

June 12, 2017

Mr. Mick Mulvaney, Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

The undersigned companies and organizations represent members of the outdoor industry whose businesses depend on outdoor recreation that takes place on America's public lands. Our customers hike, camp, mountain bike, ski, climb, and paddle in the great outdoors and their participation in these activities depends on having access to federal public lands and waters.

On March 13th 2017, the President signed [Executive Order 13781](#) directing you to develop a plan for reorganizing the executive branch including recommending agencies, programs, and functions for elimination. Subsequently, you launched [a 28-day comment period](#) asking the American public to weigh in on how to reorganize, reduce, and eliminate agencies.

We write to you today to express our strong support for continued and robust investment in the conservation and recreation programs of the land management agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Together, these agencies administer on behalf of the American people 674 million acres of lands that see over half a billion visits annually.¹ They are the stewards of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, and rivers, including remarkable places such as the Grand Canyon, the Wind River mountains, Yosemite, the Appalachian Trail, and the Everglades.

For a modest investment (less than 0.4% of the federal budget), our federal land management agencies generate innumerable benefits worth billions of dollars. These agencies build and maintain trails, campgrounds, and other recreation infrastructure and manage federal lands to provide unbeatable outdoor recreation experiences. Due to the stewardship of our federal land agencies, federal public lands fuel a robust [outdoor recreation economy valued at \\$887 billion annually](#), which supports 7.6 million jobs.²

Funding these agencies has an outsized impact and is a great investment for the American people. Recreational visits to parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands generate \$33 billion in direct spending and nearly 600,000 jobs, and contribute \$37 billion to GDP annually.³ Without increased support for federal land management agencies, however, recreation infrastructure will fall into disrepair and access

¹ See US Forest Service, 2012. National Visitor Use Monitoring Report. Available at: https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/2012%20National_Summary_Report_061413.pdf. Page 24; National Park Service. Annual Visitation Highlights. Available at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/annual-visitation-highlights.htm>; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2015. Public Lands Statistics. Page 186; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2015. Annual Performance Report FY2015, National Wildlife Refuge System. Page 12. Available at: F

² Outdoor Industry Association, 2017. The Outdoor Recreation Economy. Available at: <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2017-outdoor-recreation-economy-report/>

³ U.S. Department of the Interior Economic Report, FY 2015. Prepared by the Department of the Interior Office of Policy Analysis, June 17, 2016. Available at: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2015_doi_econ_report_2016-06-20.pdf. Table 2-2. See also US Forest Service, 2012. National Visitor Use Monitoring Report. Available at: https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/2012%20National_Summary_Report_061413.pdf. Page 24.

to public lands will be curtailed, diminishing the return on investment in the long run and handicapping our industry. We have already seen this come to pass in many areas across the country as a result of chronic underfunding.

Outdoor recreationists understand the link between healthy lands and healthy lifestyles. **We therefore urge you not to cut – and in fact invest more – in the conservation and recreation programs administered by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. Likewise, we fully support the Environmental Protection Agency, as it ensures our public lands continue to provide clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.** While we disagree with the premise that drastic changes to our federal land management agencies are necessary, to the extent that you intend to reorganize and possibly eliminate agencies, we respectfully request that you consider the importance of the federal land management agencies and their conservation and recreation programs. These include, but certainly are not limited to, the 1) Forest Service’s Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage; Legacy Roads and Trails; Trails; Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring; and Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Management Programs; 2) the BLM’s Recreation Resources Management, National Landscape Conservation System; 3) The Operation of the National Park System, National Recreation and Preservation, and many other accounts within the National Park Service budget; and 4) Cross-cutting programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Alaska

Heather Szundy
Owner/CFO
Ascending Path
Girdwood & Anchorage, AK

Tim Bourcy
President
Packer Expeditions LTD
Skagway, AK

California

Brendan Madigan
Founder/race director
Alpenglow Mountain Racing, LLC
Tahoe City, CA

Keely Wachs
Communications Director
Clif Bar & Company
Emeryville, CA

Brendan Madigan
Owner
Alpenglow Sports, Inc.
Tahoe City, CA

Kenji Haroutunian
President
Friends Of Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree, CA

Emily Hargraves
Owner
Backcountry Babes
Truckee, CA

Douglas Stoup
President
Ice Axe Expeditions
Truckee, CA

Chris Carr
Director
Shasta Mountain Guides
Mount Shasta, CA

Steve Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council
Truckee, CA

Colorado

Ryan Koupal
Founder/Director
40 Tribes Backcountry Adventures
Boulder, CO

Penn Newhard
Partner
Backbone Media
Carbondale, CO

Nicholas Legare
Sales Manager
Native Eyewear
Longmont, CO

Chris Conroy
President
Yeti Cycles
Golden, CO

Idaho

Chris Valiante
Owner
22 Designs
Driggs, ID

Tyson Stellrecht
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Boise, ID

Carl
Co-Founder
STOKE Certified
San Diego, CA

David Polivy
Owner
Tahoe Mountain Sports
Truckee, CA

Cindy Farny
Owner
High Camp LLC
Telluride, CO

Eric Greene
Division VP/GM
Kelty
Boulder, CO

Steve Lentz
President
Far and Away
Idaho

Michelle Reagan
President
Gravity Sports
McCall, ID

Jeff Lewerenz
Partner Greenwood's Ski Haus
Boise, ID

Chris Haunold
President
Idaho Mountain Touring
Boise, ID

Illinois

Randy Neufeld
SRAM Cycling Fund Director
SRAM LLC
Chicago, IL

Maine

Dave MacLeay
Publisher
Trailspace.com
Belgrade Lakes, ME

Montana

Austin Hart
Owner / Guide
Beartooth Mountain Guides, Inc.
Red Lodge, MT

Benjamin D Zavora
Owner
Beartooth Powder Guides LLC
Cooke City, MT

Marne Hayes
Executive Director
Business for Montana's Outdoors
Montana

Kelli Hart
Owner
Freeheel and Wheel
West Yellowstone, MT

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Owner
Sawtooth Mountain Guides
Stanley, ID

Bob Rosso
Owner
The Elephant's Perch
Ketchum, ID

Linda Hersom
green peak promotions
Whitefish, MT

Drew Pogge
Owner/Guide
Montana Alpine Adventures
Bozeman, MT

Sam Magro
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Bozeman, MT

Kate Ketschek
Founder, President
Revolution House Media
Big Sky, MT

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Owner
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Red Lodge, MT

Dale Sexton
President
Timber Trails
Livingston, MT

New York

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Owner/Manager
The Mountaineer
Keene Valley, NY

Oregon

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Restoration Coordinator
Bark
Portland, OR

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CMO
Outdoor Project
Portland, OR

Tyler LaMotte
VP Global Brand Marketing
KEEN Footwear
Portland, OR

Daniel McGarigle
President
Pine Mountain Sports
Bend, OR

Utah

Dan Benschhoff
Marketing Director
DPS Skis
Salt Lake City, UT

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Ted Manning
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White River Junction, VT

Tristan von Duntz
Events Director
Onion River Sports
Montpelier, VT

Washington

Dave Fitzgerald
President
Chillaz North America
Bainbridge Island, WA

Dan Nordstrom
CEO
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Seattle, WA

Eric Hayes
CMO
Superfeet Worldwide
Bellingham, WA

Wyoming

Jamie Schectman
CEO
Mountain Rider's Alliance
Jackson, WY

Diane Verna
Owner/guide
Teton Backcountry Guides
Alta, WY

cc. Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
Senate Interior Appropriations Committee
House Interior Appropriations Committee

June 12, 2017

Mr. Mick Mulvaney, Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

The 124 undersigned organizations represent millions of Americans who partake in outdoor recreation on this nation's forests, parks, and other public lands. Our members ski, climb, mountain bike, paddle, hike, and camp on public lands and they reap enormous benefits from these experiences. To pursue these activities, our members depend on having access to federal lands where they can immerse themselves in nature with their friends and families, away from urban areas and development.

On March 13th 2017, the President signed Executive Order 13781 directing you to develop a plan for reorganizing the executive branch including recommending agencies, programs, and functions for elimination.¹ Subsequently, you launched a 28-day comment period asking the American public to weigh in on how to reorganize, reduce, and eliminate agencies.² **We write to you today to express our strong support for continued and robust investment in the conservation and recreation programs of the land management agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.** Together, these agencies administer on behalf of the American people 674 million acres of lands that see over half a billion visits annually.³

For a modest investment (less than 0.4% of the federal budget), our federal land management agencies generate innumerable benefits worth billions of dollars. They provide us clean water and air, trails and campgrounds, and unmatched outdoor recreation experiences. Most importantly, they provide the recreation infrastructure and opportunities that fuel a \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy that generates 7.6 million jobs.⁴ In the 12 Western states alone, the agencies manage 193,500 miles of hiking trails and 12,659 miles of mountain bike trails. Likewise, virtually all backcountry skiing, 43% of whitewater paddling, and 71% of climbing in the West occurs on lands managed by these agencies⁵.

Funding the recreation and conservation programs of these agencies has an outsized impact and is a great investment for the American people. Consider that recreational visits to parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands generate \$33 billion in direct spending and nearly 600,000 jobs, and contribute \$37 billion to GDP annually.⁶ Consider also that the clean water that our national forests provide to over 66

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/13/presidential-executive-order-comprehensive-plan-reorganizing-executive>

² 82 Fed. Reg. 22355 (March 15, 2017)

³ See US Forest Service, 2012. National Visitor Use Monitoring Report. Available at: https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/2012%20National_Summary_Report_061413.pdf, Page 24; National Park Service. Annual Visitation Highlights. Available at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/annual-visitation-highlights.htm>; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2015. Public Lands Statistics. Page 186; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2015.

⁴ Outdoor Industry Association, 2017. The Outdoor Recreation Economy. Available at: <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2017-outdoor-recreation-economy-report/>

⁵ Data from Winter Wildlands Alliance, American Whitewater, and Mountain Project

⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior Economic Report, FY 2015. Prepared by the Department of the Interior Office of Policy Analysis, June 17, 2016. Available at: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2015_doi_econ_report_2016-06-20.pdf. Table 2-2. See also US Forest Service, 2012. National Visitor Use Monitoring Report. Available at: https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/2012%20National_Summary_Report_061413.pdf. Page 24.

million people in 3,400 communities in 33 states is worth over \$7.2 billion annually.⁷ In that same vein, clean air, clean water and other ecological services provided by our National Wildlife Refuges provide \$32.3 billion in benefits to local communities.⁸

Outdoor recreationists understand the link between healthy lands and healthy lifestyles. **We therefore urge you not to cut – and in fact invest more – in the conservation and recreation programs administered by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. Likewise, we fully support the Environmental Protection Agency.** The EPA and its programs ensure that our public lands provide clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Without the EPA our public lands will lose these essential qualities.

While we disagree with the premise that drastic changes to our federal land management agencies are necessary, to the extent that you intend to reorganize and possibly eliminate agencies, we respectfully request that you consider the importance of the federal land management agencies and their conservation and recreation programs. These include, but certainly are not limited to, the 1) Forest Service's Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage; Legacy Roads and Trails; Trails; Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring; and Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Management Programs; 2) the BLM's Recreation Resources Management, National Landscape Conservation System; 3) The Operation of the National Park System, National Recreation and Preservation, and many other accounts within the National Park Service budget; and 4) Cross-cutting programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance
Washington D.C.

On behalf of the following organizations:

Alaska

Brian Okonek
President
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
Anchorage, AK

⁷ USDA Forest Service. Information on Water Resources. Available at:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/cs/detail/!ut/p/z0/04_Sj9CPyKssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfIjo8zjiQwgwNHCwN_DI8zPyBcqYKBfkO2oCABZcx5g/?position=Contribution%20Content.html&pname=Forest%20Service&ss=119995&navtype=SubNavigation&pnavid=110140100000000&navid=1101401100000000&ttype=detail&cid=stelprdb5107778

⁸ Southwick Associates, 2011. The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation in the United States For: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Available at:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/news/pdfs/TheEconomicValueofOutdoorRecreation%5B1%5D.pdf>

Alabama

Tom Nelson, DVM
President
Northeast Alabama Bicycle Association
Annsiton, AL

Mary Anne Swanstrom
President
SORBA Huntsville
Huntsville, AL

Arizona

Lorraine Montuori
President
Desert Foothills Mountain Bike Association
Cave Creek, AZ

Brent Roberts
Board President
Prescott mountain Bike Alliance
Prescott, AZ

California

Steve Messer
President
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association
Los Angeles, CA

Nate Greenberg
President
Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Kenji Haroutunian
President
Friends Of Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree, CA

Darrel Jury
President
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Meadow Valley, CA

James Wells
President
Southeastern Alabama Mountainbikers
Dothan, AL

Joe Fuller
Chapter President
West Alabama Mountain Bike Association
Tuscaloosa, AL

Michael Bonnette
President
Rim Country Mountain Biking Association
Payson, AZ

Wendy Schneider
Executive Director
Friends of the Inyo
Bishop, CA

Tom Johnson
Board President
Mammoth Lakes Recreation
Mammoth Lakes, CA

John Wentworth
President/CEO
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
Foundation
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director
Mono Lake Committee
Lee Vining, CA

Kevin Loomis
President
San Diego Mountain Biking Association
San Diego, CA

Steve Larson
President
SHARE Mountain Bike Club
Corona Del Mar, CA

David Reichel
President
Tahoe Backcountry Alliance
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Colorado

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Policy Director
Access Fund
Boulder, CO

Jonathan Cox
President
Advance Colorado Fund - Bailey Hundo
Palmer Lake, CO

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American Alpine Club
Golden, CO

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Graeagle, CA

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Mammoth Lakes, CA

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Boulder, CO

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Boulder, CO

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High County River Rafters
Wheat Ridge, CO

Al Head
Stewardship Coordinator
The Golden Giddyup
Golden, CO

Delaware

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President
Cape Fear SORBA
Wilmington, DE

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International Mountain Bicycling Association
Boulder, CO

Kenny Bearden
Executive Director
Overland Mountain Bike Club
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Protect Our Winters
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Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association
Aspen, CO

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Silent Tracks
Crested Butte, CO

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Fort Myers, FL

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Andrew Kloster
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CVA SORBA
Columbus, GA

Mike Palmeri
President
Ellijay Mountain Bike Association
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Lisa Broughton
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Gwinnett Area Trail Riders
Lawrenceville, GA

Woody and Kathy Wood
Owners
Woody's Mountain Bikes
Helen, GA

Jared Hartman
President
Ocala Mountain Bike Association
Ocala, FL

Jose Sanchez
President
Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association
Tallahassee, FL

Lisa Randall
Owner
Mountain Goat Adventures
Canton, GA

Chris Sieverson
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SORBA West Georgia
Hiram, GA

Jay Wilkes
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SORBA Woodstock
Woodstock, GA

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Southern Off-Bicycle Association
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Public Lands Director
Idaho Conservation League
Boise, ID

Sarah Michael
President
Nordic and Backcountry Skiers Alliance of Idaho
Sun Valley, ID

Tim Adams
Executive Director
Teton Valley Trails And Pathways
Driggs, ID

Mark Menlove
Executive Director
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Boise, ID

Brett Stevenson
Board Chair
Wood River Bicycle Coalition
Sun Valley, ID

Mississippi

Timothy Phelps
President
North Mississippi Trail Alliance
Olive Branch, MS

Jeremy Polk
President
Tri-County Mountain Bike Association
Madison, MS

Montana

Tom Kohley
Chairman
Beartooth Recreational Trails Association
Red Lodge, MT

Hilary Eisen
Member Representative
Outdoor Alliance Montana
Bozeman/Missoula, MT

Lance Pysher
President
Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists
Hamilton, MT

Chad Broderius
Chair
Pedal United
Billings/Red Lodge, MT

Greg Peters
President
Montana Backcountry Alliance
Missoula, MT

Ian Jones
President
Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association
Bozeman, MT

Ben Horan
Executive Director
MTB Missoula
Missoula, MT

Claudine Tobalske
WMTCC Chair
Western Montana Climbers Coalition
Missoula, MT

North Carolina

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
Cullowhee, NC

John Gannon
President
Nantahala Area Southern Off-Road Bicycling
Association
Cullowhee, NC

Jack Brown
President
Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike
Alliance
Lenoir, NC

Stephen C. Williams
President
Piedmont Fat Tire Society
Greensboro, NC

Emily Watts
President
Tarheel Trailblazers
Charlotte, NC

David Houskeeper
President
Triangle Off-Road Cyclists
Morrisville, NC

New Hampshire

Tyler T. Ray
Granite Chief
Granite Backcountry Alliance
North Conway, NH

New Jersey

Ellen Moskowitz
Trustee Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
New Jersey

New Mexico

Daniel Roberts President
Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association
Albuquerque, NM

Shelley Longmire
Current board member
Santa Fe Fat Tire Society
Santa Fe, NM

Mary Ann DeBoer
President
Chama Valley Outdoor Club
Chama, NM

Nevada

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President
Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association (SNMBA)
Las Vegas, NV

New York

Rob Cook
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Cycle-CNY: Chapter of International Mountain
Bicycling Association
Ithaca, NY

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Fats in the Cats
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Christopher Trombley
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Bark
Portland, OR

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Russell Pascoe
Conservation Chair
Lower Columbia Canoe Club
Portland, OR

Adam Baylor
Stewardship and Communications Manager
Mazamas
Portland, OR

Chris Rotvik
President
Northwest Trail Alliance
Portland, OR

Russ Pascoe
Board member
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club
Portland, OR

Robert Alan Ping
Chief Instigator and NCIA race league director
Oregon Youth Mountain Biking
Portland, OR

Wayne Clark
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Team Dirt
Corvallis, OR

Pennsylvania

Lisa Zaverack
President
Anthracite Mountain Pedalers
Forty Fort, PA

David A. Kurtz
Assistant Scoutmaster
Boy Scout Troop 32
State College, PA

David A. Kurtz
President and Chief Coach
Mach One Slalom Team
Bellefonte, PA

Cat Newsom
President
Southeastern Pennsylvania Trail Riders
Philadelphia, PA

South Carolina

Steve Masone
President
Midlands SORBA
Columbia, SC

Tennessee

Jason Campbell
President
SORBA Mid TN
Nashville, TN

Utah

Tracy Bentley
Shop Owner
Chile Pepper Bike Shop
Moab, UT

Lukas Brinkerhoff
President
Dixie Mountain Bike Trails Association
St. George, UT

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Wasatch Backcountry Alliance
Salt Lake City, UT

Tracy Bentley
Board Chair
Moab Mountain Bike Association
Moab, UT

Trina Hedrick
Secretary-Treasurer
Northeastern Utah Mountain Bikers
Vernal, UT

Virginia

Mike Aronoff
Owner
Canoe Kayak and Paddle Co. LLC
Vienna, VA

Greg Rollins
President
rvaMORE
Richmond, VA

Washington

Gus Bekker
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Yvonne Kraus
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Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Seattle, WA

John Latta
Founder
Inland Northwest Backcountry Alliance
Spokane, WA

Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Seattle, WA

David Mainer
President
Paddle Trails Canoe Club (200+ members)
Seattle, WA

Ernest Rodriguez
President
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiast (MORE)
Fairfax, VA

Luke Bakken
Conservation Committee Chair
Spokane Mountaineers
Spokane, WA

Jennie Goldberg
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Seattle, WA

Katherine Hollis
Conservation and Advocacy Director
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Shanna Gachen
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Washington Kayak Club
Seattle, WA

Andrea Imler
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Washington Trails Association
Seattle, WA

Wyoming

Charles Manganiello

Executive Director

Togwotee Backcountry Alliance

Lander, WY

Marco Restani

Executive Director

Wyoming Wilderness Association

Sheridan, WY

cc. Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
Senate Interior Appropriations Committee
House Interior Appropriations Committee