



HCR 4: Urging the Governor to Establish the Office of Outdoor Equity

REP. GERAN TARR

Alaskans Love the Outdoors!

- ▶ 81% of Alaska residents participate in outdoor recreation each year (Outdoor Industry Association)
- ▶ State Parks Director Ricky Gease commented, "In 2020, the 50th anniversary of Alaska State Parks, we saw record numbers at trailheads, campgrounds, public use cabins and boat launches. A wide range of Alaskans rediscovered the value of outdoor recreation, as well as many first-time users."



Why HCR 4?

We want EVERY Alaskan to be able to hunt, fish, hike, camp, bird watch, walk, run, view animals, snowmachine, ski, kayak, raft, find solitude and well-being, and enjoy the special places only Alaska can offer.

What does HCR 4 call for?

- ▶ The legislature urges the Governor to establish the Office of Outdoor Equity in the Department of Natural Resources
- ▶ The legislature requests the Governor to make funds available for the Office of Outdoor Equity to distribute as grants to organizations in the state that are working to improve equitable access to the state's outdoor resources, especially in communities that have been historically excluded from outdoor recreation and subsistence activities.

Exposure to outdoors lasts a lifetime

- ▶ According to the Outdoor Foundation “Adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to participate during adulthood than those who were not exposed to the outdoors as children. In fact, 37 percent of adults who were introduced to the outdoors during childhood grew up to enjoy outdoor activities as adults. Only 16 percent of adults who do not currently participate in any outdoor activities had outdoor experiences as children.”

Are young people getting involved?

- ▶ 1991 – 28% of US hunters in the 25-34 year age group
- ▶ 2016 – 16% of US hunters in the 25-34 year age group
- ▶ 2016 – 11.5 million hunters vs. 13.7 million in 2011 vs. 17 million in 1982
- ▶ During same time period a similar reduction in the 18-24 age group
- ▶ NC State University researcher working with students at public universities across 22 states reported preliminary results showed that more than 60% of college students approve of hunting, while about 30% currently hunt. Another 25% of students with no previous hunting experience would consider trying it, and those students are far more diverse than the current hunting population.

What are barriers to getting outside?

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Lack of gear
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Historical exclusion

Camping Trip in Alaska:

- camping equipment
- camp site fees
- proper clothing and appropriate outdoor gear
- transportation to location
- food
- general knowledge of how to do activity

Hunting or Fishing Trip in Alaska:

- hunting or fishing equipment
- hunting or fishing licenses/fees
- cost of ammunition or bait
- camp site fees
- proper clothing and appropriate outdoor gear
- Camping equipment
- transportation to location
- food
- general knowledge of how to do activity

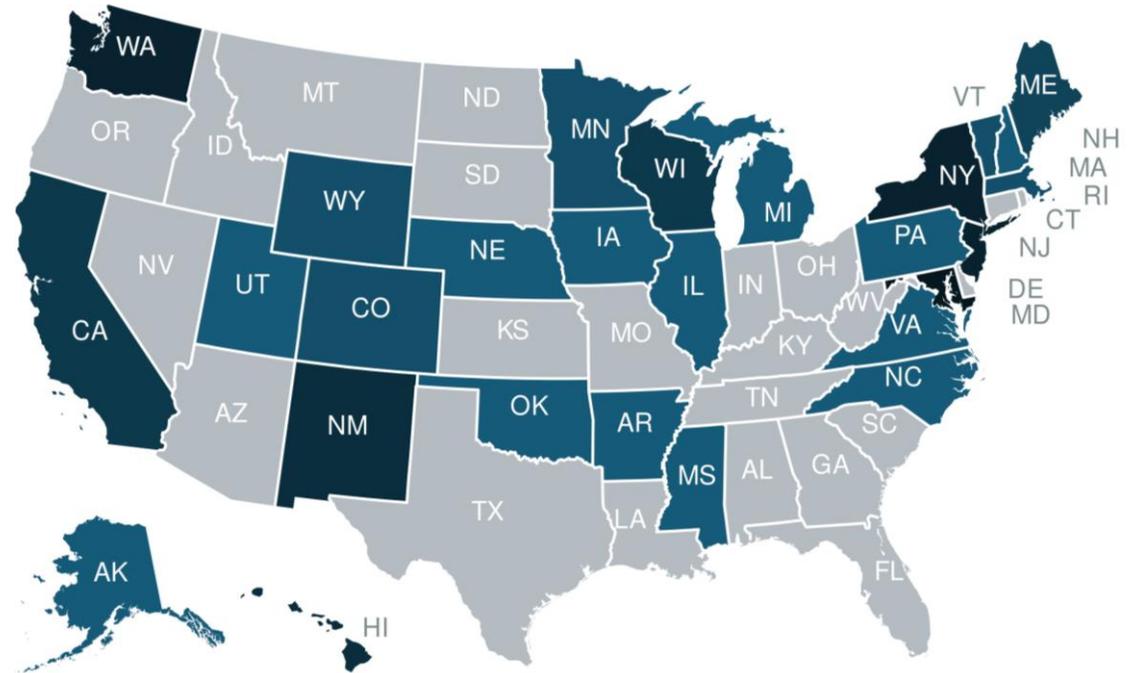
What are other states doing?

- ▶ To date, 18 states have created offices of outdoor recreation, task forces, or policy advisors: **Arkansas, Montana, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Virginia, Maine, Nevada, Vermont, Maryland, New Hampshire, Washington, Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon, Wyoming**



What are other states doing?

▶ This year there are at least 69 pieces of legislation in 30 states across the US to increase access to the outdoors, create Offices of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Equity, promote outdoor learning, and programs for Veterans.





▶ Questions?