reefs, and whose complete habitat is within U.S. waters (estimated population of 1300);
- comprise the largest seabird rookery in the United States, with about 6 million seabirds from more than 20 species breeding here, and provide critical habitat for several globally endangered or threatened seabird species, such as albatrosses;
- are the nesting grounds for more than 90% of green sea turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago; and
- are culturally important to Native Hawaiians.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands have been the subject of presidential interest since Theodore Roosevelt established some of the islands as a bird sanctuary in 1909. Over the years, four other presidents--Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan and William Clinton--have recognized the superlative conservation values of the area and provided increased protection to its resources. In 2000, the 84-million acre area was designated as a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by executive order. At that time, Congress concurrently directed that a federal marine sanctuary designation be considered for the reserve area.

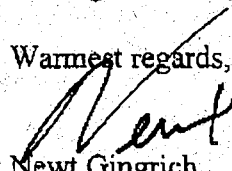
This year, Governor Linda Lingle responded to overwhelming public comments and designated all state waters in the Northwestern Island chain as a fully-protected state refuge. She has called on the federal government to follow suit, and apply comparable protection to federal waters within the proposed sanctuary. In early December, the Governor highlighted her position by visiting Midway with James Connaughton and other federal officials.

Your administration, under the leadership of the Secretary of Commerce, is now completing a sanctuary designation process. The stated purpose of the proposed sanctuary is "long-term protection of the marine ecosystems in their natural character." An enormous amount of public consultation has occurred, and a draft environmental impact statement is due to be issued by the Secretary in 2006. Expressed public sentiment favors full protection of the area.

At issue is whether or not the sanctuary will be one that is fully protected from all extractive activities, such as commercial fishing, seabed mining, coral removal, and the like. The National Marine Sanctuaries System Act permits you to establish marine sanctuaries with varying degrees of protection, including full protection. Unlike the locations of existing marine sanctuaries, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are highly isolated, and have no inhabitants except wildlife and a few researchers. Designation of a fully protected sanctuary is achievable because no one lives in these remote islands. A small, economically marginal and shrinking fishery for bottomfish does take place in the area. However, the Department of Commerce recently announced that these species are experiencing overfishing. Thus, conditions are ripe to buy-out the nine fishing boats for fair and just compensation, an action called for by Governor Lingle.

I cannot think of a better conservation opportunity for you than to complete the conservation work begun by Theodore Roosevelt. A decision to fully-protect the islands would be the highest and best use for the area, and would be widely acclaimed by Hawaiians and conservationists worldwide. Whether one is concerned about ecological integrity, coral reefs, seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, or reef fish, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands offers one of the few remaining places on earth to learn more about a coral reef ecosystem in its near-natural condition. As Peter Young, Director of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources said after his recent visit to the NWHI, "If there were ever a place on earth you wanted to see remain unchanged forever, this is it... The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands deserve the strongest protections and should be the place on earth where we don't take something."

Warmest regards,



Newt Gingrich

Cc: Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, The Honorable Daniel Inouye, The Honorable Daniel Akaka, The Honorable Neil Abercrombie, The Honorable Ed Case, The Honorable Linda Lingle

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McBride, Anita B.

From: Connaughton, James
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 5:00 PM
To: McBride, Anita B.
Subject: NW Hawaiian Islands

Hi Anita,

I just learned that the PBS air date for the first installment on the islands has been moved up and will now be April 5th (not mid to late April as originally planned).

Thanks for your time today. As you know, I fully appreciate your scheduling challenges and priorities. I am grateful for your kind consideration of these opportunities.

Regards,

Jim

Conversation
with
Jim
Connaughton

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Keep the Islands Pure

PRESIDENT BUSH has never been a great friend of environmental protection. Yet his administration may be about to pull off, without much fanfare, a triumph of ecosystem conservation. Then again, it may not.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, an unpopulated string of islands stretching more than 1,200 miles from Hawaii's populated islands, make up one of this country's most remote and pristine wildernesses. The waters around them form its largest coral reef ecosystem; the islands and their waters house thousands of species, a quarter of which exist nowhere else in the world. President Bill Clinton, using an executive order, created a marine reserve there. Mr. Bush is now poised to formalize and strengthen that designation using a law that allows the creation of marine sanctuaries — a kind of underwater national park. If he does it right, he will create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world and establish a strong precedent for future designations of marine areas as off-limits to human exploitation. If he does it wrong, it will be a huge missed opportunity.

Commercial use of these waters is mercifully limited already — one of the reasons they remain in fairly good shape and the major rea-

son as well that the sanctuary designation is uncontroversial. Still, a small number of commercial fishermen are active in the region, raising the question of how protected this marine sanctuary will be. Will it be an area set aside for wildlife and no competing human interests? Or will it be an area in which conservation has to jockey with resource extraction and other commercial activity? The fishery in question is not lucrative, yet managers of regional fisheries are pushing hard to preserve access to any future sanctuary anyway. Whether the administration will propose this in its draft plan for the area remains up in the air. In a January letter to the regional fisheries council, federal officials outlined three possibilities: allowing fishing to continue for five years, until 2025, or indefinitely.

The oceans are under enormous stress; overfishing is one predominant cause, and these areas are national treasures. If a large expanse of remote water with limited extant human investment and huge ecological significance does not qualify as a true sanctuary, it will be a sign that the political will to save the oceans just isn't there. On the other hand, if Mr. Bush creates a true sanctuary, he will set a marker for future presidents wishing to protect America's coastal waters.

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Brakebill, Elizabeth B.

From: West, Christal R.

Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 7:16 AM

To: Berman, Janet L.; McBride, Anita B.; Brakebill, Elizabeth B.; DeCamp, Mary Stuart M.

Subject: RE: Guest List for Voyage to Kure Screening and Dinner - April 5th

The Chief is ok with this list
thanks
CW

From: Berman, Janet L.

Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 9:56 AM

To: West, Christal R.; McBride, Anita B.; Brakebill, Elizabeth B.

Subject: Guest List for Voyage to Kure Screening and Dinner - April 5th

Attached for Sec. Card's review is the proposed guest list for the Screening and Dinner of "Voyage to Kure".

3/6/2006

Connaughton
Movie
Screening
early
5pm - ✓

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE: 2/22/2006

TO: Melissa S. Bennett
Deputy Assistant to the President
For Appointments and Scheduling

FROM: Karl C. Rove
Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor

Joseph W. Hagin
Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

REQUEST: Screening of "Voyage to Kure" and Dinner

PURPOSE: To celebrate the beautiful and fragile ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and to help raise public awareness about protection efforts.

BACKGROUND: The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands contain one of the most intact coral reef systems in the world and are home to more than 7,000 species, including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle. Despite their remote location, however, human impact is apparent. The islands are littered with products of human society—cigarette lighters, toys, and fishing gear, to name a few. The debris has a detrimental affect on the coral reefs and marine wildlife which thrive in this area. Sanctuary designation, combined with increased efforts to raise public awareness, will greatly enhance protection efforts.

The son of famed underwater explorer, Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel Cousteau has documented life in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which are being considered for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary. Mr. Cousteau would be present for a private screening of the film, and would be happy to share additional thoughts and experiences.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President and Mrs. Bush have participated in multiple screenings at the White House.

DATE AND TIME: April 2006 // TBD p.m.
Note: Request is for any evening before April 5.

DURATION: 3.5 hours

BRIEFING TIME: N/A

LOCATION: The White House

PARTICIPANTS:

The President and Mrs. Laura Bush
TBD Cabinet and Administration Officials
Governor Linda Lingle (R, HI) (T)

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

The President and the First Lady greet guests, attend the screening and host dinner after the movie.

REMARKS REQUIRED:

N/A

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Closed

FUNDING SOURCE:

The White House

PHOTO CONTACT:

Khary Cauthen, CEQ x5-7419

WORKING CONTACTS:

Susan Ralston DCOS, x6-2323 // Gerhard Kuska, CEQ x6-3892
Khary Cauthen, CEQ x5-7419

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING