



June 25, 2019

Senator Henry Stern
Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Outdoor Recreation Community Support for AB 1111

Good Morning Senator Stern and members. I'm Katie Hawkins, California Organizer for Outdoor Alliance. I'm here to express our strong support for AB 1111. Outdoor Alliance is a nonprofit coalition of member-based organizations, including Access Fund, American Whitewater, Surfrider Foundation, the International Mountain Bicycling Association and others. We represent the fast-growing human-powered outdoor recreation community and the interests of the millions of Californians who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski, snowboard and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our state's lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Outdoor Alliance represents over 23,000 members plus dozens of grassroots groups and local chapters. Our members include surfers at Zuma Beach, rock climbers on the Inyo National Forest, paddlers on the American River, and mountain bikers at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Our members, partners, and local groups know firsthand the many challenges and barriers trying to work across multiple agencies to improve public access, to coordinate volunteer stewardship programs to address infrastructure needs on public lands and maintain trails. They need your help.

In San Diego, Mammoth, and Lake Tahoe, mountain bike groups are working to build and maintain trails and fix erosion and damaged landscapes. They have local and state funding, but their paperwork is sitting forgotten at the Forest Service or the BLM or State Parks. Volunteer stewardship groups are ready to get out and restore beaches and trailheads. But they're running up against dead ends with state or Federal agencies who don't have the staff bandwidth to coordinate volunteers.

Right now, federal agencies are working on 30-year land management plans for millions of acres of public lands in the Southern Sierra Nevada, where millions of Californians spend their weekends camping, riding bikes, rock climbing, floating down rivers or cross-country skiing. These forests are where a significant percentage of our state's carbon sequestration is happening. And yet there's no input on these plans coming from Sacramento.



We need a California State Office of Outdoor Recreation to help break down these barriers, to make outdoor recreation functional and accessible for all Californians, to make sure that we're all working together to steward the landscapes and infrastructure that our \$92-billion outdoor economy depends on. A California Office of Outdoor Recreation will provide a crucial conduit between local users and the multiple agencies managing our public lands.

Creating a California State Office of Outdoor Recreation will be huge step forward in ensuring sustainable and equitable recreation opportunities for all Californians. From a fiscal standpoint, this is a necessary investment. Our public lands and waters—almost half of which are Federally managed and have historically been managed with minimal coordination with state agencies in Sacramento—are the infrastructure that supports our state's \$92 billion outdoor recreation economy, sustaining 691,000 direct jobs and generating \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. They also represent a majority of our carbon sequestration resources—in a state where we have made climate change mitigation, forest health and resilience a fundamental priority.

A California State Office of Outdoor Recreation will bring a necessary—and overdue—holistic perspective to statewide public land and recreation resource management. Thank you for your attention today and for your support of AB 1111.