

Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act of 2019

Increasing Public Lands Access for Guided Recreational Activities

The SOAR Act of 2019 would do the following:

- **Increase recreational access** by directing the agencies to improve the process for issuing recreational outfitter and guide permits (eliminating duplicative processes, reducing costs, shortening processing times and simplifying environmental review).
- **Increase flexibility for outfitters, guides and other outdoor leaders** by allowing them to engage in activities that are substantially similar to the activity specified in their permit.
- **Make more recreation opportunities available** by extending the term of temporary permits and creating a program for sharing unused permit service days between permit holders.
- **Improve system transparency** by directing agencies to notify the public when new recreation permits are available and requiring the agencies to provide timely responses to permit applicants.
- **Simplify the permitting process for trips involving more than one land management agency** by authorizing the agencies to issue a single joint permit covering the lands of multiple agencies.
- **Improve procedures for fee collection and cost recovery** by simplifying fee calculation methods and establishing a standard 50-hour cost recovery fee exemption for permit processing.
- **Provide new protections for Forest Service permit holders** by recognizing seasonal demand fluctuations and waiving permit use reviews in extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the permit holder (wildfire, etc.).
- **Help control liability insurance costs for permit holders** by allowing them to use liability release forms with their clients.
- **Reduce barriers to access for state universities, city recreation departments, and school districts** by waiving the permit indemnification requirement for entities that are prohibited from providing indemnification under state law.

To support the SOAR Act, contact:

United States Senate:

- **Maya Hermann**, office of Senator Martin Heinrich: maya_hermann@heinrich.senate.gov
- **Travis Cone**, office of Senator Shelley Moore Capito: travis_cone@capito.senate.gov

Coalition for Outdoor Access:

- **Paul Sanford**, COA Chair-elect; National Director of Recreation Policy, The Wilderness Society; 202.429.2615; psanford@tw.s.org
- **Matt Wade**, COA Policy Committee Chair; Advocacy and Policy Director, American Mountain Guides Association; 303.847.4482; matt@amga.com.

America Outdoors Association:

- **Heidi Prior**, Business Development Specialist; 304.640.6275; hprior@americaoutdoors.org

(List of supporting organizations on reverse)

The SOAR Act of 2019 has been endorsed by a broad coalition of outfitters, guides and outdoor leaders:

Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Alaska Alpine Adventures
Alaska Guide Collective
America Outdoors Association
America Walks
American Alpine Club
American Alpine Institute
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 (AORE)
Avid4 Adventure
Big City Mountaineers
Chicks Climbing and Skiing
Choose Outdoors
Colorado Mountain School
Colorado River Outfitters Association
Dude Ranchers Association
Exum Mountain Guides
Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association
Holiday River Expeditions
Idaho Mountain Guides
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
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
Nantahala Outdoor Center
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds
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
Oregon Outfitters and Guides Association
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Outdoor Research
Red River Adventures
REI
Rising Tide Associates
RV Dealers Association
RV industry Association
Sawtooth Mountain Guides
Santa Fe Climbing Center
Seneca Rocks Climbing School
Sierra Mountain Center
Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Speciality Equipment Marketing Association
Suntoucher Mountain Guides
The Mountaineers
The Wilderness Society
Transforming Youth Outdoors
Utah Guides and Outfitters Association
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