



## Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

### Webisode #5 – Interview with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar Transcript

**Patrick:** On this webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon I have the honor of being with the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ken Salazar. Thanks for being on the show.

**Secretary Salazar:** Thank you very much; it is an honor to be here.

**Patrick:** With all the agencies that you handle, you're here at Grand National Park and with all the National Park Service sites, there are almost 400 of them, but you're here at Grand Canyon right now. The people that listen to this show, they love everything Grand Canyon. I just wanted to ask you one question. What are your plans, what are the issues, why are you at Grand Canyon, what is some Grand Canyon news you can share with us?

**Secretary Salazar:** First, with respect to Grand Canyon, we have great plans. We have the visitor center and the parking. We have lots of other things we are working on which are going to be very important because we need to protect this treasured landscape. Secondly, we need to tell the story of the Grand Canyon, to all of the world, in a more significant way than we have. How we tell that story to all the world is something that we have a responsibility to do. And thirdly, it is an example of what we can do around the entire United States of America and around the world. The example of the Grand Canyon can lead us to create the 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation ethic for the United States of America and the world. I am committed to doing that and our employees of the National Park Service are the best. I think that the four million visitors that come here to Grand Canyon National Park every year receive a refueling of their spirits simply because of the Grandeur of the place. It also happens to be a huge economic contributor to our nation because there are tens of thousands of jobs that are created just because of the fact that Grand Canyon National Park exist here. So, it is a win-win in every way. It is exciting for me to be here in Arizona, exciting for me to be at the Grand Canyon, I love this place.

**Patrick:** Nice, and just one last one for fun, is that heard you say earlier today this is your very 1<sup>st</sup> time at Grand Canyon. Would share with some of our visitors your impressions?

**Secretary Salazar:** Unimaginable, I had seen it on maps, I have seen it on pictures, but to see it in reality is awesome! It is one of those very, very unique and special places in our world. As Secretary of the Interior, I have the great honor to be at some of the greatest landscapes in America: the Apostle Islands, Acadia National Park in Maine, Glacier and Waterton in Canada and the United States, Alaska and Denali, and here I am in Grand Canyon. In days ahead I will places like Rocky Mountain and others. We truly, as national parks, have been given the responsibility to be the guardians of the planets best crown jewels.

**Patrick:** Thank you so much for taking time out of your schedule to talk to us on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon.

**Secretary Salazar:** Thank you very much, it is my honor.