



Featured Speakers

May 7, 2024



KATHERINE ANDREWS is the state's first director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. She is responsible for leading the state's efforts to grow the outdoor recreation economy in Arkansas. This includes the promotion and connection of the outdoor recreation industry, the creation and progress of collaborative relationships between outdoor industry stakeholders in Arkansas, fostering the growth of outdoor companies, and the support and advocacy of conservation in The Natural State. In 2023, Andrews was appointed by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders to the Natural State Initiative Council and leads the Outdoor Economy subcommittee.



STACY BARE is a husband, father, skier, biker, and general outdoorsman. He is currently the Executive Director of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks. He served with the US Army in Bosnia and Iraq.

Upon his return he found healing and connection back to America through time outdoors. He is also a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year and award-winning film producer who has completed expeditions to Angola, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan.



ROBERT BEAN is Chief Financial Officer & Chief Administration Officer at Orvis.

Rob joined Orvis in 2005 as Corporate Controller. In 2008, he was promoted to CFO and added additional responsibilities in 2010 when he was named COO. In early 2019, he became CFO/CAO which encompasses a variety of responsibilities ranging from Finance to Operations to Conservation & Sustainability—the breadth and depth of his impact touching virtually every piece of the business over time.

Rob started his career in finance as an auditor for Ernst & Young, became the Assistant Controller at Business Express Airlines, and then moved on to Garnet Hill, Inc. where he filled the position of controller from 1999 to 2005.

Rob graduated from the Whittemore School of Business at the



University of New Hampshire in 1996.



LUIS BENITEZ is the Chief Impact Officer at Trust for Public Land.

Luis Benitez's early career was spent conducting mountaineering, climbing, and skiing courses for the international Outward Bound Schools which he advanced to becoming the Director of Operations and Chief Guide for Adventure Consultants, a Seven Summits guiding company based in New Zealand made famous via the book *Into Thin Air*.

Luis has led parties of climbers to the summit of some of Earth's most imposing peaks. His first of six summits on Mount Everest was in 2001 with blind athlete Erik Weihenmayer, and Luis has guided on the other famed Seven Summits a total of 32 times.

From guiding and as a byproduct of that work, working with governments around the world, Luis pivoted to full time government affairs and global impact work for the ski company Vail Resorts.

He was also at that time elected to City Council in Eagle, Colorado serving as the youngest Councilman for the town.

Luis then came to VF from leading the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office for the state of Colorado via his appointment by then Governor Hickenlooper.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DON BEYER is serving his fifth term as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District, representing Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County. He serves on Congress' Joint Economic Committee, and also serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

He was the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998, and was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Obama. Rep. Beyer's signature work as lieutenant governor included advocacy for Virginians with disabilities and ensuring protections for Virginia's most vulnerable populations as the Commonwealth reformed its welfare system in the mid-1990s. Rep. Beyer was Virginia's Democratic nominee for governor in 1997.

After leaving office, Rep. Beyer spent fourteen years as Chair of Jobs for Virginia Graduates, a highly successful high school dropout prevention program, and was active for a decade on the board of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. As



Chair of the Virginia Economic Recovery Commission, he helped pass permanent pro-business reforms and was co-founder of the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

President Obama nominated Rep. Beyer to serve as Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein in 2009. He used his position to advocate for stricter sanctions to compel Iran to begin nuclear disarmament discussions. As Ambassador, Rep. Beyer was integral to US Department of Justice efforts to halt the abuses of Swiss bank secrecy by wealthy Americans.

Rep. Beyer has spent four decades building his family business in Northern Virginia after a summer job at a car dealership in 1974. He is a graduate of Williams College and Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC. He was named a Presidential Scholar by President Lyndon Johnson.

Rep. Beyer has four children and two grandchildren. He and his wife Megan live in Alexandria, Virginia.



GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM took office as the 33rd governor of North Dakota on Dec. 15, 2016. Doug brings a business leader's approach to diversifying the economy, creating 21st century jobs, and revitalizing our main streets.

Today, North Dakota has the nation's fifth-highest GDP per capita, ranks second in energy production per capita and boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation.

Under Gov. Burgum's leadership, North Dakota has led the nation in innovation, creating a boom across the energy, agriculture, and technology sectors. His efforts to drive engagement with the five tribal nations with whom North Dakota shares geography have greatly improved state-tribal relationships through collaboration and addressing challenges and opportunities with understanding and mutual respect.



AINE DENARI serves as executive vice president and president of the Brunswick Boat Group, a position she has held since 2020, where she is responsible for the largest boat portfolio in the recreational marine industry with 18 leading U.S. and international boat brands.

Ms. Denari joined Brunswick after spending more than 20 years in a variety of executive positions within the automotive industry, and in leadership positions at major global consulting firms McKinsey & Co. and Bain & Co. From 2014-2020, Ms. Denari worked at ZF AG in a variety of roles, including leading the ADAS (advanced driver assist systems) business. Aine is a graduate of University College Dublin in her native Ireland, as well as Purdue University, University of Detroit Mercy, Northwestern University and Stanford University. She lives in Chicago with her husband and three children.



SASHA DIGIULIAN is a professional climber, writer, speaker, activist, media personality, and entrepreneur. Sasha is one of the most accomplished and recognizable female climbers in the world. She has been Female Overall World Champion, as well as the undefeated panAmerican Champion for a 10-year reign, and 3-time US National Champion. Sasha was the first North American Woman, and 3rd Woman in the World to climb the grade 5.14d, (9a). She has traveled to over 50 countries globally and accomplished 30+ First and First Female Ascents around the world, including Big Walls of 5.14 grades. These accomplishments have garnered her world wide attention, including gracing the cover of 30 magazines, and features including Oprah, Good Morning America, The Today Show, 60 Minutes Sports, Nightline, CNN, BBC, Vogue, TIME, as well as global endorsement deals. Sasha has over 800,000 followers across her social channels.

Sasha believes in the transformative power of sports on youth and female development. As a woman making a career within a traditionally male dominated space, she has stood for equality in sport, access, pay, and treatment of female athletes. As founder of Female Focused Adventures, a production company that centers around storytelling in the female adventure space, and empowering female content creators, Sasha strives to bolster the access and experiences of other women in the outdoors. She is the Founder and CEO of the superfood nutrition bar company, SEND BARS, which she launched in 2022 as a women owned and operated female business.



She is the recipient of the Golden Piton Award, Arco Rock Legend Award, and the American Alpine Club Robert Hicks Bates Award, which honors young climbers who show "outstanding promise for future accomplishment." She was also one of Glamour Magazine's College Women of the Year recipients. She has been recognized in the Virginia Legislature for her achievements in rock climbing under the House Joint Resolution 533. She is an Ambassador to the UN Mountain Partnership, on the board of the Women's Sports Foundation, as well as the board of Ascend Afghanistan, and an ambassador for Access Fund, Protect our Winters and Right to Play International.



LESFORD DUNCAN is the Executive Director of the Outdoor Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the outdoor industry dedicated to increasing equitable access to nature and the outdoors through community investment and groundbreaking research. Lesford is a collaborative leader in outdoor equity and youth development who has leveraged philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, and programmatic best practices to promote the resilience and well-being of children, families, and communities.

Lesford previously served as the Chief Executive Officer for Greening Youth Foundation, an international nonprofit working to cultivate the next generation of diverse environmental leaders through workforce development. Prior to that he served as the Senior Director of Programs and Associate Executive Director of Outdoor Outreach, a San Diego-based nonprofit introducing youth to the transformative power of the outdoors.

With over a decade of experience in public management in both the government and nonprofit sectors, Lesford has worked collaboratively to lead and support coalitions and develop innovative programs addressing issues at the intersection of outdoor recreation, environmental justice, and health. He has led and collaborated on local, state, and federal public policy efforts to reduce barriers to outdoor access, advocated for equitable conservation and environmental justice, and promoted the health and well-being of communities.

Lesford earned his Bachelor of Science (BA) in Biology from the University of Florida and his Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy and Leadership from Loma Linda University. He currently serves as a board member of the Next 100 Coalition and National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and is a



Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity.

Lesford is also an avid kayaker, ultramarathon runner, and mountaineer. Born to Jamaican parents who instilled in him the values of adventure, persistence, and curiosity, Lesford is proud to have placed a small Jamaican flag at Mt. Everest Base Camp. He has also summited Mt. Kilimanjaro, traversed the Grand Canyon, and kayaked through the swamps of the Everglades, all while encouraging youth of color to explore their world in new ways.



KENT EBERSOLE is the President of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). An outdoor industry veteran, Ebersole came to OIA in August of 2022 with a broad range of experience in media, business strategy, and non-profit consulting. Kent spent his early days in the outdoor industry with Rodale and Active Interest Media, managing the business of the outdoor media brands, including Backpacker, Climbing, Ski, and Warren Miller. More recently, he had been consulting for nonprofits, including a project reforming an organization's business model.

He has served on the Camber Board of Directors for the past six years, contributing his leadership and development skills. Kent brings these skills to his role at OIA, in addition to many years of industry connections, sales, and development experience.

In his role as President, Kent works to identify new opportunities for economic growth, deliver new programming for clean manufacturing, focus on timely and relevant membership experiences, and increase membership value while also advocating for pragmatic trade policies and inclusive practices. Kent hopes to inspire industry leaders and stakeholders to work together toward a more sustainable and equitable future for everyone included in the outdoor industry. He resides on the Front Range in Colorado, and when time permits, he is outdoors. Currently, his personal mission is to find other people from the outdoor industry of all abilities to join him in hiking all the segments of the entire Colorado Trail as slow as possible.



JACQUELINE EMANUEL is the Associate Deputy Chief of the USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC, where she champions entrepreneurial public-private partnerships while continuing to support community-based innovation that is the foundation of our partnership program.

Prior to taking the helm of the NPO, Jacqueline held a wide variety of positions in her 27 year career with the U.S. Forest Service. Jacqueline recently served as a Legislative Affairs Specialist and a Fellow in the United States Senate, and she previously served as the first National Sustainable Operations Coordinator.

Jacqueline has also spent several years as the National Partnership Coordinator in Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, building alliances and developing mutually beneficial relationships.

Prior to working in the Washington Office, Jacqueline worked on the Southern California National Forests, and she began her career in the Rocky Mountain Region working in a variety of Public Affairs, Partnership and Community Forestry roles.



LEGENDS AWARD WINNER TIM FINGER was born and raised in the Bay Area of California and attended Colleges in California, Maryland and Washington with degrees in Wildlife Management. Tim's first federal job was as a National Park Seasonal Park Ranger patrolling the backcountry of North Cascades National Park in 1979. Tim also has worked in other National Parks, the Sierra National Forest in the USDA-Forest Service and with the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Bering Sea and off the Northwest coasts. Tim joined the BLM in the late 1980s and has served in multiple BLM offices in California, Utah, Montana and for the last 8 years as the BLM Recreation Program Manager in Colorado.

Like everyone, age has slowed him down and he is usually the last one into camp or back to the truck, but claims that he sees more around him by being slower. He tells his coworkers that a bad day in the field is better than a good day in the office so go do something that makes a difference today and his favorite saying is: "never leave anyone behind".



ZACHARY FRIEDLEY is the CEO and Founder of Born to Adapt and is a professional runner sponsored by On. Zach - who is missing his right knee - runs with a prosthetic knee and blade. Zach has raced all over the world with the UTMB World Series, finishing some of the most prestigious mountain races in the world. Zach uses his visibility as an athlete to promote disability inclusion in the outdoors. He is the founder of Born to Adapt, a nonprofit project that activates outdoor trail events and inclusive run clinics for the disabled community worldwide.

Together with his coach, well-known run coach from the NY Times best-selling book Born to Run, Eric Orton, the two have hosted run clinics for athletes in the U.S. and New Zealand. In addition to his nonprofit work, Zach continues to work with race organizations around the world to make trail running more inclusive for the disabled community.



CHRIS FUSSELL is the Vice Chairman of McChrystal Group. Chris has focused on bringing his Special Operations experience and expertise in cross-functional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and decision making with large corporations facing similar challenges. He joined McChrystal Group as a Partner in 2012.

Chris was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Navy in 1997, and spent the next 15 years on US Navy SEAL Teams, leading SEAL elements in combat zones around the globe. From war-torn Kosovo, to counter-terrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, to highly specialized efforts in the troubled areas of the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa, he experienced and led through the modern evolution of the US military's Special Operations community, first on SEAL Teams Two and Eight, then in the Naval Special Warfare Development Group.



SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR DEB HAALAND is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico. She made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. Throughout her career in public service, Secretary Haaland has broken barriers and opened the doors of opportunity for future generations. She was elected one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress and was the first Native American woman to lead a state political party in the country.

Secretary Haaland was raised in a military family, and is an alumnus of the University of New Mexico with both a B.A. and a J.D.



MICHAEL HAPPE was appointed to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of Winnebago Industries in January of 2016. He also serves on the board of the Winnebago Industries Foundation. Mr. Happe is responsible for the overall vision, strategic direction, and performance of the Winnebago Industries enterprise, and especially accountable for nurturing and strengthening a culture that cares deeply for its employees and customers. Under his leadership, Winnebago Industries has grown from a single Winnebago product brand to a premium portfolio of outdoor brands with several major acquisitions including Grand Design RV, Chris-Craft, Newmar, and Barletta Boats.

Prior to joining the company, he served most recently as an Executive Officer and Group Vice President at The Toro Company. During his 19 years at Toro, he held a series of senior leadership positions across a variety of their domestic and international divisions. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the William Allen White School at the University of Kansas and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He currently sits on the board of directors for another publicly listed NYSE company, H.B. Fuller, and is active in several community, academic, and outdoor / manufacturing industry boards.



MERYL HARRELL was appointed as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) in 2021. Before this appointment, she served as the Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards. She has also served as a consultant, advising non-profits, foundations, and government agencies working to conserve America's public and private working lands. During the Obama-Biden Administration, Harrell spent eight years in the Office of Natural Resources and Environment at USDA, including serving as Chief of Staff and then Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary. Harrell previously worked on public lands issues at The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C.

Harrell received her J.D. from the Yale Law School, where she studied environmental law, and graduated magna cum laude with an A.B. in geosciences and environmental studies from Princeton University. Originally from New Jersey and more recently based in Atlanta, Georgia, Harrell can often be found out on the trails in our national forests with her husband and two children.



U.S. SENATOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER took an unconventional path to public office. After starting out as a geologist, John took a chance by opening the first brewpub in Colorado. As a small business owner, he gained a deep understanding of the local community and the value of collaboration. John entered public service because he knew he could listen to the diverse array of Colorado voices and get things done. As Colorado's U.S. Senator, John is committed to bringing people together to solve our country's toughest problems.

John was raised by a strong single mother after he lost his father to cancer when he was just eight years old. He remembers his father teaching him that if you can learn to laugh at something, it can never beat you. John has carried that lesson throughout his life.

John started his career in Colorado as a geologist. After being laid off in the long recession of the mid-80's, he opened the state's first brewpub in a neglected warehouse district in Lower Downtown (LoDo) Denver. He and his partners started multiple businesses, renovating nearly a full block of LoDo warehouses in mixed-use developments that included 90 units of affordable housing. His company led the renovation efforts of more than a dozen historic buildings in cities across the Midwest.



In 2003, John was elected Mayor of Denver. As Mayor, he focused on bringing people together to get things done, just as he'd done as an entrepreneur. He unified all 34 metro mayors to fund and build FasTracks, the most ambitious U.S. transit initiative in modern American history with 119 miles of new track. John made Denver the first large city to provide quality early childhood education for every 4-year old, initiated the most significant police reforms in the City's history, and opened one of the first offices of sustainability in the country.

John served as Governor of Colorado from 2011 to 2019. During his tenure, Colorado's economy recovered from ranking 40th in job creation during the Great Recession to become the number one economy in the country (U.S. News & World Report). As Governor, he expanded health care to half a million Coloradans, established climate pollution limits that served as a national model, and enacted commonsense gun safety measures. He also oversaw the creation of the first regulatory framework in the U.S. for the legalization of recreational marijuana, which has become the gold standard.

John is honored to serve the people of Colorado in the U.S. Senate. From traveling the state to sit down with farmers and small business owners to chairing committee hearings in Washington, John serves in the Senate with the appreciation that when he casts a vote, he represents all of Colorado.



SCOTT HOLLEY is the president and co-owner of Eddyline Kayaks, a leading manufacturer of kayaks and accessories headquartered in Siloam Springs, Arkansas with operations in Queretaro, Mexico. Scott joined Eddyline after leading the management buyout of the company from the founders in June 2017. Eddyline is the number one reviewed kayak brand in the touring and recreational category according to consumer reviews at paddling.com. In January 2022, the company received an investment from RZC Partners, a Northwest Arkansas-based investment company of Stuart and Tom Walton, a leading private investor in high quality outdoor product companies.

Eddyline's mission is to design, build and distribute high-quality, differentiated paddlesport products that inspire people to safely enjoy clean and healthy waterways. Eddyline believes in the value of community and is committed to supporting paddling communities as they in turn support the waterways that make their home regions vibrant places to live, work and raise families.



To further grow the paddlesport community, Scott helped lead the creation of the Paddlesport Trade Coalition (“PTC”) in 2023. The mission of the PTC is to promote paddlesport participation and to grow the paddlesport business community. Eddyline is a founding member of the PTC and Scott is an emeritus board member. Scott holds a BA in Finance from the University of Utah where he was the founding student director of the Lassonde Center for Entrepreneurship, and an MBA with Distinction from Harvard Business School.

He enjoys spending time with his wife Ana and his three children kayaking, hiking, and camping.



FRANK HUGELMEYER is president and CEO of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, the foremost trade group for recreational boating and the largest producer of boat shows in North America. He’s the board chair and a founding member of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, the Washington D.C.-based coalition of America’s leading outdoor recreation trade organizations, and vice-chair of the International Council of Marine Industry Associations.

Frank has more than 35 years of senior executive experience in the global sporting goods, outdoor recreation, and association management sectors. He’s worked as the chief executive at three of America’s most influential outdoor trade groups and as an executive for leading manufacturers and NYC’s oldest sporting goods retailer.

Prior to joining NMMA in 2019, Frank was president at RV Industry Association and Go RVing. Before that, he was the longtime CEO of Outdoor Industry Association where he led the renowned campaign that defined the economic importance of the \$1 trillion outdoor recreation industry for the first time in our nation’s history. He’s also known for joining forces with Utah Governor, Gary Herbert, to establish the country’s first state office of outdoor recreation.

His unique career journey has enabled him to collaborate with the world’s leading outdoor public companies, consumer brands and retailers, a list that includes Nike, VF, Patagonia, Bass Pro, REI, Thor Industries and Winnebago, along with pinnacle marine brands like Brunswick, Yamaha, Polaris among many others.

Frank lives in the Washington D.C. area and maintains a home in Colorado.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JEN KIGGANS is proudly serving Virginia's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore, part of Chesapeake and Southampton, Isle of Wight, Suffolk, and Franklin City.

Jen is a proud Navy Wife to her husband Steve, a retired F-18 pilot, and mom to their four amazing children who motivate her every day to fight for a stronger future for Virginia and our nation as a whole. Prior to serving Virginians in public office, Jen served as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Navy and worked in our nation's healthcare system as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, serving America's aging population.

Jen was winged as a Naval Aviator in 1995. She served our nation for a total of 10 years as a helicopter pilot flying H-46 and H-3 helicopters, completing two deployments to the Persian Gulf. As a former Navy helicopter pilot, Navy spouse, and now Navy Mom, Jen is a tireless advocate for the military community and is a strong voice for them in Congress.



JEFFREY KRAUSE brings over three decades of service and to his role as Chief of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Branch within the Directorate of Civil Works, Operations and Regulatory Division at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Headquarters.

Mr. Krause began his current position as Chief in April 2018 where he provides oversight of key USACE programs including Recreation and Visitor Assistance, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship, Water Safety, Lands Management, and Partnerships. His responsibilities extend over more than 12 million acres of land and waters across the nation, encompassing 420 projects in 43 states, which annually welcome over 260 million visitors and generating over \$14 billion in visitor spending.

Mr. Krause currently represents the USACE as a working group member on the Federal Interagency Council on Recreation (FICOR) and serves as the USACE Principle on the COMPACT Act Section 203 Task Force on Veterans' access to outdoor recreation. He is also the USACE proponent for initiatives such as the America the Beautiful 30 x 30 conservation goals and the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Mr. Krause finds joy in spending quality time with his wife, Kristina, in their Manassas



Park, Virginia home. Mr. Krause is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fishing with his son on our public waterways, embodying his deep appreciation for nature and commitment to conservation.



STEVE LIESMAN is a senior economics reporter at CNBC. Liesman reports on all aspects of the economy, including the Federal Reserve and major economic indicators. He appears on “[Squawk Box](#)” (M-F, 6AM-9AM ET), as well as other CNBC programs throughout the business day.

Liesman joined CNBC from *The Wall Street Journal* where he served as a senior economics reporter covering monetary policy, international economics, academic research and productivity. At the *Journal*, Liesman previously worked as an energy reporter, and Moscow bureau chief. He won an Emmy for his coverage of the financial crisis and was a member of the reporting team recognized with a Pulitzer Prize for stories chronicling the crash of the Russian financial markets.

Prior to joining the *Journal* in 1994, Liesman was the business editor for *The Moscow Times*, where, as the founding business editor for the country’s first English-language daily newspaper, he helped create the publication’s stock index, which was the country’s first. Liesman also has worked as a business reporter for both the *St. Petersburg Times* in St. Petersburg, Fla., and *The Sarasota Herald-Tribune* in Sarasota, Fla.

Liesman holds an M.S. from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a B.A. in English from the State University of New York, Buffalo.



YVONNE LEOW is the CEO and founder of Bewilder, an outdoor education company based in Los Angeles. Bewilder blends art, games, storytelling, and gear into summer and after school programs that inspire busy families to spend time outside together. Growing up as a city kid, Yvonne never considered herself to be outdoorsy, but she has since become an avid backpacker and mountaineer, most recently summiting Aconcagua, the tallest mountain outside of the Himalayas. Yvonne is on a mission to redefine what it means to be outdoorsy for urban communities and believes the wonder and awe of being in nature can be celebrated everywhere, whether we’re strolling around our neighborhood or barbecuing in our backyard.



Yvonne is also a board member of California's Outdoor Recreation Partnership and an advisory board member for ORR's Together Outdoors Initiative. In 2022, she participated in REI's inaugural accelerator for outdoor founders of color.

Previously, she was an editor at The Associated Press, Vox.com, a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University, and the former president of the Asian American Journalists Association.



CAROLYN MACNAUGHTON is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Manitobah.

Carolyn MacNaughton brings a wealth of industry experience to her role as CEO of Manitobah, a certified B Corporation renowned for its high-quality footwear and unwavering dedication to Indigenous communities. Before assuming the CEO position at Manitobah, MacNaughton earned degrees from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and Harvard Business School. She began her career as a management consultant, subsequently dedicating nearly a decade to various planning and Product Creation roles at Nike. Following her successful tenure there, she held pivotal positions as VP of Footwear and VP of Accessories at Under Armour, significantly contributing to their growth and success. MacNaughton leads Manitobah in celebrating Indigenous design, beauty, and resilience, while sharing cultural knowledge to help communities thrive.



BOB MARTIN currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of THOR Industries. From August of 2012 to July of 2013, Mr. Martin served as the Company's President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Martin previously served as President of the THOR RV Group from January of 2012 to August of 2012.

Prior to becoming President of the THOR RV Group, Mr. Martin was President of Keystone RV from January of 2010 to January of 2012 and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Keystone RV from January of 2007 to January of 2010. Mr. Martin has held various positions with Keystone RV, including Vice President of Sales and General Manager of Sales. Prior to joining Keystone RV, Mr. Martin held positions at Coachmen Industries, Inc., a former recreational vehicle and manufactured housing company. Bob is a 1993 Purdue University graduate. He resides in Bristol, Indiana with his wife and two children.



U.S. SENATOR JOE MANCHIN was sworn into the United States Senate on November 15, 2010 to fill the seat left vacant by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. For Senator Manchin, serving as West Virginia's Senator is truly an honor and a privilege.

Born and raised in the small coal mining town of Farmington, W.Va., Sen. Manchin grew up learning the values that all West Virginians share — family, common sense, fairness and hard work. As a small businessman, he learned firsthand from his grandfather, Papa Joe, who was an Italian immigrant and the town grocer, the importance of serving the public. As a young man, his beloved grandmother, Mama Kay, inspired Senator Manchin's belief in public service through her unflinching compassion and desire to help those less fortunate.

From his days as a state legislator to his six years as Governor to his current role, Senator Manchin has always been committed to his philosophy of "retail government" — in other words, connecting with all of his constituents and making service to them his top priority.

As a Senator, Joe Manchin is committed to bringing this same spirit of bipartisanship to Washington. As he has done throughout his entire life, he remains committed to working with Republicans and Democrats to find commonsense solutions to the problems our country faces and is working hard to usher in a new bipartisan spirit in the Senate and Congress.



ROMA MCCAIG is a dynamic C-suite leader, board director, and advisor with over 25 years at the forefront of corporate communications, corporate responsibility, sustainability, and philanthropy. She has driven transformative change, scaled the impact of iconic brands, and shaped narratives that code purpose into a company's ethos, strategy, and operations.

In her role as Vice President of Public Affairs and Impact at REI Co-op, Roma works to scale the organization's mission and purpose through brand, product, co-op communications, sustainability, community partnerships, philanthropy, government affairs, and broader advocacy initiatives. Prior to joining the co-op, Roma most recently served as Senior Vice President of Impact and Communications for Clif Bar & Company. She earned her Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and



her Bachelor of Science in Communications from the University of Tennessee. Roma sits on the boards of B Lab US & Canada and Sustainable Brands.



LEGENDS AWARD WINNER LORETTA MCELLHINEY is the Director of the National Partnership Office in Washington, DC, where she champions entrepreneurial public-private partnerships while continuing to support community-based innovation that is the foundation of our partnership program. Prior to taking the helm of the NPO, Jacqueline held a wide variety of positions in her 27 year career with the U.S. Forest Service. Jacqueline recently served as a Legislative Affairs Specialist and a Fellow in the United States Senate, and she previously served as the first National Sustainable Operations Coordinator.

Jacqueline has also spent several years as the National Partnership Coordinator in Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, building alliances and developing mutually beneficial relationships.

Prior to working in the Washington Office, Jacqueline worked on the Southern California National Forests, and she began her career in the Rocky Mountain Region working in a variety of Public Affairs, Partnership and Community Forestry roles.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE MOORE is a proactive problem solver committed to representing each and every constituent of Utah's First District. He is dedicated to reflecting Utah's values in Congress and finding solutions to the challenges facing the district and the state. Advocating for inclusive, pro-growth, and aspirational principles, Blake is amplifying Northern Utah's voice on a national level to ensure Utahns receive the service and representation they deserve.

Blake currently serves as the first-ever Utah Republican on the [House Ways and Means Committee](#), where he sits on the Healthcare, Social Security, and Work and Welfare subcommittees. He also serves on the House Budget Committee to push for policies to reverse our national debt crisis and advocate for Utah's defense community. Blake continues to represent Hill Air Force Base as co-chair of the Depot caucus, and he was elected in November of 2023 to join the House leadership ranks as the Vice Chair of the House Republican Conference. He is the first Utahn ever to be elected to House or Senate leadership.



DR. WALLACE "J" NICHOLS helps people reestablish healthier, more creative and regenerative relationships with themselves, each other and their environment through water, wonder, wellness and wildlife.

Nichols — called a "Keeper of the Sea" by *GQ Magazine*, "a visionary" by *Outside Magazine*, a "water warrior" by *AQUATICS International*, a "friend of the sea" by *Experience Life Magazine*, and "the godfather of water" by *Irish Life Health* and *Santa Cruz Waves Magazine* — is an innovative, silo-busting, entrepreneurial scientist, movement maker, renown marine biologist, voracious Earth and idea explorer, wild water advocate, bestselling author, sought after lecturer, and fun-loving Dad. He also likes turtles (a lot).



TOBY O'ROURKE is President and CEO of Kampgrounds of America Inc., where she oversees the world's largest branded system of campgrounds with over 500 franchised and company owned locations across North America. The company also owns Terramor Outdoor Resorts, a new glamping venture with a flagship property in Maine. In addition to managing its outdoor hospitality portfolio, KOA, Inc. is the go-to source for industry research publishing the North American Camping Report annually as well as monthly data.

Since joining KOA in 2011, O'Rourke has helped push KOA, Inc. to be at the forefront of industry change and modernization fueled by her unique professional experience in digital marketing, brand management, technology consulting, business architecture and software development. She initiated an ongoing, cross-functional effort, Campground of the Future, which seeks to re-imagine camping and introduce new concepts and technologies to the business.

Prior to assuming the CEO position, she served as the company's Chief Operations Officer and Sr. Vice President of Marketing. Before KOA, Inc., she held positions in consumer product goods at WhiteWave Foods and Sara Lee Corporation and consulting at Deloitte and STA Group.

O'Rourke has a master's degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame.



KELLY PAWLAK started her career in the ski industry at Mount Snow Resort, VT in 1985 and served as general manager from 2005 - 2017. She has 30 years of experience at Mount Snow and held a variety of duties, including vice president of marketing and sales and vice president of resort operations. Pawlak served on the Vermont Ski Area Association board where she was chair until 2017. In November of 2017 she accepted a position at the National Ski Areas Association as president/CEO. Pawlak and is currently a Board of Director for US Ski and Snowboard, where she also is a member of their sustainability committee.



SIMON PERKINS is the President of Orvis and the third generation of the Perkins family to lead the company since its founding in 1856. He joined Orvis in 2012 and has filled leadership roles across Merchandising, Adventures, and Brand Marketing teams, serving as Vice President of Brand Marketing and Chief Operating Officer overseeing the execution of the company's long-term strategic planning.

Before joining Orvis, Simon spent 11 years as an upland hunting and fly-fishing guide in Montana, sharing his love of the outdoors, fishing, and hunting with clients. In his time at Orvis, Simon has championed projects aimed at diversifying the sport of fly fishing, such as the [50/50 On the Water](#) initiative and the [Breaking Barriers Award](#), which highlights individuals broadening the fly-fishing audience. Simon is a current Board Member with [Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#) (TRCP) and also served on the board of the [National Wildlife Refuge Association](#) and [Trout Unlimited Headwaters](#). Simon is a driver of Orvis's involvement in advocacy for [conservation projects](#) in locations such as Bristol Bay, Alaska, and Florida's Everglades.



JOHN PODESTA currently serves as the senior adviser to the president for clean energy innovation and implementation. Podesta served as counselor to President Barack Obama, where he was responsible for coordinating the administration's climate policy and initiatives. In 2008, he served as co-chair of President Obama's transition team. He was a member of the U.N. Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Podesta previously served as White House chief of staff to President William J. Clinton. He chaired Hillary Clinton's campaign for president in 2016.



ALYSSA RAVASIO is the founder and CEO of the largest marketplace for booking campsites, Hipcamp. Hipcamp has opened access to over 5m acres of land globally and over 150k campsites, with 85% of those sites found only on Hipcamp. Hipcamp’s mission is to get more people outside and they will support millions of campers spending millions of nights outside under the stars this year. Alyssa has a degree in Digital Democracy from UCLA and is very passionate about harnessing the power of the internet and AI to create a better future for our planet.



SAM REIMAN has been the Director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation since 2019, and a member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees since 2020. As Director, Reiman oversees, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation’s staff, strategy, and annual philanthropic program. In 2022, the Foundation disbursed more than \$152 million in grants and program-related investments, ending the year with net assets of \$2.8 billion. Reiman joined the Foundation in 2015, as Associate Director. His work prior to the Foundation included serving as a Senior Consultant for Deloitte in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Reiman grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and his higher education began at Harrisburg Area Community College. He went on to receive a BA degree in Science, Technology and Public Policy from Franklin & Marshall College, matriculating on a work-study scholarship and graduating Cum Laude. Reiman also earned an MS degree in Public Policy and Management, with a Minor in Business Administration, from Carnegie Mellon University, and an MS degree in Biotechnology from The Johns Hopkins University. He and his wife, Sandra, have two daughters, Isabella, and Sofia.



CHARLES F. "CHUCK" SAMs III was ceremonially sworn in as the 19th director of the National Park Service on Dec. 16, 2021, by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

Sams is Cayuse and Walla Walla and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Northeast Oregon, where he grew up. He also has blood ties to the Cocopah Tribe and Yankton Sioux of Fort Peck.

Sams most recently served as Oregon Governor Kate Brown's appointee to the Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NW Council) where he held a position as a council member from March to December of 2021. Prior to joining the NW Council, he served as executive director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

For 30 years, Sams has worked in tribal and state government, and in the non-profit natural resource and conservation management field, with an emphasis on the responsibility of strong stewardship for land preservation for this and future generations.

Sams is a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as an intelligence specialist. He holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Concordia University and a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma School of Law. He lives with his wife, Lori Lynn (Reinecke) Sams and their youngest daughter in Alexandria, VA.



OUTDOOR RECREATION LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS is the 47th Governor of Arkansas.

Inaugurated on January 10, 2023, she is the first woman to serve as governor of the state and currently is the youngest governor in the country.

Since taking office, Sarah has enacted transformational, conservative reforms. Those include Arkansas LEARNS, a sweeping overhaul of Arkansas' education system, including higher teacher pay and universal school choice; public safety reforms to invest in prison space and get repeat offenders off the streets; tax cuts to give more taxpayer money back to Arkansans; the Natural State Initiative to grow Arkansas' outdoor economy; and reforms to streamline state government.



JUSTIN SIBLEY is the Chief Executive Officer of [POWDR](#), a Utah-based adventure lifestyle company that inspires every human being with cool experiences in awesome places. POWDR's portfolio of businesses include 10 ski resorts across the country, [Woodward](#), a collection of camps and mountain resort experiences, Sun Country Tours rafting company in Oregon and Stovepipe lodging and concessions in Death Valley National Park. Prior to being named CEO in November 2021, Sibley served as co-president of POWDR as well as chief financial officer.

Before joining POWDR in 2014, Sibley was with [Backcountry.com](#), serving first as Director of Financial Planning & Analytics and then as Vice President, Finance. Earlier career highlights include Manager, Corporate Development at eBay and various other finance and accounting positions at eBay, Calpine Corp. and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Sibley holds an MBA from The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University and a BS in Accounting from University of Oregon. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah with his wife and two sons.



ROB SOUTHWICK is the President of Southwick Associates. For more than 25 years, Southwick Associates has been the leader in fish and wildlife economics and expert in outdoor-related business trends. Natural resource agencies, industry and the media look to Southwick Associates to learn more about the economic and business-related aspects of fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreations. Since the 1980's, Southwick Associates has provided detailed economic assessments of hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities. In 2006, Southwick Associates developed AnglerSurvey and HunterSurvey to provide the outdoor industries with business intelligence about sportsmen's purchasing habits and to identify leading brands and industry trends.

Southwick Associates has also actively assisted state and industry efforts to boost fishing and hunting participation by identifying target audience, strategies and evaluating response to marketing campaigns. We also help individual companies understand the size of their specific markets and assess the potential of proposed business ventures. On the international front, Southwick Associates has organized the development of economic models and surveys to demonstrate the important



economic contributions of sportfishing to Latin American countries, and has helped the U.S. alligator industry open business in Russia and China. Rob Southwick received his economics training at the University of Florida, and began his career working for the Sport Fishing Institute. Timely and dependable, Southwick Associates provides the outdoor community with the expert intelligence needed to improve success and profitability.



BEN SPECIALE became President of the Yamaha U.S. Marine Business Unit, in May 2010. The Yamaha U.S. Marine Business Unit is a part of Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. and located in Kennesaw, Ga. As President, Speciale directs the U.S. Marine Business Unit, including all U.S.-based marine activities and subsidiaries. He will also act as Chief Sales and Marketing Officer of Marine Engines and Boat Power Systems (BPS).

He oversees Yamaha's boat companies and subsidiaries, including Skeeter bass boats, G3 aluminum fishing boats, Precision Propeller Industries, Inc., Bennett Marine, Kracor and Siren Marine. Yamaha has approximately 2,300 marine dealers and is an OEM outboard supplier to 120 independent boat brands in the U.S.

In addition, Speciale previously served as the chairperson of the National Marine Manufacturers Association Board of Directors. Involved since childhood in his family's marina and marine dealership, he joined Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. in 1987 with Yamaha Marine Parts and Accessories. Over the years at Yamaha Marine, Speciale held positions in marketing and promotions. Speciale left Yamaha in 1992 to serve as New Fishing Production Manager at Fenwick Fishing Tackle in Huntington Beach, Calif. He returned to Yamaha Marine in 1996 in strategic planning and financial operations. He was promoted to Vice President, Operations and Planning in 2005. During Speciale's tenure as Vice President of Yamaha Marine, outboard products received a number of design and innovation awards from the marine industry and national media. Yamaha also is the only outboard motor company to receive awards in the National Marine Manufacturers Association Customer Satisfaction Index survey every year since its inception.



TRACY STONE-MANNING is the 19th Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Tracy Stone-Manning has spent her career devoted to public service and conservation, bringing people together to solve the biggest challenges facing our lands and waters. Before coming to the BLM, Stone-Manning served as both a senior advisor for conservation policy and associate vice president of public lands at the National Wildlife Federation.

Before joining the federation, she served as former Montana Governor Steve Bullock's chief of staff, where she helped broker bipartisan legislation, including delivering healthcare to nearly 100,000 Montanans by expanding Medicaid and passing a water compact with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She also helped launch the state's first Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Prior to that, Stone-Manning worked as the director of Montana's Department of Environmental Quality, overseeing the state's water, air, mining and remediation programs. She served as a senior advisor and regional director to Senator Jon Tester during his first term, where she worked primarily on natural resource issues.

Raised in a big, Navy family, she was guided into public service from childhood. She is an avid backpacker, hunter and singer and holds a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and an B.A. from the University of Maryland.



LEGENDS AWARD WINNER SCOTT SUNDERLAND started his career with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as a seasonal ranger in 1982 while in college. He has worked as a maintenance worker/dam operator, Park Ranger, Chief Ranger and now Natural Resource Manager at Blue Marsh Lake in the Philadelphia District in southeastern Pennsylvania. Scott has served on numerous national teams over the years such as the Recreation Leadership Advisory Team, the Stewardship Advisory Team, and most recently the Partnership Advisory Committee.

He represented the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at two National Boy Scout Jamborees as a staff member in the Environmental Conservation Area. During his career Scott has worked with and mentored over 300 seasonal employees many of whom have moved on to careers with Federal, State, and local recreation, environmental, or other governmental agencies. As a recreation professional, Scott is passionate about outdoor recreation and has spent his life pursuing those activities.



Scott and his wife Sharon enjoy lake and stream kayaking doing numerous floats each year. They also are active gravel bikers seeking out rails to trails routes to explore, having done several multi-day trips over the past few years. They enjoy travel and exploring new areas. They have four grandchildren in Florida which they travel to see several times a year.



I LING THOMPSON is the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for America’s Public Lands, the congressionally chartered charitable partner of the Bureau of Land Management. As a mission-driven leader with two decades of expertise in global land and water conservation, I Ling has dedicated her career to fostering people's love, connection and stewardship of the outdoors. Before joining the Foundation, I Ling held leadership roles with The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Outdoor Industry Association.

I Ling drove the game-changing 2012 Outdoor Recreation Economy Campaign, which significantly elevated and reframed the industry’s impact on the U.S. economy. She has earned recognition for her work, including receiving the 40 Under 40 Outdoor Industry Award. I Ling also remains active in the community through her board service with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Keystone Policy Center and the Together Outdoors Governance Council.



KENNY THOMPSON, JR. was appointed Chief Public Affairs Officer at Vail Resorts in December 2022 to oversee communications, government and community relations, sustainability and Vail Resorts’ corporate social responsibility platform, EpicPromise.

Before joining Vail Resorts, Kenny served as Vice President of External Affairs at PepsiCo. Prior to PepsiCo, he held several positions in the Obama White House advising Barack Obama, Joe Biden and US Trade Representative, Ron Kirk. He also served on the Biden – Harris Transition team. Kenny began his career working in local government.

Kenny was appointed by President Biden to serve as a member of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.



ROBIN THURSTON is the CEO of Outside, the world’s leading creator of active lifestyle content and experiences. Formerly known as Pocket Outdoor Media, Robin acquired Outside Magazine in early 2021 along with OutsideTV, AthleteReg, Cairn and others. Approximately 41 brands now fall under the Outside umbrella, including publications like Women’s Running, Yoga Journal, SKI, Backpacker, Climbing, and Pinkbike, trail-mapping services like Gaia GPS and Trailforks, and events such as Roll Massif and the Warren Miller Film Tour. Under his leadership, Outside is reinventing how active lifestyle participants consume content, participate and engage, increase knowledge, find gear, and ultimately perform in their activity.

Before joining Outside, he ran a consumer genetics company called Helix in Silicon Valley before returning to his home state of Colorado. Prior to Helix, Robin co-founded and built MapMyFitness into one of the world’s largest open fitness tracking platforms. Following the acquisition of MapMyFitness by Under Armour, he joined the innovative sports apparel organization and served as Chief Digital Officer, where he led the overall strategic direction of the company’s Connected Fitness and eCommerce business.

Robin spent the first ten years of his career building a mutual fund classification and ratings platform at Lipper (a Thomson Reuters Company), as well as a risk and compensation platform at both American Century Investments and Wellington Management. He graduated with a MS in Finance from University of Colorado at Denver and lives with his wife and three children in Boulder, Co. He is a lifelong cyclist who started riding and racing in the early 1980’s.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE GABE VASQUEZ is a first-generation Mexican-American who served as a City Councilor in Las Cruces. Congressman Vasquez grew up in the borderlands and saw the value of hard work in his family while growing up. As the first in his family to be born in the United States, he’s made the most of his opportunity and has worked hard to make a positive difference in his community and in the lives of others. Congressman Vasquez is a champion for working families, he believes we need to build an economy that benefits everyone. In 2013, after helping build one of Las Cruces’ most successful startup companies, Congressman Vasquez joined Senator Heinrich’s staff and worked across southern New Mexico to solve problems for New Mexico businesses, communities, and families.



Vasquez was also instrumental in the designation of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument, protecting it from harmful development and safeguarding it for future generations. In 2017, Congressman Vasquez was elected to the Las Cruces City Council with over 70 percent of the vote. In this role, he delivered millions of dollars in investment to create and improve parks, updated the district's infrastructure, promoted policy that created thousands of jobs, and helped craft a comprehensive development plan that focused on lifting families out of poverty. In prior years, Congressman Vasquez has served as the executive director of the Las Cruces Hispano Chamber of Commerce, worked in public lands conservation, and as a policy advocate promoting child welfare and family wellbeing at the federal level. Vasquez was elected to represent New Mexico's 2nd November 2022.



LELAND VITTEERT is the host of [On Balance with Leland Vittert](#) and NewsNation's Chief Washington Anchor.

Vittert asks "why?" about the most pressing matters of the day, with an intellectual, balanced and sometimes irreverent take on the news.

A veteran journalist Vittert joined NewsNation as an anchor/correspondent in May 2021. Vittert covered national affairs and delivered special reports across the network's primetime weeknight newscasts.

Vittert has served as an anchor/correspondent with Fox News Channel (FNC) since 2010, beginning his career with the network as a foreign correspondent based in Jerusalem. He started his work in the Middle East by covering the events of the uprising in Egypt that became known as the "Arab Spring." In 2011, he was one of the few reporters to broadcast live from Cairo's Tahrir Square on the night that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak relinquished power.



JESSICA (WAHL) TURNER is the first President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), America's leading coalition of outdoor recreation associations and organizations. Under her leadership, ORR has connected all segments of the outdoor recreation economy to pass historical legislation like the Great American Outdoors Act and achieve millions of dollars in funding for public lands, waters and rural gateway communities. Jessica has over a decade of experience navigating the halls of The White House, Department of the Interior (DOI), Capitol Hill, state recreation offices and outdoor lifestyle businesses.

Prior to ORR, she directed Outdoor Industry Association's (OIA) outdoor recreation portfolio in Washington D.C. where she successfully gained landmark government recognition of outdoor recreation's contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product as one of America's leading industry sectors. Jessica began her career at the Department of the Interior where she managed external relations for the Secretary, as well as First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Outside and Let's Move! in Indian Country initiatives. Jessica is also the co-founder and past-chair of the Coalition for Outdoor Access, serves on the Board of the American Conservation Coalition, Advisory Council of Oregon State University's Outdoor Economy Program, Business Advisory Council for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and has been recognized for her leadership in D.C. and the outdoor industry with Outdoors' 30 Under 30 and the Hill's Top Lobbyist. Jessica has a Master of Arts and bachelor's degree in American Government from Georgetown University and is a passionate outdoorswoman.



TOM WALTON is the co-founder of [Runway Group](#), a Bentonville, Arkansas-based holding company.

Committed to making Arkansas the best place to live, Runway investments include real estate, outdoor initiatives, hospitality, and aviation. He is also Chairman of the Walton Family Foundation [Home Region Program](#).

Born and raised in Bentonville, Tom spends his time giving back through regional investments and philanthropy. Through Runway, personal support, and the Walton Family Foundation's Home Region Program, Tom plays an important role in revitalizing Northwest Arkansas downtown areas with a desire to create collaborative spaces for the region's growing population.

Tom is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and resides in Bentonville with his wife Olivia and their two daughters.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE WESTERMAN represents Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources.

A Hot Springs native, Westerman is an engineer and forester by trade, an avid outdoorsman, and a proud husband and father of four.

After graduating from Fountain Lake High School in Garland County, Bruce went on to attend the University of Arkansas where he played on the Razorback football team and graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He later received his Master of Forestry Degree from Yale University.



U.S. SENATOR RON WYDEN serves on the Committees on Finance, Budget, Intelligence, and Energy and Natural Resources. He is Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a senior member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Wyden began college at the University of California-Santa Barbara where he won a basketball scholarship and played in Division I competition for two seasons before transferring to Stanford University where he completed his Bachelors degree with distinction. He earned his law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1974, after which he taught gerontology and co-founded the Oregon chapter of the Gray Panthers, an advocacy group for the elderly. He also served as the director of Oregon Legal Services for the Elderly from 1977 to 1979 and was a member of the Oregon State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators during that same period. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 until his election to the U.S. Senate.



U.S REPRESENTATIVE RYAN ZINKE is a fifth generation Montanan, former Secretary of the Interior and retired commander at SEAL Team Six. Zinke serves as Representative for Montana's First Congressional District. First elected to Congress in 2014 and serving as U.S. Secretary of the Interior between noncontiguous terms, Zinke has built a track record of accomplishments in energy, conservation, tribal and military issues.

Now in his third term, Zinke is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, focusing his legislative agenda on restoring accountability to federal spending, restoring multiple-use and public access to public lands, and bolstering national security at our borders and beyond. This spring, Zinke introduced the bipartisan Public Lands in Public Hands Act and had his bipartisan Gateway Communities and Recreation Enhancement Act pass the House as part of the EXPLORE Act.