

## Key Information About the ‘Made in America’ Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee

**BACKGROUND:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has said repeatedly that partnerships are key to his goals of expanding access to public lands and waters for greater recreational enjoyment. In discussions with recreation industry leaders shortly after taking office, he expressed his desire for a forum for discussing broad departmental needs in the recreation arena with innovators outside the federal government. He had found that the department had hundreds of advisory panels, but none had the broad perspective and mission he labeled as vital to solving long-standing challenges and employing new ideas and technologies. He cited traffic congestion in major parks and the inability to utilize technologies, including broadband, to meet visitor needs as examples. The Secretary announced his intent to create a new advisory committee on July 18 during Made in America Week, labeling RVs, boats and park experiences as examples of outstanding “Made in America” accomplishments the committee would support and expand.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) officially established the “Made in America” Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee through a notice in the Federal Register on November 8, 2017. The notice also solicited nominations for service on the committee. A copy of this notice is attached. The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior on the public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways. The committee is established under a variety of authorities given to the Secretary by law and is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

### COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION:

- 1) Committee’s duties are strictly advisory and will include, but are not limited to, providing recommendations on policies and programs that: Expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships; implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient, and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees; improve interpretation using technology; and create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters.
- 2) The Secretary of the Interior will appoint up to 18 members to the committee, which shall meet approximately two times per year. The Committee will also have two ex officio members, likely to include the Secretary and another senior federal official.
- 3) Members of the Committee will serve a term of up to 3 years and must be senior-level representatives of their organizations
- 4) The notice indicates the intent to appoint members with the following expertise:
  - a. Camping, recreational, and/or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) industries;
  - b. Tourism and/or guide industries related to outdoor recreation;
  - c. Hospitality industries;
  - d. Outdoor outfitter industries;
  - e. Saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing organizations;
  - f. Recreational boating organizations;
  - g. Industrial manufacturing industries; and
  - h. Transportation industries.
- 5) Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members engaged in Committee or subcommittee business may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.
- 6) Nominations for the Committee must be submitted by **December 8, 2017**. Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee’s qualifications, including information that would enable DOI to make an informed decision regarding meeting the membership requirements of the Committee and to permit DOI to contact a potential member. Nominations should be delivered to Teresa Austin, Associate Director for Business Services, National Park Service, Office of Business Services, 1849 C Street NW., MS 2717, Washington, DC 20240 or [Teresa.Austin@nps.gov](mailto:Teresa.Austin@nps.gov). Teresa Austin can be reached at 202-513-7241.
- 7) The Department notes that by submitting a nomination, the nominee’s address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information could become publicly available.
- 8) Comments on the advisory committee must be submitted by November 24, 2017, to Teresa Austin (see information above).

***FURTHER INFORMATION is available from the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable at 202-682-9530.***