

Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act 2017 Summary

In Oregon and nationwide, the outdoor recreation economy is growing. Nationally, outdoor recreation generates \$887 billion in annual consumer spending and 7.6 million American jobs, according to a recent report from the Outdoor Industry Association. As those numbers keep rising, communities across the country are benefiting from growing American interest in enjoying the great outdoors.

Unfortunately, recreation opportunities aren't always easily accessible. Getting outdoors often requires permits, parking passes and camping fees that are important to maintaining public lands, but too often involve confusing, complicated and lengthy processes to obtain. This bill removes barriers to outdoor recreation, making it easier for visitors from near and far to get outdoors and enjoy America's treasures. By streamlining paths for more people to get outdoors, the Recreation Not Red-Tape Act will encourage outdoor recreation opportunities, giving communities an economic boost.

Expediting Permits for Recreation Guides

The bill simplifies the permitting process for accessing public lands in several ways:

- Requires the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to review their permitting processes and improve efficiency, shorten processing times, minimize application and administration costs and create informational materials to help outfitters and guides navigate the permitting processes.
- Simplifies the permitting process for trips that cross from one agency's jurisdiction to another.
- Encourages all federal land management agencies to work with states to allow visitors to buy a state and federal pass at one location and in one transaction.
- Directs land management agencies to make all visitor passes and permits for outfitters and guides available online.

Getting More Veterans Outdoors

- Encourages all military branches to include information about outdoor recreation opportunities as part of the basic services provided to servicemembers and veterans.
- Encourages all military branches to allow active-duty servicemembers to engage in outdoor recreation or environmental stewardship activities without taking away their hard-earned leave.

Holding Agencies Accountable to Make Recreation a Priority for the First Time

- Directs the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which controls water flows at hydropower dams), and the Department of Transportation to enhance recreation opportunities and the recreation economy when making land and water management decisions.
- Ensures federal land management agencies are meeting their recreation goals and holds land managers accountable for outdoor recreation outcomes.

- Directs the agencies to develop creative partnerships to sustainably extend recreation seasons.
- Directs revenue from ski area permits on public lands to fund ski area-related projects on the same public lands where the ski area is located, just like revenue collected from other recreation permits.
- To prioritize recreation, highlight the recreational values of public lands across the country and encourage more National Recreation Area designations in the future, the bill creates a system of National Recreation Areas to manage these areas according to certain uniform guidelines.

Maintaining Public Lands

- Encourages volunteer opportunities to help agencies carry out public lands maintenance projects, such as trail maintenance on federal lands.
- Establishes a pilot program for interagency trail management for trails that cross agency jurisdictional boundaries to ensure trails are maintained according to the same standards.