



America's outfitters united in support for AORA, America's Outdoor Recreation Act

The outdoor recreation experience provider community is united in its support for modernizing the permitting process and authority for facilitated recreation providers operating on public lands. The process of applying for, sustaining, or expanding a recreation for permittees ranges from arduous to impossible. Federal land management agencies acknowledge the need to modernize the permitting process. America's Outdoor Recreation Act of 2022, and in particular the provisions of the Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act, within it, effectively address this problem. Due to the growing need to provide more facilitated outdoor recreation opportunities for people from all walks of life, the need for this bill has always been clear and its provisions have always been popular.

- 104 Outdoor Recreation Groups Support the SOAR Act provisions within AORA.
- 11 House Republicans, 16 House Democrats, 9 Senate Republicans, 6 Senate Democrats, and 1 Senate Independent all cosponsored the SOAR Act in previous congresses. It has always had broad, bipartisan, bicameral support.
- Previous iterations of the SOAR Act provisions within AORA have passed both the House Natural Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee unanimously. SOAR has passed the House through unanimous consent.

In 2022, The SOAR Act was wholly incorporated into a bill co-sponsored by the Democratic chairman and ranking Republican of the Senate ENR Committee and passed the committee unanimously. The SOAR Act provisions within America's Outdoor Recreation will do much to ensure that outfitters have the appropriate regulatory landscape in place to ensure that their outdoor operations can be viable, affordable, and administratively predictable.

The SOAR Act provision within AORA will:

- Reauthorize outfitter and guide permitting authority for the Forest Service, the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) so those agencies can keep permit fees;
- Authorize agencies to develop categorical exclusions for permitting processes under certain conditions;
- 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, 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;
- Authorize provisional permits for new uses and provide for (but not require) conversion to long term permits when appropriate;

- Direct agencies to streamline permitting processes
- Reform cost recovery by giving a 50-hour credit for each permit when a group of permits is renewed and provide waivers to the cost recovery requirement.

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