

Outdoor Recreation Act

Senator Manchin and Senator Barrasso

America's vast outdoor recreation resources play a vital role in enhancing people's lives and well-being, and provide conservation benefits and critical economic support to local communities and businesses. The public demand to access and enjoy Federal lands requires innovative and collaborative approaches to improve recreation infrastructure and access to meet the diverse recreation needs of America.

To improve America's outdoor recreation economy, the Outdoor Recreation Act would:

- **Leverage private investments to improve recreation infrastructure:** By establishing a pilot program for public-private partnership agreements to modernize campgrounds on Federal land, as well as a pilot program to formally authorize finance partnerships on National Forest service lands for recreation projects that will help make nearby communities more popular recreation destinations.
- **Ensure certain recreation opportunities on National Forests:** By directing the Forest Service to clarify that recreational climbing is generally a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness areas, and directing the the Forest Service and BLM to designate new shooting ranges on National Forests and BLM land.
- **Support rural communities near major recreation destinations, including National Parks:** By providing technical and financial assistance to local businesses to support visitation, and identifying opportunities to extend the period of time recreation areas on Federal land are open to the public during shoulder seasons.
- **Modernize recreation sites:** By directing Federal land management agencies to identify broadband connectivity needs and priorities at Federal recreation sites that lack access, and to work with the Rural Utilities Service to construct broadband internet infrastructure at those sites.
- **Protect against aquatic invasive species:** By improving coordination between Federal land management agencies and non-Federal partners and establishing a competitive grant program within the Bureau of Reclamation to help non-federal partners to conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft in reservoirs administered by the Department of the Interior.
- **Ensure access to federal lands:** By increasing opportunities for nonmotorized and motorized access and experiences on Federal land.

The Outdoor Recreation Act is supported by: Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Outdoor Industry Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, National Forest Recreation Association, The Access Fund, Outdoor Alliance, American Motorcyclist Association, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Southwest Wyoming Off-road Trails, Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, Hatfield-McCoy Trails, Water Stone Outdoors, National Marine Manufacturing Association, American Sportfishing Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, REI, RV Industry Association, Vista Outdoors, the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, and American Whitewater.