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The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

Obama Designates June as Great Outdoors Month

June has been officially designated Great Outdoors Month by President Barack Obama and more than half of America's governors. The proclamations were suggested by a coalition of dozens of recreation and conservation organizations, many of which coordinate special events held during June, including National Trails Day®, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Get Outdoors Day and the Great American Backyard Campout.

President Obama's proclamation states, "The United States is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty. From remote forests to urban parks, these spaces have inspired visitors for generations." It goes on to say, "Exploring the great outdoors can also help improve one's health. These spaces provide countless venues for walking, hiking, running, swimming, and boating, among other activities. Americans can combine the enjoyment of being outside with the exercise we all need to stay healthy."

The proclamation highlights important initiatives of the Administration, noting that it is "working to connect America's youth with our treasured landscapes, which should be viewed as classrooms for environmental education and gateways to careers in natural resources. These efforts will include outreach to those who typically lack representation in, and exposure to, these fields. The Department of the Interior is launching a summer mentoring initiative as part of this effort. This program invites families and friends to teach children about the joys and wonders of the outdoors. My Administration is also increasing the number of youth involved in national service on public lands." The President concludes, "I encourage all Americans to spend more time outside and to participate in the nationwide events marking this occasion."

Again in 2009, a majority of America's governors have also proclaimed June as Great Outdoors Month in their home states. The state proclamations differ in length and emphasis, but most praise volunteerism, environmental stewardship, and outdoor recreation as a means to happier, healthier lifestyles.

To read the full story, please visit: www.funoutdoors.com.

Senate's budget would close at least 35 Pennsylvania state parks, put help for communities, natural resources at risk

The millions of visitors who flock to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests to relax and experience nature's beauty would have fewer opportunities to do so under a budget plan that passed the Senate two weeks ago.

If enacted, DCNR acting Secretary John Quigley said the Senate proposal will force the agency to close at least 35 state parks and 1,000 miles of state forest roads, which would sharply reduce access for anglers, hunters and hikers.

Under Senate Bill 850, an additional \$19 million would be cut from DCNR's budget beyond the difficult but prudent reductions Governor Edward G. Rendell proposed in February.

"Families that cannot afford to take a vacation because of the tough economic times could always count on enjoying a little rest and relaxation at a nearby state park or forest," said Quigley. "However, if the Senate's budget proposal is enacted, there would be even fewer of those opportunities as we would have to close a number of state parks. That means less traffic and fewer dollars being spent in the rural communities with businesses and jobs that count on these parks and forests.

"The Senate's proposal would be absolutely devastating to these rural areas and to our efforts to preserve our natural resources for present and future generations. In contrast, the Governor's budget proposal reflects the difficult economy we now face and would still allow us to provide a quality outdoor experience for our citizens and visitors," Quigley said, also noting that closing 35 state parks would turn away more than 3 million visitors and wipe out at least \$57 million in visitor spending on products and services in nearby communities.

Many other programs that enhance a visitor's experience at a state park or forest, protect natural resources, or help communities offer more recreational opportunities also would suffer under the Senate's proposal. About 40,000 acres of forest would be vulnerable to gypsy moths because the department will not be able to apply treatments, while a program that offers one million tree seedlings for purchase by landowners would be eliminated. The seedling program helps protect watersheds, control soil erosion, reclaim former mining areas, and provide food and cover to wildlife.

In addition, DCNR would likely remove state forest rangers who serve as the primary contact for visitors and who promote safety and enforce the law on forestlands. Local governments and communities that depend on DCNR for important topographic, geologic and technical information, as well as help with 1,000 active grants for parks, trails and other recreational developments will receive less help under the Senate's proposal.

Quigley also noted that the Senate's plan does not restore funding for the department's heritage tourism grants, despite repeated criticisms by the caucus when Governor Rendell made the difficult decision to cut the program.

Pennsylvania has 117 state parks and 2.1 million acres of state forests, including 3,000 miles of roads that provide access to the forests.

Closing California Parks Called Bad Plan ***Courtesy KPBS***

As city budgets around the county are cut, KPBS digital reporter Sharon Heilbrunn asks whether you'd be willing to pay higher taxes to keep public recreation centers and libraries open.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed closing 220 state parks, including

several in San Diego County, to help reduce the state's \$24 billion budget deficit.

In San Diego County, the closures include the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Silver Strand state beach, and the Torrey Pines state beach and natural reserve.

Traci Verardo-Torres is with the California State Parks Foundation.

She says the closures would mean no staff, no services, no bathrooms.

Verardo-Torres says closing 80 percent of state parks is too big a sacrifice for a minimal reduction in budget savings.

"This doesn't get the state much in terms of savings," Verardo-Torres says. "But in fact, it will likely cause more economic ripple effects in communities that depend on tourism revenue from the state parks."

She says closing the parks could also leave them vulnerable to vandalism.

Verardo-Torres says 59 parks are proposed to remain open because of special funding or because a park has an agreement with local governments for its operations.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has indicated that if the Governor's plan is approved the parks would close after Labor Day.

Online Learning: Program Access & Universal Design

The National Center on Accessibility has three new online learning opportunities. Two introductory courses have been developed on the concepts of program access and the principles of universal design for recreation settings. The introductory courses are offered as one-hour learning modules and are ideal for professionals and advocates new to accessible recreation. The modules are free through www.parktraining.org.

A third program, an advanced discussion of the principles of universal design in recreation is available through www.ncaonline.org, go to Training and Education > Distance Learning. The program is an archived presentation of a satellite broadcast for the National Park Service and presents over 50 different examples of universal design in various recreation environments.

Outreach Notice – Payette National Forest, Idaho

Job Title: Recreation, Engineering, Archeology, Lands and Minerals (REALM) Staff Officer
Series/Grade: GS-0810-13, Supervisory Civil Engineer, or GS-0401-13, Supervisory Biological Scientist

Outreach Open Date: May 29, 2009

Close Date: June 19, 2009

The Payette National Forest is planning to fill a Staff Officer position for the Recreation, Engineering, Archeology, Lands and Minerals programs. This position will be advertised as a GS-0810-13 and also as a GS-0401-13 with a duty station of McCall, Idaho. This notification is

being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to determine interest in the position.

The position will be advertised using an open continuous vacancy announcement for the GS-0810-13, Supervisory Civil Engineer series, and a regular vacancy announcement for the GS-0401-13, Supervisory Biological Scientist series. The vacancy announcements for this position will be posted on the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov. To apply, go to www.avuecentral.com or www.usajobs.opm.gov.

The Open Continuous vacancy announcement number for the GS-0810-13, Supervisory Civil Engineer is ADS08-FSJOBS(SCivEn)-0045G. You may apply at any time and select McCall, Idaho as a duty location.

Those who respond to the Outreach Notice will be notified when the vacancy announcement is posted, and the deadline to submit applications to either announcement.

Position Description:

The position serves as Primary Staff in the Supervisor's Office on the Payette National Forest responsible for providing overall leadership, coordination, planning and direction of Recreation, Engineering, Archeology, Lands, and Minerals activities. Formulates policy, plans, procedures, guidelines, and program direction necessary for the administration of assigned program areas. Coordinates out-year budget development and current year budget with appropriate staff members.

Fully participates as a member of the Forest Leadership Team in the evaluation of overall Forest programs, policies, procedures, and management. Participates in strategic planning efforts and directs implementation activities for the assigned program to support and achieve strategic objectives.

Incumbent may serve as Acting Forest Supervisor, in the absence of the Forest Supervisor, with responsibility for directing and coordinating all activities on the Forest, making decisions, and taking action on all matters not involving deviation from major policies. Incumbent represents the Forest Supervisor in meetings, conferences, and contacts with representatives of cooperating agencies, counties and municipalities.

Interested applicants should contact Suzanne Rainville, Forest Supervisor, at (208) 634-0701, srainville@fs.fed.us, or Payette National Forest, 800 West Lakeside Avenue, McCall, Idaho 83638-3602 by June 19.

The web page address for the Payette National Forest is: www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette.

Vacancy Announcement – USDA Forest Service, New Mexico

This vacancy is being advertised under two job titles. Only one position will be filled.

Agency Name: Department Of Agriculture (Forest Service)

Job Location: Albuquerque, NM

Open Period: Friday, May 22, 2009 to Friday, June 19, 2009

Job Title: Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation)

Vacancy Announcement #: ADS09-R3-401-3700G (P-CL)
<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?jobid=81131269>

Job Title: Landscape Architect

Vacancy Announcement #: ADS09-R3-807-3700G (P-CL)
<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?jobid=81131135>