



CONFLUENCE
OF STATES

2023 OUTDOOR REPORT

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

November 2023
www.confluenceofstates.com





2023 OUTDOOR REPORT

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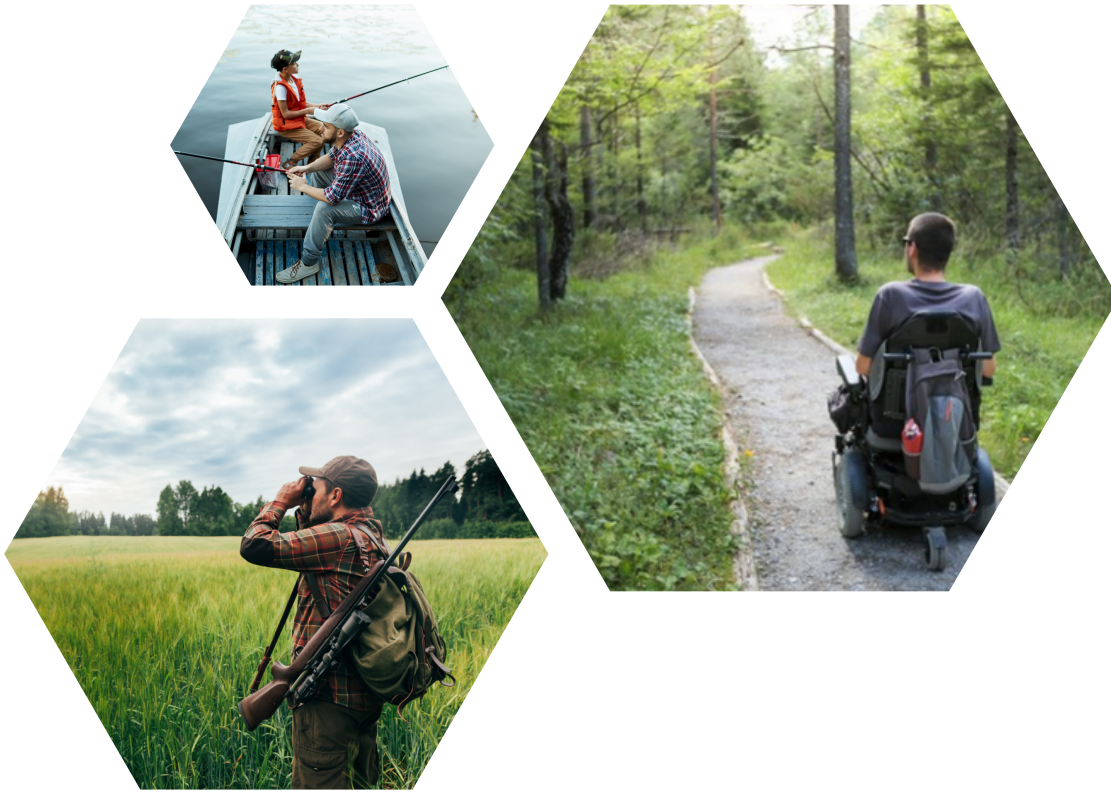
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Our Vision



We, a growing confluence of states with a shared passion for the outdoors and a commitment to cultivating a strong outdoor recreation economy, believe that outdoor recreation is core to the very character and quality of life we should all enjoy.

While each of our states is unique, our shared commitment to facilitating everyone's love of place through inclusion and diverse outdoor experiences has the power to unify communities, to bridge societal divides, and to improve the mental and physical health of all people.

This Outdoor Report provides an overview of the collective work our member states have accomplished for FY 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS



Brad Garmon (Michigan)
Chair



Carolann Ouellette (Maine)
Co-Chair

It's been a true honor to serve as the chair and co-chair of the Confluence of States for the calendar year 2023. Among the many accomplishments highlighted in this report -- spanning the full range of economic development, infrastructure development, workforce initiatives and expanded access -- the one that is perhaps hardest to convey is the increased relevance of the outdoor recreation sector that we've achieved in such a short time.

The Confluence of States, with the support of industry partners and associations, and bolstered in each of our states by the passionate leaders in the outdoor economy, is elevating the opportunity of the outdoors for all.

Driven by a desire and mission to celebrate, promote and grow the outdoor recreation economy and support the people who enjoy it, and those who work in it.

The increased relevance in states and nationally is a testament to promoting and supporting the conventional benefits of the outdoors -- physical health, job creation, and additional resources for land and water stewardship -- and also the ability and willingness to engage in new spaces, elevate new voices and support more diverse outdoor participants -- from those doing product innovation to justice advocacy to STEM education.

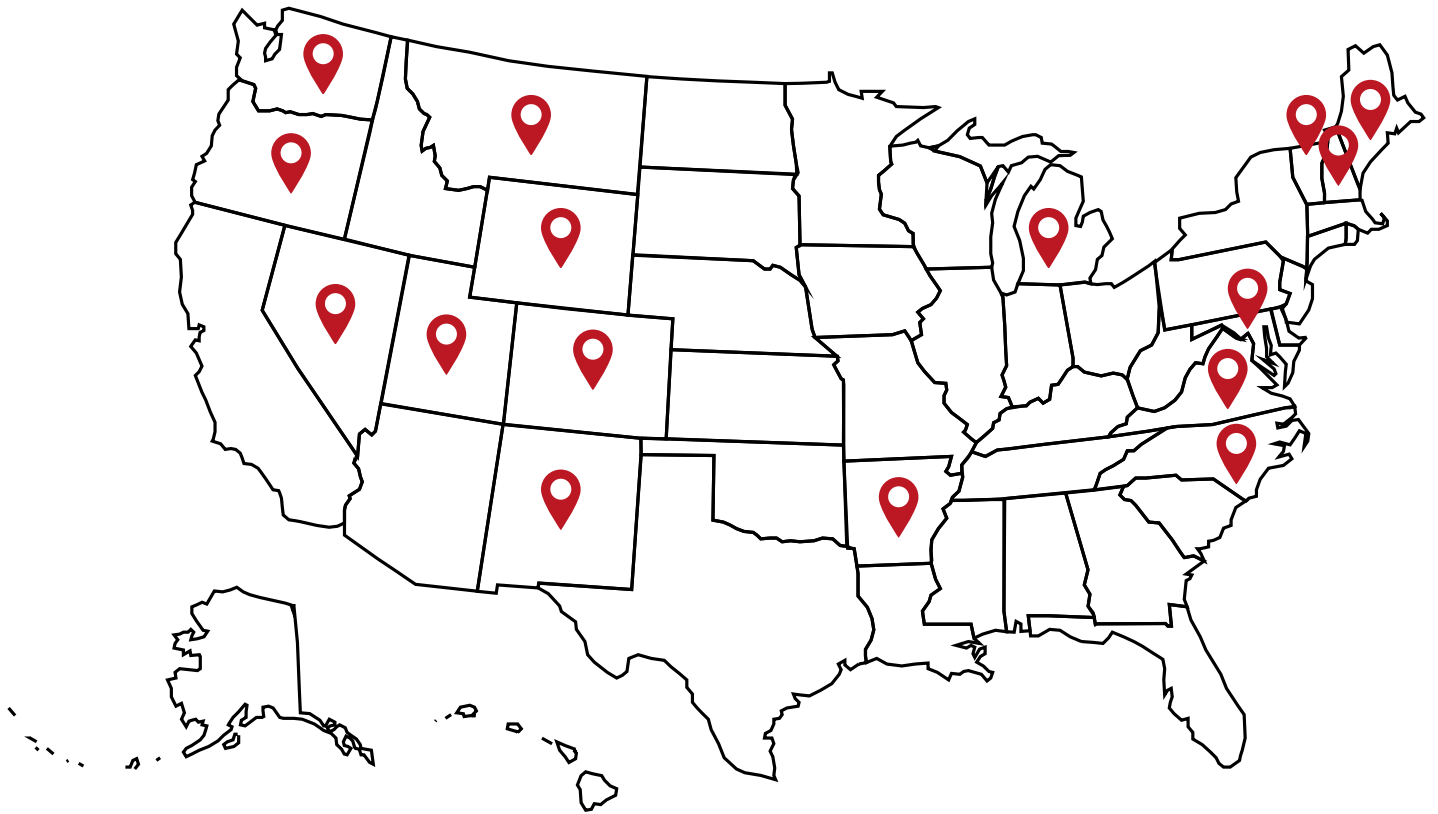
We're excited to present the outcomes and progress of the last year, but even more enthusiastic about the future of the movement and the impacts that these state offices represent as we continue to expand the network, grow our capacity and create stronger alliances.

We hope you'll read and be inspired and get connected with us. Your ideas and solutions matter, and we're grateful to share the journey with you.

Brad Garmon and Carolann Ouellette

Chair and Co-Chair

MEMBER STATES



2018

First States Join

Colorado
Montana
North Carolina
Oregon
Utah
Vermont
Washington
Wyoming

2019

Second States Join

Maine
Michigan
Nevada
New Mexico
Virginia

2022

Third States Join

Arkansas
Maryland
New Hampshire

State Directors

Arkansas



Katherine Andrews

Director
Office of Outdoor Recreation

Colorado



Conor Hall

Director
Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

Maine



Carolann Ouellette

Director
Office of Outdoor Recreation

Maryland



Daryl Anthony

Executive Director
Office of Outdoor Recreation

Michigan



Brad Garmon

Director
Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

Montana



Vacant

Director
Office of Outdoor Recreation

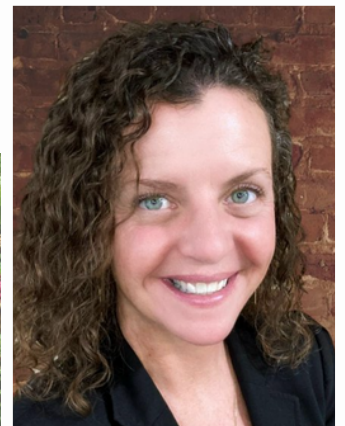
Nevada



Denise Beronio

Administrator
Division of Outdoor Recreation

New Hampshire



Janel Lawton

Director
Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development

State Directors

New Mexico



Ana Karina Armijo

Director
*Outdoor Recreation
Division*

North Carolina



Amy Allison

Director
*Outdoor Recreation
Industry Office*

Oregon



Cailin O'Brien-Feeney

Director
*Office of Outdoor
Recreation*

Utah



Jason Curry

Director
*Division of Outdoor
Recreation*

Vermont



Jackie Dagger

Program Manager
*Outdoor Recreation
Economic
Collaborative*

Virginia



Corey Scott

Assistant Secretary
*of Natural Resources
Secretariat of
Natural Resources*

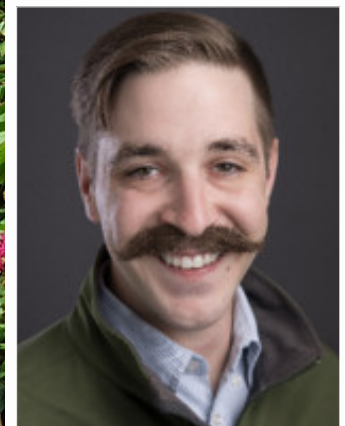
Washington



Jon Snyder

Senior Policy Analyst
*Outdoor Recreation
and Economic
Development*

Wyoming



Patrick Harrington

Manager
*Outdoor Recreation
Office*

Prospective Member States

Arizona



Lena Allen

Director of Outdoor
Recreation and
Sustainability
Office of Tourism

Pennsylvania



Dr. Nathan Reigner

Director
*Office of Outdoor
Recreation*

Utah

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Confluence offers prospective state memberships for leaders in the process of developing their offices of outdoor recreation. Prospective members are matched a sponsor state and serve as a resource for meeting the Confluence Accords.

For more information, contact our [Confluence of States Manager](#).

[Confluence Accords](#)

[Guidebook on Developing Offices of Outdoor Recreation](#)

[Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Comparison Report](#)

[Strategies to Support Offices of Outdoor Recreation](#)

[Newsletter + Resources](#)



THE IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

\$1.1
TRILLION

The Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates the economic output of outdoor recreation to be \$1.1 trillion, surpassing industries such as mining, utilities, farming and ranching, and chemical products manufacturing.

4.98
MILLION
JOBS

Outdoor recreation generates millions of quality, high-paying jobs in the United States across a wide variety of industries.

168.1
MILLION
AMERICANS

The number of Americans ages 6 and over that participated in at least one outdoor activity.

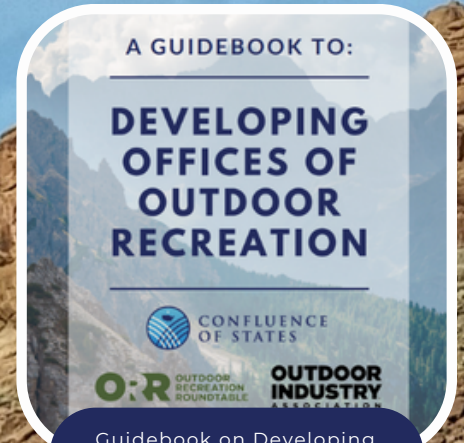
Data sources* are from
[Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#) and
[Outdoor Industry Association](#)

*Economic and job numbers rely on Bureau of Economic Analysis [Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account](#), which is updated every November.

FY2023 CONFLUENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Guidebook on OREC Offices

A [Guidebook on Developing Offices of Outdoor Recreation](#) was developed to share best practices and strategies sourced from existing state directors on leading OREC offices.



Guidebook on Developing Offices of Outdoor Recreation

Confluence of States Manager

The Confluence of States announced the addition of a new Manager, Maribel Castañeda, to support the collective work of the bipartisan coalition.



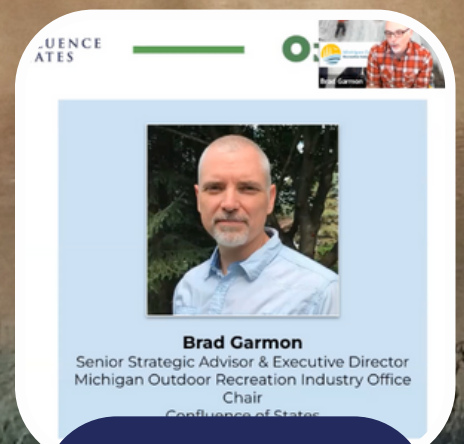
Confluence of States New Manager - Maribel Castañeda (Source: Maribel Castañeda)

Prospective State Membership

States in the process of developing their offices of outdoor recreation are now eligible to join the Confluence of States through prospective state memberships. Prospective members are matched with a sponsor state to meet the Confluence Accords Five Common Criteria for full membership.

Education Series Partnership

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Outdoor Industry Association, and Confluence of States partnered to develop an education series for outdoor recreation leaders to exchange ideas and learn from successful initiatives in other states. [Learn more here.](#)



A Confluence of States Education session on Expanding Innovation and New Technologies in Outdoor Recreation

SCORP Comparison Report

Confluence partnered with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) to release the first-ever [Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\) Comparison Report](#), which shares differences and/or similarities between SCORPS, and raises the visibility of each plan's impact on a community

Strategies to Support ORECs

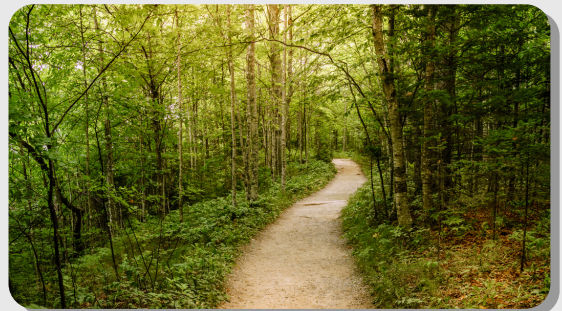
Confluence [developed a valuable new resource](#) compiling all the outcomes and messaging strategies that have been utilized in the creation of State Offices of Outdoor Recreation across the country.

The Four Pillars

The outdoors is the wellspring of adventure, camaraderie, and solace, inspiring us to both explore new places and set down roots. Whereas nature is the backbone of the recreation economy, the Confluence of States are committed to fostering conservation and stewardship values, ensuring environmental quality, and restoring sustainable access to the outdoors for current and future generations. Each state adopts and commits our states to the following common principles:

Conservation & Stewardship

- **Work with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to advocate for conservation and stewardship of land, air, water, and wildlife, and for public access to them.**
- **Facilitate public-private partnerships to enhance public outdoor recreational access, infrastructure improvements and conservation efforts.**
- **Educate and empower the public on the importance and interrelatedness of a healthy environment, outdoor recreation and a vibrant economy.**



Education & Workforce Training

- **Engage with educators to support environmental and outdoor learning opportunities for early and life-long outdoor activity, career development, and advocacy for outdoor recreation.**
- **Promote workforce training programs for technical training, skill mastery, and business opportunities across the spectrum of outdoor industry careers.**
- **Promote interest, participation, and diversity in the outdoors for all, supporting opportunities for early and life-long outdoor learning.**



The Four Pillars

Economic Development

- Collaborate with all stakeholders to establish and improve sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and funding.
- Engage federal, tribal, state, and local governments, as well as local and regional economic development organizations to attract, retain, and expand business and market the outdoor recreation economy.
- Address barriers to businesses' success in the outdoor recreation economy.



Public Health & Wellness

- Address social determinants of health by increasing outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Partner with health & wellness stakeholders to determine shared values and common goals, build relationships, and generate innovative partnerships to fulfill shared visions.
- Assist in quantifying impacts of access to outdoor recreation and related social determinants on healthcare outcomes and costs.



Conservation & Stewardship

ADVOCATING FOR CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF LAND

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas legislature approved a **\$1.5 million appropriation increase for the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (ORGP)**, further proving how important infrastructure investment is to the growth of the overall outdoor recreation economy in Arkansas. This year, ORGP was moved to the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

COLORADO

President Biden announced a **53,804-acre Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument** becoming Colorado's ninth national monument. This action will honor veterans, Indigenous people, and their legacy by protecting this Colorado landscape, while supporting jobs and America's outdoor recreation economy.

MAINE

In June 2023, Governor Janet Mills announced funding for nine new **Land for Maine's Future (LMF)** conservation projects across Maine, advancing the State of Maine's commitment to preserve precious natural resources, protect wildlife habitats, and ensure public access to lakes, rivers, scenic views, and mountain vistas.

MARYLAND

In July 2022, Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the award of **\$18.8 million to 22 ecological restoration projects** that will improve water quality and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while building local resilience to climate impacts.

Source: Visit Maine



Source: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office



MICHIGAN

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation creating more opportunities for quality outdoor recreation by authorizing **\$45.6 million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.**

NEVADA

Nevada received more than **\$417 million in a new round of federal funding** to support nearly 50 projects benefiting the state's outdoors. The U.S. Interior Department committed the funding through provisions in the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire announced that seven communities across the state will receive **\$1,064,931.50 in federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants** to assist with public outdoor recreational projects.

NEW MEXICO

The State of New Mexico created **The Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund.** This permanent trust fund will fund programs prioritizing land and water stewardship, forest and watershed health, outdoor recreation and infrastructure, agriculture and working lands, historic preservation, and wildlife species protection.

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor Roy Cooper announced the North Carolina Land and Water Fund awarded grants totaling **\$70.3 million, providing funds for 117 projects** that will protect North Carolina's land and water from the mountains to the coast

OREGON

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund announced the **funding of 25 new projects collectively totaling \$985,503** to address statewide conservation and/or recreation needs and **\$50 million in bonds to start parks.**

UTAH

Utah created the **Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative** to improve & expand outdoor recreation infrastructure on the 35 million acres of public lands in the state, especially on large cross-jurisdictional projects to address increased usage and to minimize overcrowding & overuse. To assist in these efforts, they have designated 1% of all state sales tax to fund large outdoor recreation projects.



Source: Utah Geological Survey

VERMONT

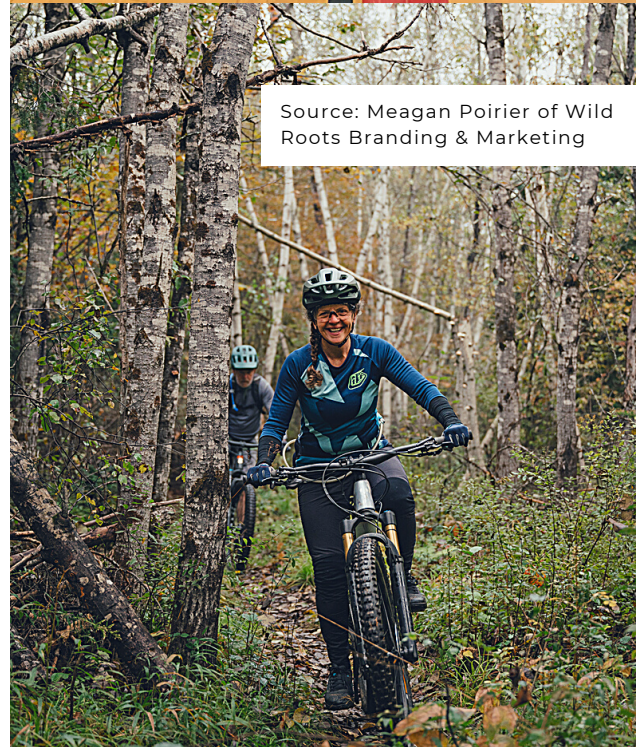
Vermont passed the **Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Bill**, otherwise known as Vermont's "30x30" bill. The bill stipulates the creation of a statewide conservation plan that elevates conservation as a necessary strategy to promote the health of Vermont's forests and watersheds, including habitat connectivity, biodiversity projections, outdoor recreation, sustainable forestry, public health and climate resilient communities.



Source: Jon Snyder

VIRGINIA

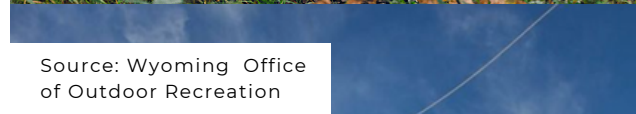
The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation announced a record **\$14.9 million in grant awards** from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation that will help conserve 13,955 acres throughout the commonwealth.



Source: Meagan Poirier of Wild Roots Branding & Marketing

WASHINGTON

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation awarded nearly **\$190 million in grants in 2023** to improve outdoor recreation and conserve important wildlife habitat. Grants were awarded to a variety of organizations to renovate parks, build trails and create new places for people to recreate outdoors, and also make investments in conserving lands that are homes to plants and animals at risk of extinction, as well as conservation of working farms and forests.



Source: Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation

WYOMING

Governor Mark Gordon signed House Bill 74 creating the Wyoming **outdoor recreation and tourism trust fund** with \$6 million appropriated each biennium with a corpus goal of \$200 million. The trust account will fund outdoor recreation infrastructure development, maintenance, and access programs.



Education & Workforce Training

CONNECTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
TO ALL PARTS OF THE STATE



Source: Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation

ARKANSAS

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders created the **Natural State Initiative Advisory Council**, focused on growing the state's outdoor recreation economy, established by executive order in January.

COLORADO

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office partnered with the **Wright Collegiate Challenge** as part of its mission to help educate an outdoor industry workforce. Outdoor industry students from three Western Slope universities offered solutions to several outdoor recreation businesses seeking innovative solutions to challenges.



Source: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

MAINE

The Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation and Maine Outdoor Brands launched the first **Maine Outdoor Economy Summit** focused on the shared vision of advancing Maine's outdoor recreation economy which included the Basecamp Gather: Maine career networking event, the first one Basecamp Outdoor has hosted on the East Coast.



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

MARYLAND

Maryland's Office of Outdoor Recreation hosted **colleagues from the Confluence of States in Annapolis**. Collaborative working sessions during the Confluence included discussion on education and workforce training, stewardship of our natural resources, and opportunities for nationwide expansion.

MICHIGAN

Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II announced grants to Polaris and other outdoor companies through the new **Mobility Public-Private Partnership & Programming (MP4) Grant** and kicked off the **Outdoor Recreation Innovation Network**, a new strategic collaboration that positions Michigan as the leading state for outdoor recreation innovation, vehicle technology and sustainability.

NEVADA

The Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR) announced that **\$500,000 in grant funding available for youth outdoor education and recreation projects** in Nevada. Grants will be awarded to programs that connect Nevada students with nature, increase environmental literacy, foster stewardship of natural resources, and promote physical health through outdoor education and recreation.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

A high school in New Hampshire's White Mountains offered **outdoor recreation classes** in an effort to help students land jobs in the region's growing outdoor tourism industry.

NEW MEXICO

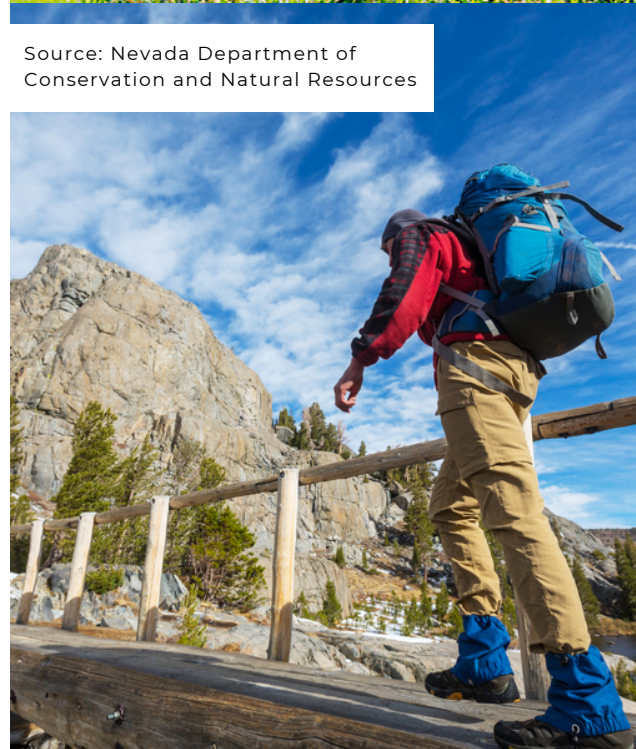
The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division announced the second cohort of high school students to graduate from New Mexico's first paid **outdoor industry internship program**.

NORTH CAROLINA

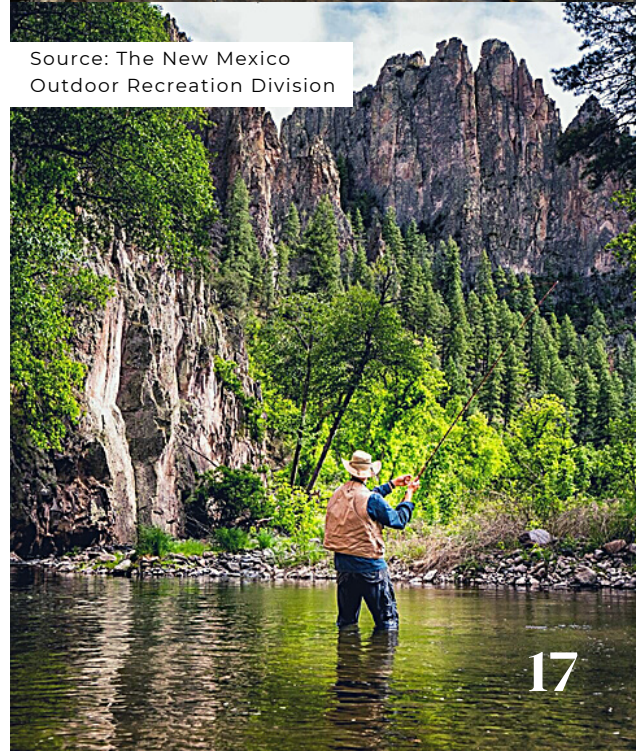
North Carolina hosted the **Outdoor Economy Conference** bringing together stakeholders in the outdoor business sector, federal and state agencies, environmental leaders, entrepreneurs, and the higher education community to have conversations on the outdoor economy.



Source: Michigan Economic Development Corporation



Source: Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Source: The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division



OREGON

Oregon's legislature passed **\$2 million to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy** for developing professional and workforce development programs in the outdoor recreation economy addressing critical and urgent skill gaps in specialized, technical and leadership roles.

UTAH

The **Utah Children's Outdoor Recreation Education (UCORE)** grant is a new program that will provide \$250,000 per year to help fund entities that teach outdoor recreation to young people. Utah also held their **Annual Outdoor Recreation Summit** focused on the future of outdoor recreation.

VERMONT

One hundred Vermont outdoor businesses gathered at HULA in Burlington for **Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance's Fourth Annual Outdoor Economy Sessions** to discuss business development, workforce, and marketing as well as approaches to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion and recreation infrastructure.

VIRGINIA

The **2023 Virginia Adventure Education Conference and Career Expo** was held bringing together Virginia's outdoor adventurers, educators, guides, collegiate programs, businesses, and leaders to network and discuss industry trends.

WASHINGTON

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction received **\$40 million in biennium operating funds for outdoor education** for day and overnight camping experiences with instructional time that support state learning standards, including career connected learning. The No Child Left Inside program 174 applications from around the state and received a record \$7 million in funding, for youth outdoor experiences.

WYOMING

The Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation and the University of Wyoming's Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative (WORTH) co-hosted the inaugural **Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Summit**. The summit engages emerging topics across the state, builds best practices, and integrates student learning into developing Wyoming's outdoor recreation future.



Source: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

Economic Development

SUPPORTING THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY



Source: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

ARKANSAS

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the **Natural State Initiative** designed to expand knowledge of the state's outdoor recreational activities and build its outdoor economy.

COLORADO

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office initiated a new grant program called the **Outdoor Recreation Industry Impact Fund** to help outdoor recreation companies and nonprofits recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant was intended to help the outdoor industry sector hire and retain workers and spur economic development in communities across the state.



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

MAINE

The Roux Institute, Skowhegan Main Street and Maine Outdoor Brands, with support from the Office of Outdoor Recreation, organized the **Skowhegan Start Summit** which attracted over 30 innovators who pitched ideas focused on solutions to outdoor recreation industry challenges.

MARYLAND

Governor Larry Hogan's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget included \$5 million to 39 local projects statewide, providing greater access to outdoor recreation for all Marylanders. This provides funding to municipalities to rehabilitate, expand, or improve existing parks, create new parks, or purchase and install playground equipment.

MICHIGAN

Governor Gretchen Whitmer joined the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to announce that Carhartt, a manufacturer of premium workwear, outdoor apparel, and footwear, expanded in Dearborn with support from the Michigan Strategic Fund. The project is expected to generate a total capital investment of \$4.65 million and create 125 well-paying jobs.



Source: MaineBiz



Source: Michigan Economic Development Corporation



Source: New Hampshire Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development



Source: North Carolina Outdoor Economy Conference

NEVADA

The Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation awarded over **\$600,000 in outdoor infrastructure grants to 12 unique projects** across the state. The grant program was developed to support communities and organizations statewide with grants for shovel-ready projects or transformative planning endeavors.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Through the Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Program, New Hampshire awarded **\$2,020,352 to 5 outdoor recreation projects** that have a positive role in region/state economic development.

NEW MEXICO

In partnership with Central New Mexico Ingenuity's Startups and Small Business team, the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) held another entrepreneur pitch event called the **Adventure Pitch**. They invited startups with high-growth potential and a core offering that touched outdoor recreation, the environment, or health and wellness to apply to this premier startup pitch event for outdoor companies in New Mexico.

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division selected **34 local governments** from across the state to participate in the **Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies Program** to bolster local economic vitality.

OREGON

\$1 million was awarded to the **Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy** for developing a program to provide facilitation services and technical assistance grants to communities affected by wildfire for community engagement in the planning and construction of outdoor recreation facilities for economic recovery.

UTAH

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation helped distribute more than **\$30 million to local communities for outdoor recreation infrastructure** around the state, increasing opportunities and access to recreation and open space for residents and visitors.

VERMONT

Small Vermont municipalities and non-profits put millions of dollars in **VOREC Community Grants** to work building new outdoor recreation infrastructure and connecting it to their downtown and business centers. Among other communities, The Town of Killington celebrated the completion of the new Sherburne mountain bike trail in the Green Mountain National Forest.

VIRGINIA

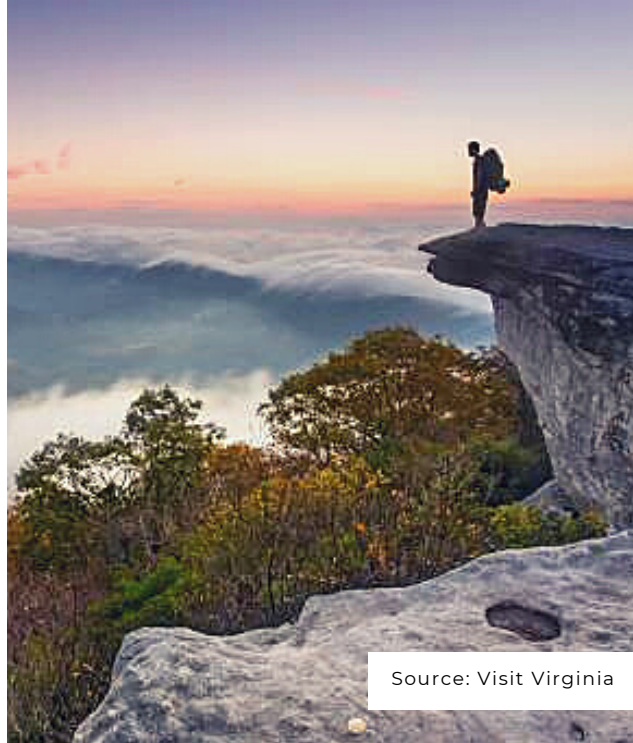
Governor Glenn Youngkin announced 10 Virginia communities will boost their outdoor recreation economy through the **DRIVE Outdoor grant program**. The program targets outdoor product development and entrepreneurial expansion throughout the Commonwealth.

WASHINGTON

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office received **\$5 million in for recreation access planning grants** to help diverse, urban neighborhoods and rural communities plan for outdoor recreation facilities, and an additional **\$12.4 million** in constructions grants for equitable access to community outdoor athletic facilities.

WYOMING

The Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation launched the **Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Grant Program** funding projects that focus on the response to COVID-19 impacts, new outdoor recreation infrastructure, and economic impact in local communities.



Source: Visit Virginia



Source: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative



Source: Jon Snyder

Public Health & Wellness

IMPROVING ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION



Source: Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation



Source: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation awarded **\$6.489 million in Outdoor Recreation Grants** to projects within 35 counties across the state. The grants fall into two categories: Facilities for Underdeveloped Neighborhoods (FUN) Park grants and matching grants.

COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis announced an **annual \$14 Centennial State Park Pass** to help reduce barriers and provides income-eligible Colorado residents with a lower-cost park pass to visit Colorado state parks.

MAINE

Love Maine Trails Month was created by the Maine Trails Coalition to raise awareness of trails across Maine, the volunteer efforts behind stewardship and maintenance, the health and wellness benefits, and the importance to local communities. Love Maine Trails Month is a partnership between the Maine Trails Coalition and Maine Trail Finder.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reports that **4,896 people hiked 9,780 miles during First Day Hikes** in 41 state parks on New Year's weekend. Between Dec. 31, 2022 and Jan. 2, 2023, there were 37 scheduled ranger-led programs with an additional 23 self-guided opportunities available on state public lands across Maryland.

MICHIGAN

Almost 1,400 people from around the world traveled to Michigan to take part in the 31st annual **Michigan Ice Fest**. This year, climbers from seven countries and nearly every state in the U.S. participated, according to organizer and owner of Down Wind Sports Bill Thompson.

NEVADA

Nevada launched the **Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan** creating the first destination stewardship council for the greater Tahoe region to better manage outdoor recreation and tourism and ensure the sustainability and preservation of an iconic natural treasure and community.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development partnered with the **Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics** — a national stewardship program — to help craft new recommendations for minimum-impact practices that are specific to the granite state.

NEW MEXICO

Through the **Outdoor Equity Fund**, the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division supported 48 organizations working to get 12,391 youth outside.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina embarked on a year-long marketing campaign naming 2023 the “**Year of the Trail**.” The aimed to highlight the benefits of trails, garnering more support and funding in the process.

OREGON

The 2024-2028 statewide outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) is currently under development, and that will include an update to the **health benefits research** that Oregon State pioneered in the previous SCORP.



Source: Travel Nevada

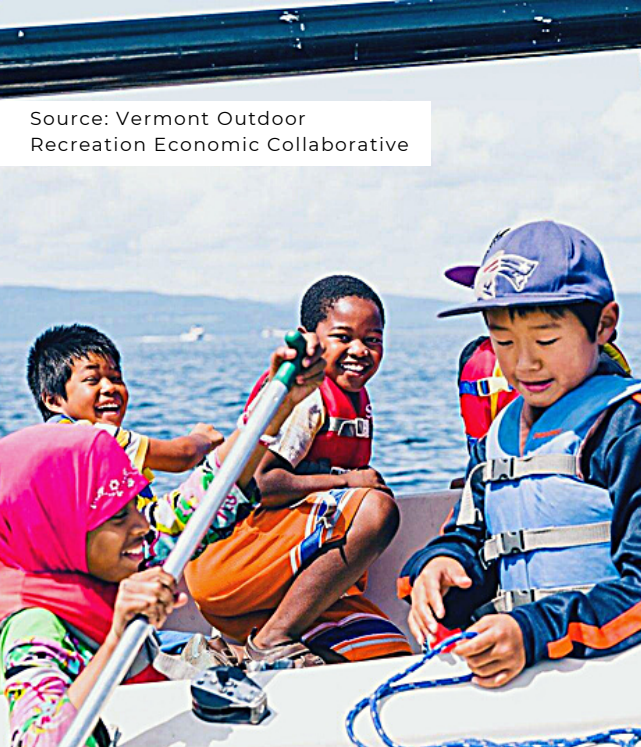


Source: North Carolina Outdoor Economy Conference



Source: Travel Oregon | OCVA

Source: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative



UTAH

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation developed their **first strategic plan** examining how Utah can build outdoor recreation opportunities that are accessible for those who are at risk the most from physical and mental/emotional health threats.

VERMONT

The Vermont Department of Health partnered with the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to implement a **Health Equity and Community Design Technical Assistance Pilot**. The pilot program provides extra capacity and resources to communities to develop healthy community design and placemaking plans, ideas, and projects that center on equity. Healthy Community Design in Vermont includes Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Communities and Parks, Recreation Facilities and Open Spaces.



Source: Jon Snyder

VIRGINIA

Governor Glenn Youngkin proclaimed **June 2023 as Great Outdoors Month** in Virginia celebrating the quality of life in Virginia.

WASHINGTON

The new biennial budget included **\$5M for statewide sidewalk data collection, \$5M for ebike rebate incentives and ebike lending library, and \$16.8M statewide school-based bicycle education program**. The Governor also signed bills creating mandated minimums for K-5 recess, water safety education, and a public facilities bill aimed at making it easier to finance and maintain pools and aquatics centers.

WYOMING

The Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation facilitated **seven community outdoor recreation collaboratives** throughout the state to gather community-based solutions to outdoor recreation challenges and development.

Source: New Hampshire Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development



A LOOK AHEAD...

The future of outdoor recreation is looking bright, and it's an exciting time to be a part of it.

Next year, the Confluence will be led by Katherine Andrews, Director of the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, who was elected Chair of the Confluence of States Coalition for 2024. Carolann Ouellette, Director of the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, was re-elected to serve as Co-Chair.

To continue our efforts, the Confluence of States is proud to offer prospective state memberships for leaders in the process of developing their offices of outdoor recreation.

Prospective members are matched with a sponsor state and the group can serve as a resource to help states develop and implement plans that lead toward the Confluence Accords Five Common Criteria for full membership.

The Confluence of States will be working closer together with the [State Outdoor Business Alliance Network](#) to grow the outdoor recreation industry.



Office Creation

Offices of Outdoor Recreation are created through a number of measures - legislation, budget line item, executive order, press releases, or gubernatorial action. Offices are created by the support of stakeholders, business leaders, government and non-profit partnerships. See below for how the 16 member states were created:

| | Creation | Agency | Funding |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Arkansas (2021) | <u>Executive Order</u> | Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism | General Funds |
| Colorado (2015) | <u>Legislation</u> | Office of Economic and International Trade | General Funds |
| Maine (2018) | <u>Legislation</u> | Department of Economic & Community Development | Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund |
| Maryland (2021) | <u>Budget Line Item</u> | Department of Natural Resources | General Funds |
| Michigan (2019) | Governor's <u>Press Release</u> & Memorandum of Understanding | Michigan Economic Development Corporation | Michigan Strategic Fund |
| Montana (2017) | <u>Gubernatorial Action</u> | Department of Commerce | Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund |
| Nevada (2019) | <u>Legislation</u> | Department of Conservation and Natural Resources | General Funds |
| New Hampshire (2019) | <u>Legislation</u> | Division of Economic Development | General Funds |

| | Creation | Agency | Funding |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| New Mexico (2019) | <u>Legislation</u> | Economic Development Department | General Funds |
| North Carolina (2017) | Budget Line Item | Economic Development Partnership | General Funds |
| Oregon (2017) | <u>Legislation</u> | Oregon Parks and Recreation Department | Oregon Parks and Recreation Department |
| Utah (2013) | <u>Legislation</u> | Department of Natural Resources | General Funds and Transient Room Tax |
| Vermont (2017) | <u>Executive Order</u> | Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development | Grant Funding and General Funds |
| Virginia (2019) | Governor's Press Release | Secretariat of Commerce and Trade | General Funds |
| Washington (2015) | <u>Legislation</u> | Office of the Governor | General Funds |
| Wisconsin (2020) | Budget Line Item | Wisconsin Department of Tourism | General Funds |
| Wyoming (2015) | <u>Gubernatorial Action</u> | Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources | General Funds |

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