



## AB 2578 - The Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act

### Bill Summary

---

The Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act establishes a state recognized NGO to operate and support state investments into equitable access, recreation infrastructure, outdoor jobs, and to help sustain and grow California's outdoor economy in alignment with initiatives out of California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).

### Background

---

In 2016, the Bureau of Economic Analysis for the first time in history was directed to identify the economic contribution of the outdoor economy to the nation's GDP. At the time, it was determined that the outdoor economy represented roughly \$412 Billion in economic output and as a sector far outpacing the annual overall GDP growth of the nation (2.2% versus 1.7%). Today, the economic output associated with outdoors in California represents roughly \$87.9 billion dollars or 7.5% of the national outdoor economic output (\$1.1 Trillion). Taking a cue from unrealized economies associated with the outdoors, 24 states have established separate offices of outdoor recreation (ORECs) to advance further investments in outdoor access. Five years later, Nevada became the fastest growing outdoor economy in the country after establishing the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation in 2019.

### Problem

---

California has not established an Office of Outdoor Recreation yet. While California has the highest outdoor recreation GDP in the country, our growth and participation rates are amongst the lowest nationally. While California is home to the most national parks per state (9), we are neck in visitations with Utah (5), which was the first state to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation in 2013.

Under the leadership of Governor Gavin Newsom and Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California has

embarked on a series of initiatives that are key to promoting public access, which bears a symbiotic relationship with a healthy outdoor economy. Groundbreaking initiatives such as *30x30* and *Outdoors for All* both have the potential to increase opportunities for nature exploration. It is critically important to further institutionalize these initiatives to ensure the durability and implement the strategies for the future of Californians' access to nature and outdoor recreation.

### Solution

---

Given the mental, physical, and economic health benefits associated with the outdoors, AB 2578 fills the state's aperture as it relates to the possibilities for the future of equitable access and recreation economical benefits by building upon strategic partnerships and investments in the outdoors. AB 2578 creates such a mechanism through the establishment of a state recognized NGO to operate as the decision-making and investment confluence between key public entities including the California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) along with local and federal governments, Department of State Parks and Recreation, and non-profits and private sector stakeholders. It allows for the financial backing for a state level entity dedicated to promoting access and the continued health of California's outdoor economy.

### For More Information:

---

Katie Chavez, [katie.chavez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:katie.chavez@asm.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916.319.2002

### Support

---

California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (Sponsor)  
Mammoth Lakes Trails Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) (Cosponsor)  
California Mountain Biking Coalition (CAMTB) (Cosponsor)



**AB 2578 - The Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act**

Access Fund  
Altra  
Bewilder  
California Waterfowl  
Catalina Conservancy  
California Park & Recreation Society  
California Trails Foundation  
City of Eureka  
CleanEarth4Kids.org  
Cliffhanger Guides  
Columbia Sportswear Company  
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association  
(CORBA)  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
(EPIC)  
Explore Local Nature  
Founded Outdoors  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks  
Friends of Joshua Tree  
Great Redwood Trail Agency  
Hipcamp  
HydraPak  
Inclusion Outdoors  
League of California Cities  
Mammoth Lakes Recreation  
Outdoor Afro  
Outdoor Alliance California  
Placer Land Trust  
REI Co-op  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Seirus Innovation  
Sierra Business Council  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Synergy Reps  
Outdoor Outreach  
Peak Design  
Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance  
Ten Strands  
Timberland  
The North Face  
Toad&Co  
Town of Mammoth Lakes  
Town of Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation  
TOPO Collective  
Trinity County Community Development Corporation  
Watershed Research & Training Center  
Winter Wildlands Alliance  
Smartwool  
Surfrider Foundation  
VF Corporation