

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14-01

**ESTABLISHING A BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE
TO DEVELOP A TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY FOR
OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WASHINGTON STATE**

WHEREAS, we want our children to experience, enjoy, learn about, and become lifetime stewards of Washington's magnificent natural resources; and

WHEREAS, maintaining access to, and facilities in, our state parks and state recreation lands managed by the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, as well as the entire network of local, state, federal, and private lands that make Washington an outdoor recreation mecca important to the state's citizens and the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Washington's stunning parks, outdoor recreation opportunities, and quality of life are an important incentive for attracting new businesses and retaining all types of employers to the state; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation activities in Washington directly support 227,000 jobs and consumers spend \$22.5 billion on outdoor recreation equipment, apparel, lodging, and other services, generating \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation such as camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, boating, hiking, off-roading, cross-country and downhill skiing, mountain and road biking, scuba diving, surfing, horseback riding, and more strengthen the social and cultural fabric of communities and provide important and valuable contributions to urban and especially rural economies across the state; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Parks, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Natural Resources have seen significant reductions in funding to operate, maintain, and make capital investments in campgrounds, boat launches, and trails, resulting in a continuing maintenance backlog; and public lands managed by federal and local agencies, including the United State Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Parks Service face similar operating, maintenance, and capital investment backlogs;

WHEREAS, the state lacks strategies for transforming its approach to outdoor recreation to ensure that this sector is properly recognized as contributing to the economy, creating and sustaining jobs, improving public health, and immeasurably improving the quality of life that Washingtonians cherish;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby create the Washington Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

The Task Force shall use a holistic strategy to develop an action plan and issue recommendations to manage, transform, better leverage, or develop Washington's outdoor recreation assets and state programs to increase outdoor recreation activities as well as promote the jobs and businesses associated with outdoor recreation. The strategy, action plan, and recommendations shall:

1. Support and expand outdoor recreation jobs, businesses, and tourism across the state;
2. Promote and expand recreational fishing and hunting opportunities as a way of advancing local economies;
3. Promote outdoor recreation experiences and increase environmental awareness for youth, families, and adults;
4. Support Washington-based businesses' use of Washington's quality of life and outdoor recreation experiences in recruiting and retaining talented employees as well as in attracting new businesses to the state;
5. Develop long-term sustainable funding sources for Washington State Parks and other outdoor recreation lands and infrastructure managed by the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources.

This action plan shall also include recommendations for establishing an organizational mechanism to oversee implementation of the action plan and for promoting long-term outdoor recreation. The Governor shall appoint fifteen (15) voting members to the Task Force, representing a diverse and statewide profile of both the public and private sectors from the following stakeholder groups:

1. Outdoor Recreation Business
2. Tourism
3. Environmental Organizations/Environmental Education
4. Sportsmen/Sportswomen
5. Environmental Education
6. General Business
7. Local and Federal Recreation Agencies
8. Outdoor Recreation Participants

The following state agencies shall designate representatives to participate as nonvoting members:

1. Department of Fish and Wildlife
2. Department of Natural Resources
3. State Parks and Recreation Commission
4. Recreation and Conservation Office
5. Department of Commerce
6. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
7. Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
8. Office of Financial Management

The Governor shall also invite one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the Senate and one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the House of Representatives to participate as nonvoting members.

The Governor shall designate one of the voting members as the chair of the Task Force. Non-governmental members of the Task Force may be reimbursed for travel and meeting expenses at the discretion of the Task Force. The Recreation and Conservation Office shall provide staff support and administer all contracts and expenses for the Task Force.

The Task Force is encouraged to hold public meetings across the state to solicit input and collect information on regional priorities and suggestions for state action.

The Task Force shall complete its draft plan and recommendation by September 1, 2014. The Task Force shall complete its final plan and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by September 19, 2014.

The Task Force shall expire on December 31, 2014.

This executive order shall take effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 19th day of February, 2014, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State