



January 24, 2019

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Governor Little:

The members of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) congratulate you on your election as Governor of Idaho. We look forward to working with you and your administration to ensure that access to and funding for Idaho's world-class recreation experiences remain an integral part of Idaho's job growth, tourism, economic well-being and quality of life.

The outdoor recreation economy is an essential part of our country's well-being. According to a 2018 report by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the outdoor recreation economy accounts for 2.2% of the American economy and supports 4.6 million jobs. In Idaho alone, it is responsible for \$7.8 billion in consumer spending and 78,000 jobs. Many of these jobs are in rural areas that rely on Idaho's accessible outdoor infrastructure and healthy wildlife habitats. You said it best in your recent State of the State address—Idaho's public lands and waters are surely one of the state's greatest assets. We applaud your commitment to expanding access, improving visitor experiences and addressing threats to Idaho's outdoor treasures.

Ten of your fellow governors across the country—many of them in neighboring Western states— have made similar commitments to grow the outdoor recreation economy and attract outdoor businesses to their states by creating offices of outdoor recreation. We encourage you to do the same, and offer knowledge, experience and support from the entire outdoor recreation industry.

We couldn't agree more that "Idaho's lands and waterways provide unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities, enhancing the quality of life for Idahoans and attracting visitors, which in turn power urban and rural economies across our state."

The members of the ORR stand ready to partner with you and your administration to grow the outdoor recreation economy in Idaho and contribute to the well-being of your communities and residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wahl
Executive Director