**THE WASHINGTON STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION CAUCUS**

**An Information-Sharing Forum of Legislators and Partners that Shines a Spotlight on Outdoor Recreation Issues**

Outdoor recreation sector stakeholders and state natural resource agencies (Recreation and Conservation Office, State Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources) have jointly formed a State of Washington Outdoor Recreation Caucus to bring greater awareness and energy to outdoor recreation issues. A list of founding organizations is provided on the back of this page.

The Caucus brings together legislators, elected officials, representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors, outdoor recreation business leaders, and citizens, to share information and discuss pending legislative and policy issues related to the outdoor recreation needs and opportunities in our state. The Caucus does not take official positions on or lobby bills, but instead is an information-sharing forum to allow legislators and others to stay informed on the issues affecting outdoor recreation and how pending legislation could impact outdoor recreation organizations, existing facilities, proposed projects, and local economies.

This endeavor provides a venue for education about issues related to outdoor recreation in our state such as the outdoor recreation economy, recreation access and use on public and private lands, youth participation in the outdoors, land acquisition and stewardship, and construction and maintenance of our public outdoor recreation infrastructure. The regular meetings of the caucus contain briefings on these and other topics, as well as a bill report on current legislative activities.

The Caucus has been modeled after the Heritage Caucus as a regular public meeting of legislators, state agencies, private and non-profit organizations, and members of the public who are interested in outdoor recreation. A weekly morning meeting is held at the Capitol in Olympia during the legislative session in the House Rules Room. A legislative chair and co-chair is selected to preside over each meeting. A steering committee comprised of agencies and stakeholders guides the administration of the Caucus. Here is a sample agenda:

# OUTDOOR RECREATION CAUCUS SAMPLE AGENDA

7:00am Welcome/Introductions

7:05am Bill Report/ Legislator and/or Agency Reporting

7:20am Presentation: 2015 Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in WA 7:35am Report on Project XYZ

7:50am For the Good of the Order

7:55am Adjourn

The work of the Caucus shines a spotlight on the role outdoor recreation plays in supporting the state’s economy, encouraging healthy lifestyles, fostering an appreciation of Washington’s lands and waters, and enhancing local communities. From urban parks to the back country, Washingtonians have unparalleled outdoor recreation assets within their reach. The Caucus serves an important role in highlighting and promoting the distinct benefits of outdoor recreation to the state’s economy and its citizens.

For more information, please contact Wendy Brown at the Recreation and Conservation Office (wendy.brown@rco.wa.gov or 360-902-3021).

# FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS & AGENCIES

* Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition
* Coastal Conservation Association
* Department of Natural Resources
* Fish Northwest
* Islandwood
* Northwest Marine Trade Association
* NW Sportfishing Industry Association
* Office of the Governor
* Recreational Boating Association of Washington
* Recreation & Conservation Office
* Recreational Equipment Inc.
* The Nature Conservancy
* Washington Bikes
* Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
* Washington Recreation & Park Association
* Washington Scuba Alliance
* Washington State Parks
* Washington Trails Association
* Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition