

★ FOUNDATION FOR ★
AMERICA'S PUBLIC
LANDS



2025 EXPLORE Act Implementation Report

Q1 2025 - Q4 2025



About the EXPLORE Act

The EXPLORE Act (Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act) is bipartisan federal legislation designed to improve outdoor recreation access and management on public lands across the United States. It was signed into law on January 2, 2025.

Key Purpose

The Act aims to modernize how federal agencies manage outdoor recreation by expanding access, reducing barriers, and supporting local economies—while maintaining conservation and safety standards.

Major Provisions

- **Expanded Access to Public Lands**
 - Streamlines permitting for recreation businesses, guides, outfitters, and events.
 - Identifies and establishes new public target shooting ranges ensuring access for hunting, safety courses, and practice.
 - Encourages USFS and BLM to create more opportunities for motorized and non-motorized vehicles on federal lands.
- **Modernized Recreation Infrastructure**
 - Improves campgrounds, trails, and recreation facilities.
 - Encourages use of public-private partnerships to fund upgrades and maintenance.
- **Support for Rural and Gateway Communities**
 - Strengthens coordination with local communities that rely on outdoor recreation tourism.
 - Helps small businesses and outfitters operate more efficiently on public lands.
- **Improved Information and Trip Planning**
 - Enhances online tools so visitors can more easily find information on access, permits, fees, and recreation opportunities.
- **Adaptive Recreation and Inclusion**
 - Promotes accessibility for people with disabilities and veterans.
 - Encourages agencies to consider inclusive design and adaptive recreation opportunities.

Why It Matters

- The EXPLORE Act responds to increased demand for outdoor recreation by:
- Making it easier for people to access and enjoy public lands,
- Supporting local economies dependent on recreation,
- Helping land managers balance recreation growth with conservation.



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

Advancing **EXPLORE** Act Implementation

As the congressionally chartered charitable foundation supporting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Foundation for America's Public Lands fosters strategic partnerships and generates private support to connect more people and communities to their public lands and waters, today and for generations to come. We work hand-in-hand with the BLM, local communities, and partners to increase support for public lands and waters and inspire more people to connect with the outdoors.

Grounded in our strategic priorities of Awareness, Access and Stewardship, the Foundation has long recognized that the lands and waters managed by the BLM, which manages 245M acres of public lands and 81 wild and scenic rivers across the nation, offers outstanding opportunities to expand recreation access. We have been working closely with the BLM and key stakeholders to ensure that the Foundation's grants and investments consider the range of recreation gaps addressed in the EXPLORE Act and that projects considered through the Foundation's Recreation & Access Program were reviewed and ranked higher if they met some portion of the EXPLORE Act. In addition to the Foundation's current investments that support implementation of the EXPLORE Act, the Foundation currently has over 40 shovel-ready projects totaling over \$17 million in funding requests that uplift recreation investments on BLM lands and waters.





FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

Grants in Support of the **EXPLORE Act**

Accessible Trails and Recreation Opportunities

*Sec. 214. Accessible Trails,
Sec. 215. Accessible Recreation Opportunities*

Informed by stakeholders and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Foundation for America's Public Lands has invested in multiple projects focused on accessible trails and accessible recreation opportunities. Reaching the goals of the EXPLORE Act for accessibility will require BLM units to make significant investments with current and new trails.

Ridge to Rivers Cartwright Trailhead (Idaho)

Grantee: City of Boise Parks and Recreation

The Foundation awarded the City of Boise Parks and Recreation \$200,000 to break ground in 2025 to (1) increase accessibility by creating a paved surface to ensure ease of access for all users, including those with mobility challenges; (2) enhance visitor comfort by providing a clean and accessible restroom facility to accommodate the needs of trail users and improve overall visitor satisfaction; and (3) encourage increased trail use by improving amenities, the project aims to attract more visitors to the area, promoting outdoor activities and community engagement.

Colorado River Day Use Site Accessibility Improvements Project (Utah)

Grantee: BLM Moab Field Office

The Foundation awarded the BLM Moab Field Office \$12,000 to be utilized at the Colorado River Day Use Site where the BLM Moab Field Office will connect the existing walkway between the vault toilet and reservable day-use areas to improve accessibility for visitors.

Mud Springs Trail System (Utah)

Grantee: BLM Moab Field Office

The Foundation awarded the BLM Moab Field Office \$10,000 to support the creation of 25-miles of bike trails for an expected 500,000 annual visitors at Mud Springs. This trail network will be the first purpose-built mountain bike single-track trails, including class 1 e-bikes and adaptive bikes, within San Juan County and will provide new recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

Old Quarry Trails (Wyoming)

Grantee: Bent Sprockets, Inc.

The Foundation awarded Bent Sprockets, Inc. \$20,000 to enhance a non-motorized trail system just six miles east of Newcastle, Wyoming, on BLM-managed land. Located along Highway 16 with year-round access, this project will complete improvements to 5.25 miles of trails as part of Phase 2 development. Proposed, designed and built by Bent Sprockets Inc. in partnership with the BLM, this phase focuses on making the trails more sustainable and accessible - especially for adaptive mountain biking and hiking.

Creating an Accessible Trail in The Scratchgravel Hills Project (Montana)

Grantee: Montana Bike Guild

Leveraging funding from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Foundation awarded the Montana Bike Guild \$93,000 to create an accessible trail in the Scratchgravel Hills. The trail will allow wheelchairs to safely pass in each direction and caregivers to walk alongside those needing assistance. The trail has been designed to maximize access for all and improves trail resilience.

McCoy Flats Campground (Utah)

Grantee: Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative

The Foundation will award the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative \$200,000 in 2026 to construct a campground at the popular McCoy Flats mountain bike area. The site will include developed campsites with tables, fire rings, and shade structures. Group and handicap accessible sites will be built, and additional day-use areas will be constructed. This project aligns with the Foundation's goals of connecting people to public lands by increasing opportunities, namely providing an overnight camping opportunity where one currently does not exist. In addition, the project will provide additional recreation opportunities for the public and increase tourism helping the local community. The Foundation's award is essential to meet the match required for an Outdoor Recreation Initiative Grant made to the BLM by the State of Utah in 2023 for \$1,000,000.

Skyline Accessible Trail (Wyoming)

Grantee: Green Belt Task Force

The Foundation will award \$30,000 to the Green Belt Task Force in 2026 for interpretive signage and hydro-seeding on the Skyline Accessible Trail, an ADA project outside the town of Green River, WY. There are no similar accessible trail experiences elsewhere in southwestern Wyoming. Hydro-seeding would allow for successful revegetation of front and back cuts made during trail construction, to beautify the area using native seeds. The interpretive signage provides rich history of the area and its natural resources.

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA):

Grantee: BLM Oregon

Through support from the Gray Family Foundation, the Foundation awarded \$30,000 to BLM Oregon to improve youth learning opportunities. At one of the state's most-visited public sites, YHONA, around 100,000 visitors are using black-and-white printouts to learn about the area's unique tidepool ecology and participate in the site's beloved Junior Ranger Program. The BLM will improve STEM learning materials on-site through the production of new junior ranger books through this grant.



Image: Mud Springs, Tyson Swasey

Motorized and Non-Motorized Access

Sec. 127. Motorized and Non-Motorized Access

The Foundation for America's Public Lands is supporting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and stakeholders increase access for motorized recreation on BLM lands through the creation of new trail systems and improved signage and wayfinding to promote current offerings. The Foundation has brought in private partnerships to support this work to leverage public funds including Yamaha and new partnerships coming in 2026.

High Desert Trail Branding & Kiosk Design (Utah)

Grantee: Contract

Through funding from Yamaha, the Foundation is hiring a branding and kiosk design for the Utah High Desert Trail (HDT), a 750-mile multi-use motorized trail crossing 8 counties, that is nearing completion in 2026 after two decades of planning. Described as a Motorized Adventure, the trail showcases Utah's awe-inspiring diverse landscapes. With the structure now set, the opportunity to define a compelling brand direction and brand expression has arrived. The selected vendor would be expected to work with a small group that will help guide the work throughout the project. This group will be made up of staff from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, the BLM, and counties. The Foundation has secured funding from Yamaha, a corporate partner to fund this project.

Fivemile Pass Recreation Area Road and Facility Improvements (Utah)

Grantee: Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

The Foundation will award Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks \$156,800 for the relocation of an existing vault toilet, staging area improvements, and road improvements within the Fivemile Pass Recreation Area (RA). Increasing visitation to the southern portion of the RA necessitates the relocation of one ADA-compliant vault toilets from the north OHV staging area to the recently constructed south OHV staging area. Improvements to the staging areas will help to properly delineate parking areas and throughways. The purpose of the road improvements is to facilitate better access to other vault toilets located in the southern portion of the RA. The overall objective of this project is to increase access, improve user experience, discourage users from entering the Recreation Area at an unsafe location, and prevent resource degradation by decreasing route proliferation. All project components align with the Foundation's priority of access and stewardship by helping the Salt Lake Field Office provide infrastructure that will ensure all people have access to and feel connected with their public lands.

Range Access

Sec. 123. Range Access

The Foundation for America's Public Lands is supporting recreational shooting range access through grants and engaging the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and partners in discussions on how to achieve the direction from the EXPLORE Act. The BLM is tasked with adding recreation shooting ranges to all BLM units.

Recreation Shooting Site Improvements at Four Locations (Arizona)

Grantee: Tread Lightly!

The Foundation will award **Tread Lightly!** \$207,956 to install shooting and loading benches and an ADA accessible walkway to improve visitor infrastructure at the popular Church Camp, Box Canyon, Saddleback Mountain, and Baldy Mountain Shooting Sports Sites. The sites provide convenient, accessible, and safe recreational shooting opportunities for the public for a wide range of recreational target shooting activities. More than 230,761 shooters have visited since opening. These improvements add further value to these planned recreation fee sites. Once recreation fees are phased in, the revenue will support site maintenance and operations to increase site self-sufficiency. This project supports both range access and accessible recreation opportunities for the BLM.

EXPLORE Act Component(s): Range Access and Accessible Recreation Opportunities

Image: BLM Arizona, Recreational Shooting sites



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