

America Outdoors Association Bulletin

February 16, 2018

Waiver Upheld as Rafting Suit Dismissed in CO

The lawsuit emanating from a 2014 rafting fatality on the Roaring Fork in Colorado was dismissed recently by the Judge who upheld the waiver. Heart disease was a contributing factor in the death. While acknowledging the tragedy, the judge stated in his ruling that the deceased had every opportunity to abandon the trip after being warned of the dangers. For a full account of the ruling, go to Roaring Fork ruling in the [Aspen Times](#)..

Outdoor Recreation Was 2% of GDP in 2016

According to a preliminary report by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation represented 2% of the Gross Domestic Product in 2016. [The current statistics are described as "prototype"](#). 2% of GDP seems low actually. Use more bug spray :-).

Doing Business in the Grand Canyon Is About to Get Much More Expensive

The prospectus is out for Grand Canyon Interpretive Whitewater Raft Trips. The most remarkable requirement is a dramatic increase in required fees at every revenue tier. Larger companies are currently paying NPS between \$500,00 and \$1 million annually in fees. The increases will not take effect until the 2019 season.

The minimum fee schedule as a percent of gross for all trips motorized and oar is

5% for revenues between \$0 and \$750,000

10% for revenues between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000

15% for revenues between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000

22.5% for revenues exceeding \$2,000,000

14 BIG Insurance Mistakes

Life insurance is an extremely important part of your financial holdings. It represents big cash tomorrow (the death benefit) for cash paid today (the premiums). It also provides critical protection for your family and dependents. To reinforce the importance of reviewing and updating your life insurance today, we have listed below the 14 biggest mistakes individuals and businesses make regarding life insurance. These mistakes and oversights can have a devastating impact on your heirs. But they're very easy to change or correct if identified in time. Review them carefully; simply circle the numbers that apply to your situation and discuss them with your advisers. [Download the Business Library white paper to read more](#)

Elk Takes Down Helicopter

It's true. Click Here. <http://www.wral.com/leaping-elk-crashes-low-flying-research-helicopter/17336678/>

Register Today for the Managers Academy Scheduled for Grand Junction April 10-11, 2018

Special notice to Outfitters and Vendor members. Add to your management skills, at AOA Manager's Academy. [Click here to register.](#)

Day One helps attendees determine their personal leadership style. Attendees will also learn how to create a winning culture. This will include information on how to interview employees and train current staff.

Day Two covers customer service and risk management-including sexual harassment. AOA encourages managers in all service areas to participate; outfitters and commercial attendees are all welcome.

The following speakers have been secured for this special 2-day event:

Dave Bassage - Facilitator

Dave Bassage spent his career as an operations manager for several companies on the Cheat, Upper Yough, New and Gauley rivers. Now serving AOA as an educational consultant, Mr. Bassage served as Chief of Staff at ACE Adventure Resort in West Virginia.

Leah Corrigan - Session Presenter

Leah Corrigan is an experienced litigator who advises and defends outdoor recreation providers. She is the founder and owner of the Western Recreation Law Center, based out of Jackson, Wyoming. Leah represents all manner of outdoor recreation providers - from ski areas to river rescue companies, guest ranches to kids' recreation camps - on a wide range of liability, risk management, and permitting issues.

Randy Housh - Session Presenter

Randy Housh is co-owner/operator of Skills for Success (Strategic Management Consulting and Training Services), which provides to organizations a comprehensive training package intended to enhance product quality, improve employee productivity and assure the overall quality of organizational culture. His high energy, motivational style has made him a favorite among businesses, state organizations and non-profits.

Sign-up for the George Wendt Memorial Raft Trip to Cataract Canyon

[George Wendt Memorial Trip](#)

Price: First Person \$1400, Additional Guests \$1100

September 17-21, 2018

Cataract Canyon, UT

AOA is pleased to announce that another trip has been donated by the Wendt family and O.A.R.S., with a portion of the proceeds going the America Outdoors Association Government Affairs program. We at AOA are thankful for the continued generosity of the O.A.R.S. team know this will be an awesome opportunity!

Forest Service Announces 15 Areas for Priority Trail Attention

AOA was among the organizations supporting passage of the Forest Service Trails Stewardship Act. The Forest Service just announced the priority trails areas. The 15 national trail maintenance priority areas encompass large areas of land and each have committed partners to help get the work accomplished. The areas are:

- **Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and Adjacent Lands, Montana:** The area includes the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness Areas and most of the Hungry Horse, Glacier View, and Swan Lake Ranger Districts on the Flathead National Forest in northwest Montana on both sides of the Continental Divide. There are more than 3,200 miles of trails within the area, including about 1,700 wilderness miles.
- **Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington:** Methow Valley is a rural recreation-based community surrounded by more than 1.3 million acres of managed by the Forest Service. The area includes trails through the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas and more than 130 miles of National Pacific Crest and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails.
- **Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and Eagle Cap Wilderness, Idaho and Oregon:** This area includes more than 1,200 miles of trail and the deepest river canyon in North America as well as the remote alpine terrain of the Seven Devil's mountain range. The area also has 350,000 acres in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, the largest in Oregon.
- **Central Idaho Wilderness Complex, Idaho and Montana:** The area includes about 9,600 miles of trails through the Frank Church River of No Return; Gospel Hump; most of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas; portions of the Payette, Salmon-Challis, Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests; and most of the surrounding lands. The trails inside and outside of wilderness form a network of routes that give access into some of the most remote country in the Lower 48.
- **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico:** The trail's 3,100 continuous miles follows the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada, including more than 1,900 miles of trails across 20 national forests. The trail runs a diverse route with some sections in designated wilderness areas and others running through towns, providing those communities with the opportunity to boost the local economy with tourism dollars.
- **Wyoming Forest Gateway Communities:** Nearly 1,000 miles of trail stretch across the almost 10 million acres of agency-managed lands in Wyoming, which include six national forests and one national grassland. The contribution to the state's outdoor recreation economy is therefore extremely important in the state.
- **Northern California Wilderness, Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps:** There are more than 700 miles of trails through these wilderness areas, which are characterized by very steep mountain terrain in fire-dependent ecosystems that are subject to heavy winter rainfall and/or snow. As such, they are subject to threat from flooding, washout, landslide and other erosion type events which, combined with wildfires, wash out trails and obstruct passage.
- **Angeles National Forest, California:** The area, which includes nearly 1,000 miles of trails, is immediately adjacent to the greater Los Angeles area where 15 million people live within 90 minutes and more than 3 million visit. Many of those visitors are young people from disadvantaged communities without local parks.
- **Greater Prescott Trail System, Arizona:** This 300-mile system of trails is a demonstration of work between the Forest Service and multiple partners. The system is integrated with all public lands at the federal, state and local level to generate a community-based trail

system.

- **Sedona Red Rock Ranger District Trail System, Coconino National Forest, Arizona:** About 400 miles of trail provide a wide diversity of experiences with year-round trail opportunities, including world-class mountain biking in cooler months and streamside hiking in the heat of the summer.
- **Colorado Fourteeners:** Each year, hundreds of thousands of hikers trek along over 200 miles of trail to access Colorado's mountains that are higher than 14,000 feet. The Forest Service manages 48 of the 54 fourteeners, as they are commonly called.
- **Superior National Forest, Minnesota:** The more than 2,300 miles of trail on this forest have faced many catastrophic events, including large fires and a major wind storm downed millions of trees in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in 1999. A similar storm in 2016 reached winds up to 85 mph and toppled trees on several thousand acres and made the western 13 miles of Kekekabic Trail impassible.
- **White Mountain National Forest Partner Complex, Maine and New Hampshire:** Approximately 600 miles of non-motorized trails are maintained by partners. Another 600 miles of motorized snowmobile trails are adopted and maintained by several clubs. Much of that work centers on providing safe public access to the mountain and valleys of New Hampshire and Maine.
- **Southern Appalachians Capacity Enhancement Model, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia:** The more than 6,300 miles of trails in this sub region include some of the most heavily used trails in the country yet only 28 percent meet or exceed agency standards. The work required to bring these trails to standard will require every tool available from partner and volunteer skills to contracts with professional trail builders.
- **Iditarod National Historic Trail Southern Trek, Alaska:** In southcentral Alaska, the Southern Trek is in close proximity to more than half the state's population and connects with one of the most heavily traveled highways in the state. The Chugach National Forest and partners are restoring and developing more than 180 miles of the trail system, connecting the communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Whittier, and Girdwood.

America Outdoors Association 2018

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