

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

**NATIONAL GRASSLANDS WEEK**  
June 23–29, 2013

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture has managed public grasslands to meet the needs of the American people for 76 years; and

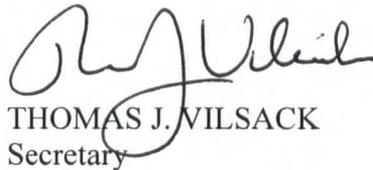
**WHEREAS** the management and use of our National Grasslands for forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, recreation, and other benefits for people and the environment has grown increasingly important and complex; and

**WHEREAS** Federal-State partnerships support sustainable multiple use of our National Grasslands to offer visitors an array of recreational experiences and to provide communities with enhanced economic development opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture currently manages 20 National Grasslands in 13 States, and professional grassland managers, with the support of local communities, work hard on behalf of the American people to administer National Grasslands using sound, progressive principles of land conservation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 23–29, 2013, as National Grasslands Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the significance and precious legacy of America's National Grasslands with appropriate observances and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of March 2013, the two-hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

  
THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary