

America's Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023

Senator Manchin and Senator Barrasso

America's vast outdoor recreation resources play a vital role in enhancing people's lives and well-being. These resources also provide conservation benefits and critical economic support to local communities and businesses. As public demand to access and enjoyment of Federal recreational lands increases, new challenges arise with respect to regulations, infrastructure, and permitting. Addressing these challenges to meet America's diverse recreation needs will require new, innovative, and collaborative approaches.

America's Outdoor Recreation Act is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive recreation package to improve and expand America's outdoor recreation economy. This bipartisan package contains several ground-breaking recreation bills, including the *Outdoor Recreation Act*, the *Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act*, the *Recreation-Not-Red-Tape Act*, the *Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act*, the *Federal Interior Lands Media Act*, the *Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act*, and many others.

The package is targeted to improve America's outdoor recreation economy in several ways.

- For example, the package ensures greater access and opportunities for activities like recreational climbing, mountain biking, and target shooting on public lands.
- The bills in this package would improve and modernize recreation infrastructure on Federal land by leveraging non-Federal investments as well as identify and set out solutions for increasing broadband connectivity at developed recreation sites.
- The package modernizes film and photography permitting so land management agencies can keep pace with changing technology and social media, allowing people who responsibly recreate on our public lands to record and share their experiences without the worry of unnecessary red tape and fees.
- Also, the package establishes a financial assistance program to help businesses get set up and expand in areas near outdoor recreation hotspots.
- The bills in this package improve the permitting process for outfitters and guides who work on public lands.

The package brings new technologies to the Federal agencies and fosters coordination among them.

- For example, the package establishes a pilot program that will make real-time visitation data readily available for members of the public seeking to visit recreation sites on Federal land.
- In addition, the package makes the National Parks and Federal Land Pass available for purchase online and in a digital format.
- The package will foster new approaches to the way annual visitation is tallied.
- Also, the package will foster coordination among the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Federal land management agencies to ensure service members and veterans have access to outdoor recreation and outdoor-related volunteer wellness programs.

The package also includes several bills to ensure that the increases in visitation will not result in resource damage to ensure generations to come can enjoy our public lands.

- Several bills in the package support partnerships with gateway communities to help address needs such as parking, housing shortages, accommodation of visitors, and demands on municipal infrastructure.
- The package will promote boating while helping boaters to not accidentally spread aquatic invasive species.

Support for America's Outdoor Recreation Act includes: Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Outdoor Industry Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, America Outdoors, American Mountain Guides Association, The Wilderness Society, Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Vista Outdoors, Outdoor Alliance, REI, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, American Whitewater, The Access Fund, Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, Hatfield-McCoy Trails, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Water Stone Outdoors, National Marine Manufacturing Association, American Sportfishing Association, Professional Photographers of America, PeopleForBikes, Marine Retailers Association of America, RV Industry Association, American Canoe Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Mountaineers, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Archery Trade Association.