



Keynote Address by



Mr. John Laird, Secretary of State of California Natural Resources Agency

At the Symposium on Science & Stewardship to Protect & Sustain Wilderness Values

10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10)

Salamanca, Spain—8th October 2013, 9:30 AM

Keynote Title: California's Pacific Coast: An Ocean Wilderness Network

Built on Science, Stakeholder Collaboration and Tribal Rights

Secretary John Laird's keynote will open the **Symposium on Science & Stewardship to Protect & Sustain Wilderness Values**, a principal session at WILD10 that will feature distinguished scientists and others from the Aldo Leopold Society and several other organizations and agencies, to officially launch the WILD10 Global Forum scheduled for October 8-10. His keynote will be 20 minutes long, and delivered in English. The total length of this symposium session is 80 minutes, including Mr. Laird's keynote. The session will begin at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, 8th October in the WILD10 Global Forum venue: The Hosped ria del Colegio Arzobispo Fonseca, at Salamanca University.

Mr. Laird will participate at WILD10 as a distinguished member of the **California Ocean Wilderness Delegation**, a team of eleven panelists including American Indian tribal nation representatives, nonprofit environmental leaders, marine planners and policy experts, tribal and environmental attorneys, and community practitioners who together will present a series of three panel sessions during the October 8-10 Global Forum. Mr. Laird's keynote sets the stage for the **California Ocean Wilderness Delegation's** panel sessions commencing that same day. The 3 panels are entitled:

- 1) California's Marine Life Protection Act: The MLPA Statute and the Initiative Process
- 2) Native American Leadership: Marine Wilderness Planning and Resulting Changes in Ocean Policy
- 3) Lessons Learned and Global Applications: The State of California Marine Protected Area Network

During his 8th October keynote, Mr. Laird will discuss the innovative science and policy approaches used in California's historic Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative process for ocean wilderness planning. He will provide an overview of other key aspects of the Initiative process, including the role of marine science; development of unique policies; consultation with tribal nations; collaborations with multiple stakeholders; and other elements involved in California's 2012 establishment of a statewide MPA network.

Mr. Laird's keynote will introduce the Initiative process as a highly collaborative approach developed between the Initiative's many participants, and including tremendous challenges at multiple levels. This collaborative approach was manifested especially in California's north coast region, where the state ultimately recognized and protected the traditional non-commercial gathering, harvesting and fishing rights of 22 federally recognized tribal nations within the region's new state marine conservation areas (SMCAs). This is the first time any state in the US has codified tribal traditional take of marine species into a state regulation that applies to marine and estuarine waters and intertidal areas within large tribal ancestral geographies outside of existing treaty or reservation lands and waters. The effect of the north coast's new regulation is a new category of marine use: tribal, non-commercial subsistence take that is distinct from the commercial and recreational categories that did not address the tribes' cultural needs. Tribal representatives were active participants in designing the MPA network in the north coast, which became the "capstone" of the inter-connected ocean wilderness network now stretching along the state's entire coastline from Mexico to Oregon.

As Natural Resources Secretary, Mr. Laird administers 34 separate departments, conservancies, commissions, boards, and councils relating to the state's natural resources. He has given high priority to conservation of state marine waters and to building relationships with California tribal nations to foster improved management of natural resources. Mr. Laird's leadership in advancing an administrative solution through the Natural Resources Agency to protect imperiled marine ecosystems and tribal marine uses was key to the success of the MLPA Initiative, and to a broader recognition of tribal nations' sovereign rights.

Mr. Laird's keynote address will highlight California's global leadership as shown through its innovative marine wilderness initiative, and will inform WILD10 participants from around the world how Californians worked together to produce a remarkable outcome for the rights of wild nature and the indigenous peoples who continue to depend on it for their cultural survival. California's establishment of its world class MPA network is testimony to the state's strong commitment to and investment in marine conservation, for the sake of future generations of all lifeforms.