

THE OUTDOOR REPORT

January 22nd, 2026

Hearing on EXPLORE Act Implementation Highlights Accomplishments and Needs

The House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing this week entitled “EXPLORE America250: Celebrating One Year of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act.” Chair Bruce Westerman highlighted the bill’s successes in expanding access to public lands, modernizing recreation management, and boosting the outdoor recreation economy. Federal land management officials testified on progress implementing the law, including digitized park passes, improved accessibility, expanded biking and shooting opportunities, streamlined permitting, and partnerships with states, tribes, and local communities. Private sector stakeholders like the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and Outdoor Alliance praised the EXPLORE Act as a historic, bipartisan achievement but emphasized that its success now depends on continued implementation.

Social Media Spotlight

Follow @Brumidi Group on LinkedIn for daily policy and political updates across the policy ecosystem.

House Passes Resolution to Reverse Boundary Waters Protections

The House passed a Congressional Review Act resolution on Wednesday that would overturn the Biden Administration’s ban on new mining projects near the Boundary Waters wilderness in Minnesota. The 214-208 vote represented the first time either chamber of Congress has passed a CRA measure targeting an order of withdrawal for public lands. The resolution now heads to the Senate, where it could face procedural scrutiny over questionable application of the CRA and concerns that it not only opens the Boundary Waters to pollution, but may set a precedent for Congress to roll back protections for other public lands.

Congress Passes FY26 Interior-Environment Appropriations

Last week, the Senate passed a three-bill minibus to fund the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2026. This package provides full-year funding for the EPA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service - many of which saw minor cuts (approx. 2-5%) from the previous fiscal year.

Outdoor Community Updates



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Boulder County, CO is hiring a Parks and Open Space Director. [Read more about the position and apply here.](#)



SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

EVENT

Registration for the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals’ National Outdoor Recreation Conference Opens on January 26th. [Find more info here.](#)