



The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Alejandra Y. Castillo  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic  
Development  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 17, 2022

**Re: EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Competitive Funding**

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Assistant Secretary Castillo,

When we wrote you in mid-2021 to express our hope that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) would utilize funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to benefit outdoor recreation, we had no idea just how much EDA would become a core contributor to outdoor recreation and its associated economic, health, and environmental benefits around the United States. Now that the funding round is officially complete, we wish to express our overwhelming thanks on behalf of the \$689 billion outdoor recreation economy and the hundreds of thousands of businesses and organizations that sustain it.

Throughout the funding opportunity, we [have been tracking](#) EDA's Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation (TTOR) competitive funding announcements to categorize projects that *specifically benefit outdoor recreation*—whether they be new hiking and biking trails, parks, marinas, RV sites, whitewater parks, campgrounds, boardwalks, long-range planning initiatives, or many others. We are very pleased to share the top-line results with you today:

- **34** states
- **\$111,041,829** in direct EDA funding
- **\$39,565,781** in local investment
- **\$150,607,610** total
- **\$640,393,500** in private funding leveraged (estimate)
- **3295** jobs created (estimate)
- **1457** jobs saved (estimate)

Here are a few examples of what EDA funding will make possible:

**Tailout Trail, Tom Lee Park, Memphis, TN**

- The Tailout Trail will invite visitors up and over river habitat for spectacular views of the Mississippi, the Arkansas floodplain and the more than 325 bird species. The project will draw national attention to Memphis and is expected to bring thousands of new visitors to the riverfront.

**Develop and expand recreational mountain biking infrastructure in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, South Charleston, WV**

- This project will support completion of the bike trail system at Cacapon State Park, including trail design and construction, and development of bike facilities.

**Building an environmental education center at the new 11th Street Bridge Park, Washington, DC**

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park will be a new world-class public space for recreation, arts, and environmental education.

**Improvements at the Lake Mitchell marina and surrounding trail system, Mitchell, SD**

- EDA funding will help fund a public boat dock and jetty at Lake Mitchell, a major part of an overall plan to improve Lake Mitchell and make it even more accessible for recreation.



**Build 60-acre recreational vehicle (RV) campground at the wildlife conservation center, Cumberland, OH**

- The International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals (The Wilds) will build a 60-acre recreational vehicle (RV) campground at the wildlife conservation center to help attract tourists to 10,000-acre park, which is located on reclaimed coal mine land along the Appalachian Byway.

This impactful funding and project list only represents the TTOR competitive funding opportunity and will no doubt increase significantly as states announce their plans for the \$510 million disbursed through block grants. Each project will benefit its surrounding community in major ways, whether through new business recruitment and retention, increased visitation and economic activity, improved public health and wellness benefits, equitable access for communities who have been underserved in outdoor assets in the past, and climate mitigation and adaptation benefits that come from healthy green and blue infrastructure.

On behalf of the organizations below, we look forward to supporting the Department of Commerce in future projects to develop and sustain outdoor recreation infrastructure for economic, environmental, and community benefit, particularly in light of the new 2022 National Travel and Tourism Strategy, which indicates that healthy natural resources for outdoor recreations are one of America's best assets.

Sincerely,

American Conservation Experience	National Marine Manufacturers Association
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation
American Hiking Society	National Parks Conservation Association
American Horse Council	National Parks Hospitality Association
American Motorcyclist Association	National Ski Areas Association
American Society of Landscape Architects	Northwest Youth Corps
American Sportfishing Association	Outdoor Alliance
American Trails	Outdoor Industry Association
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Outdoor Writers Association of America
Archery Trade Association	People For Bikes
Association of Marina Industries	Professional TrailBuilders Association
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education	Public Lands Alliance
BoatUS	Rails-To-Trails Conservancy
CALREC Vision	Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Coastal States Organization	REI Co-Op
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	Restore America's Estuaries
Conservation Legacy	Rock Creek Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited	RV Dealers Association
Equine Land Conservation Resource	RV Industry Association
Greening Youth Foundation	Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Hispanic Access Foundation	Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Idaho Conservation Corps	Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association	Student Conservation Association
Mammoth Lake Trails and Public Access	The Conservation Alliance
Marine Retailers Association of America	The Corps Network
Motorcycle Industry Council	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
National Forest Recreation Association	Trust for Public Land