



STATE OVERVIEW: WASHINGTON



- **Office Created:** 2015
- **Created by:** Legislation
- **Signed Confluence Accords:** 2018
- **Agency:** Office of the Governor
- **Funding:** General Funds
- **Advisory Board:** N/A
- **Population:** 7.738 million

- **Top Outdoor Industries:** Boating, Fishing/Shellfish, Cycling, Walking/Hiking, Camping, Wildlife Viewing
- **Top Outdoor Destinations:** Olympic National Park, Deception Pass State Park, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, Columbia River

BRIEF HISTORY

In 2015, the Washington legislature created a Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development. Washington's Senior Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development operates within the Office of the Governor. They are charged with serving as the state lead on economic development issues relating to the outdoor recreation sector in Washington. The benefits of Washington's outdoor recreation industry go beyond supporting jobs to include creating a way of life that places a high value on the natural environment.

STATE SUCCESSES

- ✓ **HB 2078 Outdoor School For All Program:** Bipartisan bill that establish new programs and new funding for K-12 outdoor learning.
- ✓ **No Child Left Inside Program:** Established in 2008 under State Parks, a new grant program to provide a underserved youth with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world.
- ✓ **2020 Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State:** Private and public partners commissioned an update to a 2015 report on the economic impact of outdoor recreation, including local tax revenue and ecosystem services.
- ✓ **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:** Now in its 3rd decade, has leveraged more than \$1.8 billion for projects including \$100 million direct state funding in the most recent biennium.

The Outdoor Recreation Economy Impact in Washington

Direct Jobs: 114,218

Wages and Salaries: \$6.3 billion

**Total Outdoor Recreation Value
Added:** \$12.3 billion



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