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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS  
FROM: JERRY H. JONES  
SUBJECT: Beltsville Recreation Area

Your memorandum to the President of May 2 on the above subject has been reviewed and your recommendation -- send appropriate memoranda to the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of General Services -- was approved.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Jack Marsh  
Rod Hills  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached memorandum has been staffed and generated the following comments:

Buchen (Hills) -- No objection.

Cannon -- Concurs with Marrs memo.

Lynn -- See attached comments.

Marsh -- Agrees with Marrs memo.

Don



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAY 8 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR JERRY JONES

From: Jim Lynn

Subject: Beltsville Memo to the President of May 2, 1975

The current proposal for use of Federal lands at Beltsville, Maryland is a spin-off from a plan originally initiated by the Property Review Board. That plan covered 6,800 acres of Defense lands at Fort Meade and 3,600 acres declared excess to the needs of the Agriculture Research Center and currently held by GSA--all of which was to be turned into a Federal national recreation area. Interior also has lands nearby in Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. President Nixon sent memos to the GSA Administrator and the Secretary of Defense stating that the lands involved should be held for later transfer to Interior.

The Office of Management and Budget vigorously opposed the idea of a Federal park which had no redeeming national feature but would be a rather ordinary urban park with camping facilities which could be used by visitors to Washington, D.C. The national recreation area idea was finally dropped and a compromise option was decided upon. This decision involved two further steps:

1. 900 acres held by GSA was to be transferred to Interior as an addition to the wildlife center for use as a visitor center for Patuxent;
2. The Secretary of the Interior was to undertake a study to recommend long-term management of the balance of the property, including appropriate roles for the Federal, State, local and private sectors.

Because President Nixon asked GSA to hold the land for later transfer to Interior, and this is what is going to be done, I do not think further Presidential action is necessarily required. Transfer of the 900 acres for Patuxent would be consistent with the original Presidential order.

As to directing the Secretary of Interior to undertake the management study, I do not think this necessarily need be done by the President either. Implementation of this decision could be done by a memo to the Secretary from either you, Jack Marsh, myself or other appropriate WH staff.

For either action, I do not think direct Presidential involvement is necessary. However, I do not have any strong objections if that course is decided upon.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THRU: JACK MARSH *jm*  
JERRY JONES *jj* (to be coordinated with OMB)

FROM: TED MARRS *tm*

SUBJECT: BELTSVILLE RECREATION AREA

Anne Armstrong, in her capacity as Chairman of the Federal Property Council, wrote to you concerning this matter just prior to her departure (Tab A).

The Council was established by Executive Order to recommend to the President those actions he should take to resolve disagreements between the various land-holding agencies and the General Services Administration concerning the highest and best utilization of Federal lands. The Council's predecessor, the Property Review Board, made such recommendations concerning property in the Beltsville area; and, by Presidential memorandum dated February 2, 1973 (Tab B), the Administrator of General Services was directed to hold certain lands at Fort Meade and the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, both in Maryland, for later transfer to the Department of the Interior. The plan was to join these lands with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center providing a total of over 13,000 contiguous acres to form a national recreational area.

Development of the proposed recreation area would have required a very large Federal investment. However, it was never possible to include the project in the budget, and this situation is not likely to change. Additionally, there were signals from the House Armed Services Committee indicating that they had objections to disposing of a part of Fort Meade. Consequently, the project was never announced and much of the excess land at the Agriculture Research Center has remained essentially unused for over three years.

The Federal agencies (DOI, USDA, and NASA) with property in the Beltsville area, state and local governments, the Maryland congressional delegation, and various civic and conservation organizations are of the

opinion that the excess Agriculture Research Center land must not be disposed of for private development and that it should be set aside for recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related scientific and educational activities. However, in view of the budgetary obstacle, the Federal Property Council, the Department of the Interior, and the General Services Administration have concluded that we must abandon the national recreation area concept and search for some formula whereby the land could still be developed in accordance with the broad goals but through a coordinated Federal, state and local effort. The recommendations of the Federal Property Council, supported by Interior and GSA, is that 900 acres be transferred to the Department of the Interior for incorporation into the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center now, and that the Secretary be directed to produce a master plan for developing the excess property in accordance with the broad goals.

There is a degree of urgency attached to the matter because the Department of the Interior hopes to have a visitors center at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in time for use during the Bicentennial celebration.

I concur with the view that, in order to remove this property from its current state of limbo, it is necessary for you to take action to modify the previous Presidentially directed course. Therefore, I recommend that you send appropriate memoranda to the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of General Services.

AGREE AR7 (Prepare the memoranda)

DISAGREE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG

*ala*

SUBJECT: Bicentennial and Longer Range Potential of Excess Federal Land in the Vicinity of Beltsville, Maryland

This memorandum relates to my duties in both the Federal Property Council and Bicentennial areas.

Approximately 3,600 acres of land at the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, have been reported to the General Services Administration as excess to the needs of the Department of Agriculture.

The land is worth about \$13 million but has been essentially unused since 1971. It constitutes one of the few remaining undeveloped large-acreage areas in the Baltimore-National Capital area, a region which has a shortage of land set aside for recreation and conservation purposes.

There are numerous groups and individuals who are pressing the Federal government to decide what is to be done with this valuable land. Some have requested that portions or all of it be made available to the State of Maryland, Prince George's County, or certain educational institutions. Others, including Senators Mathias and Beall and Congressman Hogan, favor Federal retention of the property as an entity, with it being used for recreation, conservation, and wildlife preservation activities.

The National Capital Bicentennial celebration also has a bearing upon the utilization of the Beltsville property. First, the Department of the Interior hopes to obtain approximately 900 of the 3,600 excess acres for inclusion in its Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The Department has funds earmarked for a visitor's center which can be ready in 1976 provided work can commence soon.

Second, the Beltsville property has the potential for alleviating the projected Bicentennial shortages in both campsites and fringe parking spaces. More than 50% of the visitors to the National Capital Bicentennial celebration are expected to arrive through the Baltimore-Washington highway

corridor, and the Beltsville property is located near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The land has the potential to provide 600 mobile camper sites, which would reduce the estimated campsite deficit by more than 10%. Similarly, it could accommodate parking for 1,000 cars and be useful in meeting some of the fringe parking needs on those special days when abnormally large visitor influxes overload the normal fringe parking lots.

For those reasons, and because current parking plans could go awry, the White House Interagency Bicentennial Task Force does not want to preclude making camping and parking facilities available on the Beltsville property.

Here are three options for your consideration:

- Option 1: The excess land at Beltsville is committed to long-range recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related scientific and educational purposes; the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center receives approximately 900 of the 3,600 excess acres; the Department of the Interior undertakes a study to recommend the long-term management of the excess property, what investments will be required, and who (Federal, state, or local agency or combination thereof) should be assigned that responsibility; and, in the interim, the property remains available as a potential supplement to the Bicentennial celebration camping and fringe parking plans.
- Option 2: The same as Option 1 except that a specific camping project would be launched and would be Federally-sponsored, and a supplemental \$1.5 million FY 75 appropriation would be sought to construct Bicentennial facilities.
- Option 3: Transfer about 900 of the 3,600 excess acres to the Department of the Interior for inclusion in the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; forego all other Bicentennial potential and, without additional analysis, abandon further Federal consideration of integrated long-range planning for the remaining 2,700 excess acres; and immediately make the property or portions thereof available to Federal agencies, the State of Maryland, or local jurisdictions for a variety of potential uses.

In considering these three options and others, two criteria have been uppermost in my thinking. First, there is a real need to preserve the recreation and conservation potential of the Beltsville property. Second, the value of the land is due to its location and size, and every effort should be made to avoid a piece-meal disposition of the property. These two principles have been the common threads running through most of the proposals we have considered, and have been explicitly supported by the two Maryland Senators and the Congressman.

Option 3 does not meet these two criteria, while Options 1 and 2 do. However, Option 2 necessitates an immediate Federal outlay of about \$1.5 million, and neither reprogramming the Department of Interior budget nor seeking an FY 1975 supplemental appropriation seem advisable at this time.

Therefore, as Chairman of the Federal Property Council and as Chairman of the White House Interagency Bicentennial Task Force, I recommend that you select Option 1. Rog Morton and the members of the Federal Property Council (Roy Ash, Philip Buchen, Dean Burch, Alan Greenspan, Bill Timmons, and Russ Peterson) concur in this recommendation. While Ash supports Option 1, he strongly believes that the development and operation of a Beltsville recreation area on this property should not be a Federal government responsibility. Therefore, he believes and I agree, that in the implementation of Option 1, we should assure that State or local jurisdictional responsibility receive high consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree; implement Option 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 3.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

B

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

Certain Government-owned properties in the State of Maryland consisting of approximately 6,854 acres at Fort Meade and approximately 3,650 acres at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center are being reported by the respective land-holding agencies as excess to program requirements.

In order that their recreation and conservation benefits may be preserved for the American people, these properties should be held for transfer at a later date to the Department of the Interior.



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: May 6, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: Phil Buchen  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn  
Jack Marsh

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, May 8, 1975

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Marrs memo (5/2/75) re: Beltsville Recreation Area

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR STAFF SECRETARY

FROM:

JIM CANNON 

SUBJECT:

Ted Marrs Memorandum re Beltsville Recreation Area

I concur with the recommendations of Ted Marrs and the Federal Property Council that the President alter the status of the Beltsville Recreation Area as indicated in Marrs' Memo.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

*May*

Date: May 6, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: ~~Phil~~ Buchen  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn  
Jack Marsh

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, May 8, 1975

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Marrs memo (5/2/75) re: Beltsville Recreation Area

ACTION REQUESTED:

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For Your Recommendations

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Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

SEE ATTACHED.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

MAY 7 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

*due: 5/8  
2:00 p.m.*

Date: May 6, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: Phil Buchen  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn  
Jack Marsh

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, May 8, 1975

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Marrs memo (5/2/75) re: Beltsville Recreation Area

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

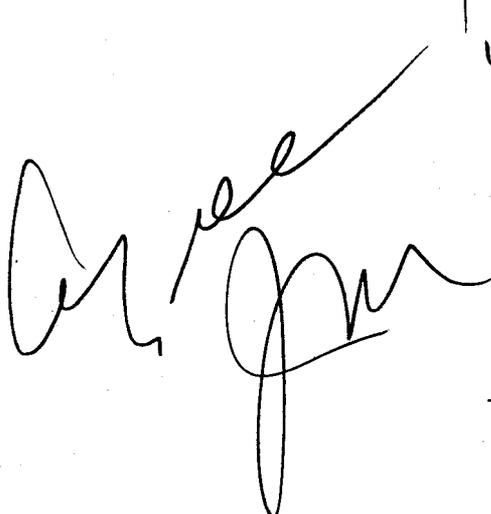
Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:



*Mr. Marsh already  
signed off on  
this.*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THRU: JACK MARSH *jm*  
JERRY JONES *to be coordinated with OMB*

FROM: TED MARRS *tm*

SUBJECT: BELTSVILLE RECREATION AREA

Anne Armstrong, in her capacity as Chairman of the Federal Property Council, wrote to you concerning this matter just prior to her departure (Tab A).

The Council was established by Executive Order to recommend to the President those actions he should take to resolve disagreements between the various land-holding agencies and the General Services Administration concerning the highest and best utilization of Federal lands. The Council's predecessor, the Property Review Board, made such recommendations concerning property in the Beltsville area; and, by Presidential memorandum dated February 2, 1973 (Tab B), the Administrator of General Services was directed to hold certain lands at Fort Meade and the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, both in Maryland, for later transfer to the Department of the Interior. The plan was to join these lands with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center providing a total of over 13,000 contiguous acres to form a national recreational area.

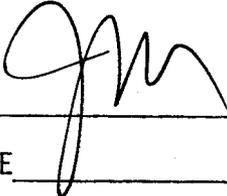
Development of the proposed recreation area would have required a very large Federal investment. However, it was never possible to include the project in the budget, and this situation is not likely to change. Additionally, there were signals from the House Armed Services Committee indicating that they had objections to disposing of a part of Fort Meade. Consequently, the project was never announced and much of the excess land at the Agriculture Research Center has remained essentially unused for over three years.

The Federal agencies (DOI, USDA, and NASA) with property in the Beltsville area, state and local governments, the Maryland congressional delegation, and various civic and conservation organizations are of the

opinion that the excess Agriculture Research Center land must not be disposed of for private development and that it should be set aside for recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related scientific and educational activities. However, in view of the budgetary obstacle, the Federal Property Council, the Department of the Interior, and the General Services Administration have concluded that we must abandon the national recreation area concept and search for some formula whereby the land could still be developed in accordance with the broad goals but through a coordinated Federal, state and local effort. The recommendations of the Federal Property Council, supported by Interior and GSA, is that 900 acres be transferred to the Department of the Interior for incorporation into the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center now, and that the Secretary be directed to produce a master plan for developing the excess property in accordance with the broad goals.

There is a degree of urgency attached to the matter because the Department of the Interior hopes to have a visitors center at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in time for use during the Bicentennial celebration.

I concur with the view that, in order to remove this property from its current state of limbo, it is necessary for you to take action to modify the previous Presidentially directed course. Therefore, I recommend that you send appropriate memoranda to the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of General Services.

AGREE  (Prepare the memoranda)

DISAGREE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG

*ala*

SUBJECT: Bicentennial and Longer Range Potential of Excess Federal Land in the Vicinity of Beltsville, Maryland

This memorandum relates to my duties in both the Federal Property Council and Bicentennial areas.

Approximately 3,600 acres of land at the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, have been reported to the General Services Administration as excess to the needs of the Department of Agriculture.

The land is worth about \$13 million but has been essentially unused since 1971. It constitutes one of the few remaining undeveloped large-acreage areas in the Baltimore-National Capital area, a region which has a shortage of land set aside for recreation and conservation purposes.

There are numerous groups and individuals who are pressing the Federal government to decide what is to be done with this valuable land. Some have requested that portions or all of it be made available to the State of Maryland, Prince George's County, or certain educational institutions. Others, including Senators Mathias and Beall and Congressman Hogan, favor Federal retention of the property as an entity, with it being used for recreation, conservation, and wildlife preservation activities.

The National Capital Bicentennial celebration also has a bearing upon the utilization of the Beltsville property. First, the Department of the Interior hopes to obtain approximately 900 of the 3,600 excess acres for inclusion in its Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The Department has funds earmarked for a visitor's center which can be ready in 1976 provided work can commence soon.

Second, the Beltsville property has the potential for alleviating the projected Bicentennial shortages in both campsites and fringe parking spaces. More than 50% of the visitors to the National Capital Bicentennial celebration are expected to arrive through the Baltimore-Washington highway

corridor, and the Beltsville property is located near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The land has the potential to provide 600 mobile camper sites, which would reduce the estimated campsite deficit by more than 10%. Similarly, it could accommodate parking for 1,000 cars and be useful in meeting some of the fringe parking needs on those special days when abnormally large visitor influxes overload the normal fringe parking lots.

For those reasons, and because current parking plans could go awry, the White House Interagency Bicentennial Task Force does not want to preclude making camping and parking facilities available on the Beltsville property.

Here are three options for your consideration:

- Option 1: The excess land at Beltsville is committed to long-range recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related scientific and educational purposes; the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center receives approximately 900 of the 3,600 excess acres; the Department of the Interior undertakes a study to recommend the long-term management of the excess property, what investments will be required, and who (Federal, state, or local agency or combination thereof) should be assigned that responsibility; and, in the interim, the property remains available as a potential supplement to the Bicentennial celebration camping and fringe parking plans.
- Option 2: The same as Option 1 except that a specific camping project would be launched and would be Federally-sponsored, and a supplemental \$1.5 million FY 75 appropriation would be sought to construct Bicentennial facilities.
- Option 3: Transfer about 900 of the 3,600 excess acres to the Department of the Interior for inclusion in the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; forego all other Bicentennial potential and, without additional analysis, abandon further Federal consideration of integrated long-range planning for the remaining 2,700 excess acres; and immediately make the property or portions thereof available to Federal agencies, the State of Maryland, or local jurisdictions for a variety of potential uses.

In considering these three options and others, two criteria have been uppermost in my thinking. First, there is a real need to preserve the recreation and conservation potential of the Beltsville property. Second, the value of the land is due to its location and size, and every effort should be made to avoid a piece-meal disposition of the property. These two principles have been the common threads running through most of the proposals we have considered, and have been explicitly supported by the two Maryland Senators and the Congressman.

Option 3 does not meet these two criteria, while Options 1 and 2 do. However, Option 2 necessitates an immediate Federal outlay of about \$1.5 million, and neither reprogramming the Department of Interior budget nor seeking an FY 1975 supplemental appropriation seem advisable at this time.

Therefore, as Chairman of the Federal Property Council and as Chairman of the White House Interagency Bicentennial Task Force, I recommend that you select Option 1. Rog Morton and the members of the Federal Property Council (Roy Ash, Philip Buchen, Dean Burch, Alan Greenspan, Bill Timmons, and Russ Peterson) concur in this recommendation. While Ash supports Option 1, he strongly believes that the development and operation of a Beltsville recreation area on this property should not be a Federal government responsibility. Therefore, he believes and I agree, that in the implementation of Option 1, we should assure that State or local jurisdictional responsibility receive high consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree; implement Option 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 3.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITEHOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

Certain Government-owned properties in the State of Maryland consisting of approximately 6,854 acres at Fort Meade and approximately 3,650 acres at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center are being reported by the respective land-holding agencies as excess to program requirements.

In order that their recreation and conservation benefits may be preserved for the American people, these properties should be held for transfer at a later date to the Department of the Interior.



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: May 6, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: Phil Buchen  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn  
Jack Marsh

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, May 8, 1975

Time: 2:00 p. m.

SUBJECT:

Marrs memo (5/2/75) re: Beltsville Recreation Area

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

*I concur in the general observation  
but under the time constraints  
I have no opinion of the legality  
of the procedure suggested.*

*No objection . R. H.*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THRU: JACK MARSH *gm*  
JERRY JONES (to be coordinated with OMB)

FROM: TED MARRS *dm*

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AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ (Prepare the memoranda)

DISAGREE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG

*ARA*

SUBJECT: Bicentennial and Longer Range Potential of Excess Federal Land in the Vicinity of Beltsville, Maryland

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\_\_\_\_\_ Agree; implement Option 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree; prefer Option 3.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

February 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

Certain Government-owned properties in the State of Maryland consisting of approximately 6,854 acres at Fort Meade and approximately 3,650 acres at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center are being reported by the respective land-holding agencies as excess to program requirements.

In order that their recreation and conservation benefits may be preserved for the American people, these properties should be held for transfer at a later date to the Department of the Interior.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR JERRY JONES

FROM: DAVID WHEAT *DW*

SUBJECT: Memorandum to the President Regarding Excess Federal Lands  
in the Beltsville, Maryland Area

A few weeks ago, you will recall, you sent a memorandum to Jack Marsh, requesting his updating of a presidential memorandum submitted by Anne Armstrong just prior to her departure in December. The Armstrong memo concerned the Federal Property Council's recommendation with respect to the disposal of excess Federal land in the Beltsville area, and it was brought to Marsh's attention, I assume, because it had a bit of a Bicentennial flavor.

Since I had a hand in the preparation of the original memorandum, I was asked to help prepare the update. The result, which you may have already received on its way to the President from Ted Marrs (through Marsh), focuses on why presidential action is necessary.

\* Ted Marrs asked that I let you know he has not staffed the updated version with anyone else in the Executive Office, and that it is his view that only OMB needs to take a look at it before it goes to the President. Since this issue needs resolution quickly, I would appreciate your getting OMB's comments incorporated into the total package for the President as soon as possible.

Thanks.

cc: Ted Marrs

\* Jerry -  
In the preparation of the update,  
I worked closely with Dudley Chapman  
in Buckner's office.  
- Dan



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAY 8 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR JERRY JONES

From: Jim Lynn

*for Oheine*

Subject: Beltsville Memo to the President of May 2, 1975

The current proposal for use of Federal lands at Beltsville, Maryland is a spin-off from a plan originally initiated by the Property Review Board. That plan covered 6,800 acres of Defense lands at Fort Meade and 3,600 acres declared excess to the needs of the Agriculture Research Center and currently held by GSA--all of which was to be turned into a Federal national recreation area. Interior also has lands nearby in Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. President Nixon sent memos to the GSA Administrator and the Secretary of Defense stating that the lands involved should be held for later transfer to Interior.

The Office of Management and Budget vigorously opposed the idea of a Federal park which had no redeeming national feature but would be a rather ordinary urban park with camping facilities which could be used by visitors to Washington, D.C. The national recreation area idea was finally dropped and a compromise option was decided upon. This decision involved two further steps:

1. 900 acres held by GSA was to be transferred to Interior as an addition to the wildlife center for use as a visitor center for Patuxent;
2. The Secretary of the Interior was to undertake a study to recommend long-term management of the balance of the property, including appropriate roles for the Federal, State, local and private sectors.

Because President Nixon asked GSA to hold the land for later transfer to Interior, and this is what is going to be done, I do not think further Presidential action is necessarily required. Transfer of the 900 acres for Patuxent would be consistent with the original Presidential order.

As to directing the Secretary of Interior to undertake the management study, I do not think this necessarily need be done by the President either. Implementation of this decision could be done by a memo to the Secretary from either you, Jack Marsh, myself or other appropriate WH staff.

For either action, I do not think direct Presidential involvement is necessary. However, I do not have any strong objections if that course is decided upon.