



March 29, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1026 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of members of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) - the nation's leading coalition of U.S. outdoor recreation trade associations - please accept the following priority for FY20 appropriations. While a wide range of federal programs are of importance to the outdoor recreation community, and individual organizations may provide additional requests, ORR identifies the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on recreation funding as collective top priorities among our members and the over 45,000 businesses they represent.

As your committees put together appropriations packages for FY20, we respectfully ask that you take into account the needs of outdoor recreation. A recent assessment by the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that outdoor recreation represents an annual gross output of \$734 billion, accounting for 2.2 percent of GDP. We believe that the federal government should support programs that provide access to and infrastructure for outdoor recreation activities, so we can continue to strengthen this growing sector of the economy and create American jobs

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

American Horse Council
American Sportfishing Association
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of the United States

The Corps Network
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)
Department of Commerce
Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA)

ORR Request: \$1.5M

We are very pleased with the FY19 Senate Commerce, Justice and Science inclusion of \$1.5 million for the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to continue its publication of the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) on an annual basis, and to develop corresponding state and regional data on the economic impact of outdoor recreation.

On September 20, 2018, BEA published the final ORSA report that illustrates the large economic impact of outdoor recreation. This report calculated that the outdoor recreation industry had a U.S. GDP contribution of 2.2 percent (growing faster than the economy as a whole) and annual gross economic output of \$734 billion in 2016 (the latest available year of data). This economic contribution level is greater than other key economic sectors, including the mining, utilities, chemical products manufacturing industries and agriculture. Outdoor recreation also supports 4.5 million jobs, generating similar employment as other major job creators in the United States, including hospitals, transportation and warehousing, and educational services.

ORSA measures the size of the outdoor recreation economy and the link between outdoor recreation and the broader United States economic output. Like other satellite accounts, ORSA was built on BEA's comprehensive supply-use framework. The supply-use tables provide a detailed look at the relationships among industries and how each industry contributes to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As a compliment to the success and usability of the data from ORSA, ORR requests that the Government Accountability Office identify federal programs that directly support the outdoor recreation sector by providing access to and infrastructure for outdoor recreation activities on our public lands and waters. In addition to identifying a top line number for how much of the federal government budget is spent supporting outdoor recreation, such a study would also benefit the outdoor recreation community by identifying the specific programs, and recent spending levels for such programs.

President's FY20 Request: \$NA

FY19 Enacted Level: \$1.5M

ORR supports \$1.5M for this account.

Proposed Report Language: "The Committee appreciates the Department's analysis of outdoor recreation to the U.S. economy and provides \$1,500,000 to continue this work in fiscal year 2020. The Committee further expects the Department to continue working with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders to refine the national-level statistics and to develop regional statistics.

In addition, the Committee recognizes that a wide range of federal programs support the outdoor recreation sector. The Committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study and report to the Committee within 240 days of the date of enactment of this Act, identifying the federal programs that directly impact the outdoor recreation sector, and such programs' spending levels over the previous 20 fiscal years. Such programs include those that affect the management, access and conservation of the nation's lands, waters and natural resources. In preparing this study, GAO shall coordinate with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders."