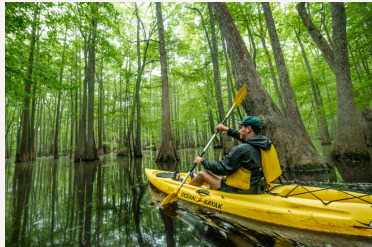




STATE OVERVIEW: ARKANSAS




- **Office Created:** 2021
- **Created by:** Executive Order
- **Signed Confluence Accords:** 2022
- **Agency:** Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism
- **Funding:** General Funds
- **Advisory Board:** 9 members
- **Population:** 3.025 million


- **Top Outdoor Industries:**
Boating/Fishing, RVing,
Hunting/Shooting/Trapping
- **Top Outdoor Destinations:**
Bentonville, Hot Springs National
Park, Petit Jean State Park,
Stuttgart, Buffalo National River


BRIEF HISTORY

On June 17, 2021; Governor Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (ADPHT) Secretary Stacy Hurst announced the creation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation. The Office of Outdoor Recreation is tasked with leading the state's efforts to grow the outdoor recreation economy, work with partners toward improved health outcomes, and promote awareness of the complete range of recreational experiences the state has to offer.

STATE SUCCESSES

 **Funding Grants:** The Arkansas legislature approved a \$1.5 million appropriation increase for the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (ORGP), further proving how important infrastructure investment is to the growth of the overall outdoor recreation economy in Arkansas.

 **Natural State Initiative:** Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders created the Natural State Initiative Advisory Council, focused on growing the state's outdoor recreation economy, established by executive order in January 2023.

 **Supporting Communities:** The Office awarded \$4.34 million in Outdoor Recreation Grants to projects within 29 counties across the state. The grants fall into two categories: Facilities for Underdeveloped Neighborhoods (FUN) Park grants and matching grants.

The Outdoor Recreation Economy Impact in Arkansas

Direct Jobs: 43,422

Wages and Salaries: \$1.9 billion

**Total Outdoor Recreation Value
Added: \$4.1 billion**



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