



Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks & Outdoor Recreation

Task Force Outcomes and Priority
Near-Term Recommendations

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WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office

Why focus on outdoor recreation?

- State lacks strategies for transforming its approach to outdoor recreation
- Our outdoor recreation opportunities and quality of life attract new businesses
- Supports 227,000 jobs, \$22.5 billion in consumer spending, and generates \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue
- We want our children to experience Washington's magnificent resources and become lifetime stewards

Task Force Outcomes

- 6-month active public engagement
- 6 public meetings across the state
- 3,700 public comments
- 5 priority action areas
- 12 high priority near-term actions
- Recommendations for the future



Priority Action Areas

- Grow the outdoor recreation economy
- Lead the way to outdoor recreation
- Inspire an outdoor recreation culture
- Open more outdoor recreation opportunities
- Sustain our outdoor recreation assets



Priority Near-Term Actions: **What We Need to Accomplish**

1. Designate specific outdoor recreation industry and create sector lead
2. Establish an outdoor recreation coordinating council
3. Reinvest in No Child Left Inside Program
4. Incorporate outdoor recreation into K-12 core curriculum
5. Diversify appointees to outdoor recreation state boards and commissions
6. Enact the marine tourism legislation

Priority Near-Term Actions: How We Fund It

7. Retain Discover Pass until a long-term, dedicated funding source can replace Pass revenues
8. Establish annual motor home and travel trailer excise tax; bottled water sales tax; and watercraft excise tax
9. Fund Youth Athletic Facilities grant program
10. Allow continued use of real estate excise tax for local park operations by repealing sunset clause (Dec 31, 2016)
11. Fund and protect current outdoor recreation grant programs
12. Remove 23-cent cap on portion of gas tax attributed to off-road recreation

Task Force Findings on Funding

- Support for recreation programs has dropped and shifted from general public to recreation users
- Discover Pass discourages participation in outdoor recreation
- Short-term: Retain Discover Pass to maintain current programs. Long-term: Identify other sources.
- Continue improving administration of Discover Pass

Task Force Revenue Proposal

- 0.05% annual excise tax on motor homes and travel trailers (\$19.3 million)
- Reimpose bottled water sales tax (\$46.5 million)
- Redirect watercraft excise tax (\$34.8 million)
- Allow continued use of real estate excise tax for local park operations by repealing sunset clause (Dec 31, 2016)
- Remove 23-cent cap on portion of gas tax attributed to off-road, snowmobile and watercraft recreation