



February 9, 2026

Rep. Tom Tiffany
Chair, Federal Lands Subcommittee
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, Federal Lands Subcommittee
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: February 10th Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing

Chairman Tiffany, Ranking Member Neguse, and members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on February 10th's Subcommittee hearing on legislation affecting federal public lands.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of nine member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Federal public lands and waters provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and provide countless environmental, cultural, and public health benefits to society. In recent decades, outdoor recreation has grown considerably in popularity, diversity, and economic importance, with a record of 175.8 million





Americans venturing outdoors in 2024.¹ Federal public lands and waters make many of these experiences possible, and also form the foundation of America's outdoor recreation economy, which contributed \$1.2 trillion to America's economy, supported nearly 5 million jobs, and accounted for 2.3% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product in 2023.² In addition to these economic benefits, research shows that outdoor recreation also provides a significant return on investment, with recreation contributing nearly 14 times more to the GDP than what it receives from federal spending.³

Sustaining and building on these public health, environmental, and economic benefits is a high priority for the outdoor recreation community, and to this end, Outdoor Alliance appreciates the Subcommittee's attention to public lands legislation. Our comments on specific bills before the Subcommittee are below.

Land and Social Security Optimization (LASSO) Act (H.R. 34)

Outdoor Alliance strongly opposes the LASSO Act, which would require that 10 percent of the revenues generated by public lands, including offshore drilling, be deposited into the Social Security Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund. Tying federal lands revenues to Social Security creates inappropriate pressure to maximize the direct, monetary return to the federal government from management activities in direct contravention to many agencies' multiple use mandate. Programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund are an appropriate exception because they function to repay public lands and the Americans who own them in common for impacts to and depletion of these resources. We encourage Congress to address funding for the OASI independently rather than directing revenues from federal public lands towards this important program.

¹ 2025 Outdoor Trends Report Executive Summary, Outdoor Industry Association (2025).

² U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEA 24-53, Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2023 (2024).

³ Recreation Funding in America: Current Results and Future Insights, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (2024).





Building Resiliency and Understanding of Shrublands to Halt Fires (BRUSH Fires) Act (H.R. 3553)

Outdoor Alliance supports the BRUSH Fires Act, which would require a study on the effectiveness of certain wildfire mitigation strategies in shrubland ecosystems. Shrublands, such as chaparral in southern California, have unique fire regimes that require targeted wildfire mitigation strategies distinct from those applied more commonly in forests. Shrublands are home to a wide range of popular trails and other recreational resources and often dominate the viewsheds from rivers and beaches along the west coast. The study required by H.R. 3553 will give fire managers valuable insights on how to best protect communities and ecosystems within shrublands and will help outdoor recreationists better understand wildfire behavior and management in a common western ecosystem.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act (S. 282)

Outdoor Alliance strongly supports the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act. This bill would allow the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire land from willing sellers in certain areas bordering the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, enabling the NPS to better connect the Monument to access points in populated areas, including Millinocket. We support this effort to expand public access to the Monument, which contains a number of outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, camping, paddling, and skiing.

* * *

Thank you for considering our community's input. We look forward to working with you to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities on federal public lands and waters.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Geltman".

Louis Geltman



OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

Vice President for Policy and Government Relations
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Chief Executive Officer, Outdoor Alliance
Heather Thorne, Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Clinton Begley, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association
David Page, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Ben Gabriel, Executive Director, American Alpine Club
Madeline Bachner Lane, Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation