



# America Outdoors Association Bulletin

July 26, 2017

Join us in Reno  
December 4-7 for  
The AOA Marketing &  
Management  
Conference

Opening Social December 4

Seminars and Trade Show  
December 5-7

**Conference Info**

## How to Avoid Unsafe Glasses for Solar Eclipse Viewing

## Minority Raises a Couple of Issues after The GO Act Mark-up

## Recreation Not Red Tape Bill Introduced in House

## Senate Confirms Dave Bernhardt for Deputy Secretary of the Interior

### How to Avoid Unsafe Glasses for Solar Eclipse Viewing

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is concerned that some vendors are selling glasses that are not safe for viewing the solar eclipse.

[The eclipse is occurring on August 21st.](#)

NASA says:

Some vendors, are selling solar viewing glasses that are UNSAFE. Some are specifically being marketed to children. NASA is concerned that retailers may have purchased some of these for use at event sites.

How to know if your glasses are safe:

1. Made in USA by one of the following: Rainbow Symphony, Thousand Oaks, TSE or American Paper Optics.
2. You'll find "ISO 12312-2" or "ISO 12312-2:2015" printed on all these filters. In addition to making sure your eclipse shades or handheld viewers meet the ISO safety standard, make sure they are in good condition:

If the filters are torn, scratched, or punctured, discard them. If the filters are coming loose from their cardboard or plastic frames, discard them.

Did you know that Columbus used a prediction of a lunar eclipse from astronomical tables available to him in 1504 to escape the island of Jamaica after his worm-eaten ships had been stranded there? Read this remarkable story at <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/eclipse-saved-columbus>

### Minority Raises a Couple of Issues after The GO Act Mark-up

While the Democrats did not oppose The GO Act during mark-up, Representative Grijalva and five colleagues recently objected to the proposed categorical exclusion (CE) language in H.R. 289. The Democrats want the agency to develop categorical exclusions through rule-making. While the Forest Service has done that for some educational programs, they have not done CE's for permits issued to commercial outfitters and guides. We have reason to believe the agency actually likes the statutory CE language because it protects them from legal challenges and they also want to

streamline their processes.

The minority also objected to a minor provision that would enable permit holders who have reached capacity to temporarily access additional capacity if it is available. The minority erroneously claimed in the letter to Chairman Bishop that "Automatic allocation of additional capacity to existing permit holders could inadvertently lead to increased utilization for permit holders that are not meeting their evaluation standards". This is a bogus conclusion probably resulting from input provided to the minority by The Wilderness Society, which testified against H.R. 289.

The marked-up GO Act has a provision that states: *The Secretary may assign any use remaining after adjusting allocations on a temporary basis to qualified permit holders.* We have suggested eliminating the clause "after adjusting allocations on a temporary basis" since this provision is only there to enable access to use pools that are established at some resources. That provision is in a section of the bill that reforms use reviews and provides Forest Supervisors with options to waive them due to extenuating circumstances like lack of hunting licenses or drought, such as the one that occurred for four years on the Kern River. Currently the Forest Service rule on use reviews has no allowance for extenuating circumstances.

The draft Forest Service permitting rule in 2007 was originally written to transfer capacity out of commercial outfitting to pools for exclusive use by institutional outfitters. AOA worked hard in 2007 to get the proposal modified to allow priority use pools as well as temporary use pools like the one created for camps on the Nantahala River in North Carolina.

Still some guest ranches with permits that were developed before the rule, which also have extensive shoulder seasons, have seen their service days cut drastically. These cuts left them short of daily capacity. SEC. 6 of The GO Act is designed to provide a more reasonable "use it or lose it" policy than the one implemented in a rule-making by the Forest Service in 2008.

The GO Act should open up more permits for new activities by reinstating the temporary permit, which the Forest Service once used for new outfitting activities. The 2008 rule eliminated the temporary permit except for the 200 service-day, temporary permit.

Express your support for The GO Act by calling your U.S. Representative. Go to <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr289>

### **Recreation Not Red Tape Bill Introduced in House**

A modified version of the RNR bill was introduced in the House of Representatives today. Meanwhile, Senator Wyden is close to introducing his Recreation Not Red Tape (RNR) bill in the Senate. A major feature of the RNR bill is the creation of a National Recreation Area System in place of the more restrictive wilderness designation, which may be an attractive alternative provided commercial outfitting is not diminished.. Both versions of the RNR bills advance the status of recreation on federal lands, but neither bill does much for commercial outfitting other than require one permit when a trip crosses multiple boundaries. For one permit to work, in most cases, cost recovery would have to be reformed, which is not a feature of the RNR bill.

AOA looks forward to working with Congress to improve this bill so it better accomplishes its goals. The GO Act will still move forward.

### **Senate Confirms Dave Bernhardt for Deputy Secretary of the Interior**

On July 24th Senate just confirmed Dave Bernhardt as the Deputy Secretary

of Interior, which serves as the agency's chief operating officer. He is only the second Interior official to be confirmed. Bernhardt previously served as Solicitor at the Department. Dozens of positions have no one nominated to fill them although there are some acting personnel in those positions.

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