

**Opening Statement of  
Ranking Republican Rob Bishop  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3879, Simplifying Outdoor  
Access for Recreation Act (SOAR), and H.R. 3458,  
Recreation Not Red Tape  
09.19.2019**

- The Recreation Not Red Tape Act is a carefully crafted, balanced piece of legislation. A great deal of thought, collaboration, and compromise went into this legislation. Senator Wyden and I have worked in a bi-partisan and bi-cameral manner to develop much-needed, common-sense reforms to improve public access to public lands.
- In Utah and nationwide, the outdoor recreation economy is growing. Nationally, outdoor recreation generates \$887 billion in annual consumer spending and 7.6 million American jobs.
- As those numbers keep rising, communities across the country are benefiting from growing American interest in enjoying the great outdoors.
- Unfortunately, getting outside often requires permits, parking passes and camping fees that are important to maintaining public lands, but too often involve confusing, complicated and lengthy processes to obtain.

- This bill removes barriers to outdoor recreation, making it easier for visitors from near and far to get outdoors and enjoy America's treasures. By streamlining paths for more people to get outdoors, the Recreation Not Red Tape (RNR) Act will encourage outdoor recreation opportunities, giving communities an economic boost.
- The bill improves the federal outdoor recreation permitting process by eliminating duplicative and bureaucratic reviews, requiring time limits for processing permit applications, reducing fees, and simplifying multi-jurisdictional trips. The bill also ensures recreation permits are available for online purchases.
- The RNR Act will also benefit our men and women in uniform by encouraging all military branches to include information about outdoor recreation opportunities to service members and veterans.
- Also encourages all military branches to allow active-duty service members to engage in outdoor recreation or environmental stewardship activities without taking away their hard-earned leave.
- This bill will further prioritize recreation by directing federal land management agencies to enhance recreation opportunities when making land and water management decisions.

- Finally, this legislation will help alleviate the maintenance backlog on our public lands by encouraging volunteer opportunities for specific maintenance projects, such as trail maintenance.
- The bill has received strong industry support from a diverse group of horsemen, sportsmen, recreationalists, and small business owners that operate on federal lands including: Outdoor Industry of America, the America Outdoors Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, International Mountain Bike Association, Outdoor Alliance, American Horse Council, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the Motorcycle Industry Council.