



Recommendations to the Make America Beautiful Again Commission *Growing the \$1.2 Trillion Outdoor Recreation Economy A250 and Beyond*

America 250 and Our Outdoor Legacy

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, America has a unique opportunity to reflect on the shared values that unite us. Our public lands and waters—and the outdoor recreation experiences they enable—embody the enduring American ideals of freedom, exploration, stewardship, and opportunity.

Outdoor recreation is a powerful economic engine, generating **\$1.2 trillion in annual economic impact and supporting more than 5 million American jobs**. These benefits touch every state, strengthen rural and gateway communities, and contribute directly to the health and wellbeing of the American people.

The [Make America Beautiful Again Executive Order](#) establishes a clear mandate to expand access to public lands and waters, invest in infrastructure and stewardship, and leverage partnerships to conserve the natural resources that define our national identity. In alignment with that mandate, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) offers the following recommendations to ensure America's outdoor legacy remains healthy, sustainable, and accessible for the next 250 years.

Support Recreation Infrastructure through Reauthorizing and Strengthening the Legacy Restoration Fund

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Expanding access to public lands and waters
- Improving infrastructure and maintenance of public lands
- Leveraging partnerships and shared stewardship

Recommendations

- Reauthorize and strengthen the **National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF)** established by the Great American Outdoors Act, with a clear emphasis on recreation infrastructure that supports access, safety, and economic vitality.
- Elevate **250 high-value recreation projects**—including campgrounds, trails, boat launches, and marinas—as part of America 250, placing them in a national spotlight and accelerating delivery by addressing regulatory and permitting barriers.
- Utilize **Youth Corps** wherever feasible to increase project cost efficiency, build skillsets and stewardship among young Americans, and strengthen the future outdoor recreation workforce.

- Establish **clear metrics and milestones** to measure success and celebrate progress with agency leadership, Congress, outdoor business leaders, and local communities.

Rationale

Improving recreation assets through LRF generates direct user fee revenue for federal agencies and substantial economic benefits for gateway communities. Reauthorization will modernize aging infrastructure, increase resilience, and future-proof rural recreation economies while reinforcing America's commitment to conservation and access.

Recognize Outdoor Recreation as a National Health Solution

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Expanding access to public lands and waters
- Promoting stewardship and public engagement

Recommendations

- Advance new **interagency initiatives at the intersection of outdoor recreation and health**, collaborating with the [Make America Healthy Again Commission](#), and engaging with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and other relevant agencies.
- **Integrate outdoor recreation into public health strategies** to address physical inactivity, mental health challenges, and community wellbeing.
- Use America 250 to elevate bipartisan consensus that **connection to nature is essential infrastructure for healthy people, communities, and economies**.

Rationale

Decades of research confirm that outdoor recreation improves physical, mental health, and societal health, reduces healthcare costs, and strengthens communities. Viewing recreation as a health investment delivers economic returns while expanding Americans' quality of life.

Fully Implement the EXPLORE Act to Expand Access and Innovation

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Expand access to public lands and waters
- Interagency coordination
- Public-private partnerships
- Effective environmental management

Recommendations

- Continue coordinated implementation of the **EXPLORE Act (Public Law No: 118-234)**, with clear timelines, transparent metrics, and regular communication to recreation stakeholders.
- Leverage ORR's **Technology Working Group** to improve recreation data, modernize visitor experiences, and direct funding and staffing toward the most heavily used and high-value recreation sites.

- Use **public-private partnerships** to increase access, efficiency, and innovation without sacrificing conservation or stewardship.

Rationale

The EXPLORE Act represents the most comprehensive recreation legislation in American history. Effective implementation will unlock entrepreneurship, improve visitor experiences, and ensure land managers have the tools needed to meet growing demand. Implementing the EXPLORE Act is essential to achieving the goal of the MABA EO to ensure that “through both innovation and commonsense policies, America can preserve its natural beauty and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations.”

Preserve and Protect Access to Public Lands and Waters in Perpetuity

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Conservation of public lands and waters
- Expanding public access

Recommendations

- Ensure that all federal laws, policies, and regulations continue to support a **world-class, interconnected network of public lands and waters** that provide clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and inspiring recreation experiences.
- Incorporate **business certainty and long-term access considerations** into recreation planning and management decisions.
- Treat access to public lands and waters as a **high-return national investment** in economic growth and public health.

Rationale

Outdoor recreation on federal public lands and waters contributes an average of **\$351 million to the economy every day**. Protecting access ensures continued business and job growth, rural opportunities, and health benefits for generations to come.

Fully Fund the Recreational Trails Program

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Infrastructure investment
- Expanding access

Recommendations

- Support passage of the **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act** to align funding levels with the fuel taxes paid by non-highway recreation users into the Highway Trust Fund.
- Use **RTP investments to expand and maintain trails** for off-highway vehicle users, hikers, cyclists, equestrians, snowmobilers, and more.

Rationale

The RTP is a proven, bipartisan program that improves access, supports rural economies, and delivers measurable health and economic benefits nationwide without costing taxpayers as funds come from off-highway vehicle fuel taxes. Much more is being paid into this program by powersports users than the government is putting towards trail building and improvements.

Reduce Regulatory Headwinds and Support Thriving Outdoor Businesses

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Economic growth tied to conservation
- Partner engagement

Recommendations

- Create regular, meaningful opportunities for the **outdoor business community to engage** with federal agencies on regulatory challenges and economic conditions.
- Reauthorize the **Sportfish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund** and modernize the **Magnuson-Stevens Act** to reflect the growing importance of recreational fishing.
- Provide targeted **tax incentives for big-ticket recreation equipment**—including boats, RVs, ATVs, and powersports vehicles—to stimulate demand and support domestic manufacturing and retail.
- **Revisit outdated policies** that limit access without data like NOAA’s Vessel Speed Rule.

Rationale

More than **110,000 outdoor recreation businesses** power this uniquely American sector. Reducing headwinds and increasing certainty will help sustain jobs, innovation, and investment in this uniquely American industry.

Strengthen Federal-State Connectivity to Grow the Recreation Economy

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Intergovernmental coordination
- Shared stewardship

Recommendations

- Encourage the establishment of a **State Office of Outdoor Recreation in every state**.
- **Designate clear points of contact** within federal agencies to liaise with state outdoor recreation directors and Governors.
- Use America 250 as a **catalyst to align federal priorities with state-led strategies** for economic competitiveness and community vitality through improved and increased outdoor recreation experiences.

Rationale

Twenty-four states already leverage outdoor recreation offices to drive growth. Stronger federal-state coordination will amplify best practices nationwide.

Modernize Campgrounds and Boating Infrastructure as Gateways to Rural Vitality through Manufacturing, Recruitment & Retention and Visitation

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Infrastructure and maintenance
- Public-private partnerships
- Expanding access

Recommendations

- Prioritize LRF and other investments in **campground repair and modernization**, including modern amenities, upgraded utilities, flexible reservation systems, and sustainable practices.
- **Integrate campground and marina planning** with nearby communities to support local businesses, outfitters, and events.
- Streamline permitting and expand public-private partnerships to modernize **recreational boating and fishing infrastructure**, ensuring access keeps pace with growing demand.

Rationale

Campgrounds, marinas, and boat launches are the front doors to public lands and waters bringing in revenue and encouraging workers to relocate and visitors to stay in rural communities. Modern, accessible infrastructure sustains recreation tourism, supports boats and RVs made in America, and preserves iconic American traditions tied to adventure, exploration, and community.

Conclusion

America 250 presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to recommit to the landscapes and waterways that define our national character. By aligning conservation, access, infrastructure, health, and economic growth, the Make America Beautiful Again Commission can ensure that outdoor recreation continues to deliver opportunity, prosperity, and inspiration for all Americans—today and for the next 250 years.