

Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Task Force

Charter

Purpose

The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Task Force brings together a diverse set of outdoor recreation stakeholders and interests in Minnesota to build support for outdoor recreation across multiple sectors. The purpose of the task force is to consider (1) how to bring measured growth, increased and equitable access, and a higher quality of outdoor recreation opportunities to Minnesotans and visitors and (2) how to organize and implement this collaborative work going forward. The resulting product will be a set of actionable recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Explore Minnesota detailing next steps. Actionable recommendations will be based on task force discussions and broader public engagement.

Values

- **Quality of Life:** Outdoor recreation helps address public health issues such as obesity, chronic disease, mental illness, the achievement gap, and can help improve overall quality of life.
- **Equitable Access:** Much of our natural resource management requires active participation in outdoor recreation through user fees, funding and policy.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Increased participation in nature-based outdoor recreation equals increased stewardship of our natural resources, resulting from a closer connection with nature.
- **Economic Development:** Many Minnesota industries are directly dependent on outdoor recreation through manufacturing or tourism and others rely on outdoor recreation as a means for workforce development. Strong outdoor infrastructure, local retailers/manufacturers and a robust tourism economy is good for Minnesota and its local communities.

Activities

1. Engage with the public and hold a series of conversations about priorities and opportunities for future collaboration around outdoor recreation in Minnesota.
2. Conduct a needs assessment for outdoor recreation in Minnesota to inform actionable recommendations.
3. Discuss priorities and opportunities for future collaborative outdoor recreation efforts.
4. Provide actionable recommendations to the DNR and Explore Minnesota by December 2020.

Membership

Task Force Members

The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Task Force is a group of 20 members selected by the DNR and Explore Minnesota, in consultation with the Governor's Office following an open application process. Members represent a diverse array of interests and activities with a stake in Minnesota's outdoor recreation sector.

The task force members are:

- Reinaldo Aponte, adventures director, The Loppet Foundation.
- Mary Bauer, registered nurse, representative of the Minnesota Canoe Association
- Steven JR Burke, director of government affairs, Polaris.

- Elliot Christensen, tobacco prevention coordinator, Lower Sioux Indian Community.
- Megan Christianson, executive director, Visit Grand Rapids.
- Katy Friesz, corporate responsibility, Winnebago Industries.
- Matt Gruhn, president, Marine Retailers Association of the Americas.
- Aaron Hautala, Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew.
- Breanne Hegg, vice president, programs for Girl Scouts River Valleys.
- Joe Henry, executive director, Lake of the Woods Tourism.
- Hansi Johnson, director, Recreational Lands for Minnesota Land Trust.
- Greg Lais, founder, director, strategic initiatives, Wilderness Inquiry.
- Perry May, director at large, All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota.
- Sarah Milligan-Toffler, executive director, Children and Nature Network.
- Mark Norquist, founder, Modern Carnivore.
- Stephen Regenold, founder and publisher, GearJunkie.com.
- Mollika Sajady, DO, MPH, University of Minnesota Health.
- Naomi Sam, coordinator and director, Cultural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band DNR.
- Asha Shoffner, founder, Fiwygin Outdoors.
- Steven Voltz, store manager, REI Roseville.

Chair Roles and Responsibilities

The DNR Commissioner will serve as honorary chair of the task force. Special Assistant to the DNR Commissioner and Director of Explore Minnesota will serve as co-chairs of task force. Co-chair responsibilities include working with staff and facilitators to develop agendas and appointing subcommittee members as necessary. At least one chair or designated substitute will attend every meeting.

The co-chairs may consider replacement or expansion of members for such factors as:

- a member's change in organizational affiliation that is not aligned with the task force values
- a member's ability and willingness to serve
- the need to acquire particular expertise
- perceived conflicts of interest
- a need for increased diversity

Task Force Member Roles and Responsibilities

Members are expected to attend all meetings. Members may participate in meetings via conference call if such options are available and they otherwise are not able to make the meeting in person. Task force members are expected to review materials provided before all meetings and be prepared to participate in all meetings. Materials for the meetings will be provided electronically with as much lead time as possible.

Members are expected to represent themselves and the organization which has authorized their membership. Task force members have the responsibility to keep the organizations and interest groups they represent informed about the actions and outcomes of the task force process. Task force members are encouraged to represent their own personal and professional viewpoints throughout the process.

Engaging Others

As part of the task force process, members of the public and other interested parties will be invited to share their ideas and feedback related to task force conversations. Task force members are expected to consider this input as they review issues and develop actionable recommendations.

Sub-Committees

Sub-committees may be appointed by the co-chairs to advance the work of the task force. The purpose of sub-committees is to carry out the work for which they have been formed, and to make actionable recommendations to the full task force. The formation of any subcommittees will include consideration of scope, membership, and roles at the time of formation.

Project Management and Administrative Support

Administration and staff support shall be provided by the DNR and Explore Minnesota. DNR staff, at the direction of the co-chairs, will provide project management. Responsibilities include:

- Facilitating task force meetings/sub-committee work
- Planning and executing any events for statewide and regional outreach
- Finalizing task force documents and work products
- Providing administrative and logistical support
- Providing research, data compilation, analysis and reporting
- Providing strategic input to the task force.

Meetings

The task force will meet regularly, beginning on April 28, 2020. Meetings will be scheduled for dates/times that maximize the ability of members to participate. All meetings, deliberations, communications, and work products are public.

Website

The DNR has created a webpage specific to the task force at: <http://www.mndnr.gov/ortf>. Task force information, e.g., members, charter, minutes and meeting materials, will be posted on the website, along with relevant reports, studies and other reference material provided to the task force. Information about public involvement will also be posted on the website.