



Outfitters and Guides United in Support for EXPLORE Act

America's outfitters are urging the U.S. Senate to swiftly pass the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act (HR 6492). This authorization includes all the provisions of the original Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation, or SOAR Act, which simplifies and streamlines the special recreation permitting process across public land agencies. The facilitated outdoor recreation provider community is united in its support for this outdoor recreation package and urges swift consideration in the Senate of the EXPLORE Act.

The EXPLORE Act predominantly mirrors the America's Outdoor Recreation Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 9, 2024. Amendments made in the House Natural Resources Committee improve the viability of bill, particularly Sections 316 and 355. America Outdoors encourages the Senate to incorporate Sec. 316 & Sec. 355 as they appear in EXPLORE as it takes its next steps.

- Sec. 316 supplants language around provisional permits with temporary permits, a better fit for both agencies and permittees.
- Sec. 355 ensures that the many initiatives within the Act proceed if adequately allocated and do not produce significant unfunded mandates for public lands agencies.

Due to the growing demand to make more facilitated outdoor recreation opportunities available for people from all walks of life, the need for this bill has never been more critical.

The SOAR Act provisions within EXPLORE will:

- Reauthorize the outfitter and guide permitting authority for the Forest Service, the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation;
- Authorize, but not require, one permit to be issued when a trip crosses multiple agency boundaries;
- Eliminate fees based on goods and services delivered and consumed off federal lands;
- Set the standard permit fee at 3% of gross revenues, while maintaining the option for an agency to charge a flat fee;
- Authorize the use of permit fees for permit administration and streamlining processes as well as for related recreation infrastructure and other purposes consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act;
- Ensure that the federal agency use review policies will not unreasonably penalize outfitters for unused days on their permits by reallocating their permitted days to other users;
- Allows outfitters to use exculpatory agreements that comply with state law.

These provisions combine to create opportunities for both agencies and permitted outdoor experience providers to become more effective partners, better directing our focus on our shared interest: connecting people from all walks of life with America's incredible public landscapes through authentic outdoor experiences.

SOAR Act Supporters

Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Alaska Alpine Adventures
Alaska Guide Collective
Alpenglow Expeditions
America Outdoors Association
America Walks
American Alpine Club
American Alpine Institute
American Camp Association
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Hiking Society
American Horse Council
American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education
American Mountain Guides Association
American Sportfishing Association
Angler's Covey
Appalachian Mountain Guides
Archery Trade Association
Association for Experiential Education
Association of Marina Industries
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
Avid4 Adventure
Big City Mountaineers
Chicks Climbing and Skiing
Choose Outdoors
Colorado Mountain School
Colorado River Outfitters Association
Colorado Wilderness Corporate and Teams
Colorado Wilderness Rides and Guides
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
Dude Ranchers Association
Estes Park Rock Climbing
Exum Mountain Guides
Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association
Holiday River Expeditions
Idaho Mountain Guides
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Kent Mountain Adventure Center
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce
Los Alamos Mountaineers
Mazamas
Middle Fork Outfitters Association
Moab Desert Adventures
Montana Alpine Guides
Montana Mountaineering Association
Montana Outfitters and Guides Association
Montana Wilderness School
Mountain Skills Rock Guides
Mountain Trip
Nantahala Outdoor Center
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds
National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Outdoor Leadership School
National Shooting Sports Foundation
New Mexico Council of Guides and Outfitters
New Mexico Wild
New River Mountain Guides
No Barriers USA
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Open Lands Consulting LLC
Oregon Outfitters and Guides Association
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoors Alliance for Kids
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Outdoor Research
Outward Bound USA
Peak Mountain Guides
Red River Adventures
REI
Rising Tide Associates
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
San Juan Mountain Guides
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
Santa Fe Climbing Center
Sawtooth Mountain Guides
Seneca Rocks Climbing School
Sierra Mountain Center
Sierra Mountain Guides
Sierra Mountaineering International
Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Suntoucher Mountain Guides
The Mountaineers
The Mountain Guides
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wilderness Society
Transforming Youth Outdoors
Utah Guides and Outfitters Association
Vetta Mountain Guides
Washington Trails Association
West Virginia Professional River Outfitters
Western River Expeditions
Western Spirit Cycling
Wilderness Education Association
Worldwide Outfitters and Guides Association
Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association
YMCA of Greater Seattle
YMCA of Los Angeles
YMCA of the USA

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