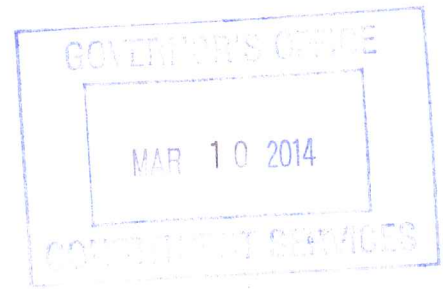




March 4, 2014



The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
State House
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

We thank you for proclaiming June as Great Outdoors Month in Massachusetts last year (copy attached), and invite you to again join all 49 of your fellow governors in celebrating the importance of the Great Outdoors to your state's economy, to America's health and to our national character. State, federal, nonprofit and private entities are working together to continue the tradition of Great Outdoors Month in 2014, and we ask you to continue to support these efforts by proclaiming **June 2014 as Great Outdoors Month** for Massachusetts. Together we can strengthen the connection of Americans to the Great Outdoors, leading to a healthier nation and a shared appreciation of our outdoors legacy.

June has become a special, annual celebration of America's Great Outdoors. Great Outdoors Week was first recognized in 1998 by President Clinton and evolved into Great Outdoors Month under President Bush. The tradition continues, and has expanded, under President Obama. Great Outdoors Month highlights the benefits of outdoor activity – including annual economic impact of more than \$650 billion – and showcases the splendor of our shared natural resources, including forests, parks, refuges, wildlife management areas, and other public lands and waters. Please consider the attached draft proclamation.

June features important events engaging the public in outdoor recreation in your state: National Trails Day[®], National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, the Great American Backyard Campout, and volunteer events under Take Pride in America[®]. Great Outdoors Month also includes National Get Outdoors Day, which will be on Saturday, June 14.

In addition to these great events, we are ready to help you plan your own Great Outdoors Month events. Dozens of national and state organizations are available to help you and your staff plan and conduct Great Outdoors Month activities reflecting your own priorities and initiatives.

The Great Outdoors proponents will have a lot to celebrate this June, including a new appreciation for the important role our Great Outdoors plays in a sustainable economy. We now understand that the Great Outdoors is a key means for the nation to regain an appropriate share of the international tourism market – where success will mean hundreds of thousands of new jobs. We also have better evidence that active fun outdoors can be a potent tool in controlling healthcare costs, combating obesity, diabetes, heart disease and more. Encouraging more time in the outdoors is also becoming an important educational strategy.

1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 650, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 682-9530 Fax (202) 682-9529

The Honorable Deval Patrick
March 4, 2014, Page Two

We urge you to demonstrate your personal interest in encouraging the people of Massachusetts to embrace healthier lifestyles by enjoying time on our national and state public lands. Great Outdoors Month is also an opportune time to focus on the importance of helping children spend time outdoors through a Governor's Summit on Children and the Outdoors or an alternative high-visibility event, such as hosting a campout for youth on your statehouse grounds or a tour of great locations in Massachusetts. We would also be delighted to assist you in planning a National Get Outdoors Day event, which could underscore the public health costs – and other consequences – of failing to reverse a sharp decline in physical activity.

The resources of dozens of national and state organizations, including the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, are available to plan and conduct Great Outdoors Month activities. We urge you to join them in making June 2014 Massachusetts's best ever Great Outdoors Month.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Miller
American Hiking Society



Thomas J. Dammrich
American Recreation Coalition



Mary Ellen Ardouny
The Corps Network



Kevin J. Coyle
National Wildlife Federation



Thomas L. Tidwell
U.S. Forest Service, Chief
Chair, Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor
Recreation



Mike Nussman
American Sportfishing Association



Jeff Rose
Association of Marina Industries



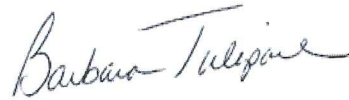
Priscilla Geigis
National Association of State Park Directors



Karen Nozik
National Parks Conservation Association



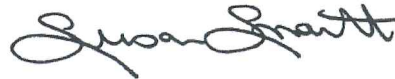
Grace Lee
National Park Trust



Barbara Tulipane
National Recreation and Park Association



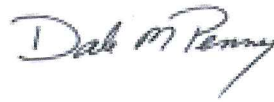
Catherine Prather
National Tour Association



Susan Smartt
NatureBridge



Frank Peterson, Jr.
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation



Dale M. Penny
Student Conservation Association

Enclosures: 2013 Presidential and State Proclamations
2014 Draft Massachusetts State Proclamation

cc: Priscilla Geigis, Director, Division of State Parks & Recreation
Key Federal agency contacts



GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH, 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The United States is blessed with a wealth of natural diversity that remains at the heart of who we are as a people. From breathtaking seascapes to the limitless stretch of the Great Plains, our natural surroundings animate the American spirit, fuel discovery and innovation, and offer unparalleled opportunities for recreation and learning. During Great Outdoors Month, we celebrate the land entrusted to us by our forebears and resolve to pass it on safely to future generations.

We owe our heritage to the work of visionary citizens who believed that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. It is up to all of us to carry that legacy forward in the 21st century—which is why I was proud to launch the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to bring innovative strategies to today's conservation challenges. Alongside leaders in government and the private sector, we are taking action to expand outdoor opportunities in urban areas, promote outdoor recreation, protect our landscapes, and connect the next generation to our natural treasures. And by tapping into the wisdom of concerned citizens from every corner of our country, we are finding new solutions that respond to the priorities of the American people.

At a time when too many of our young people find themselves in sedentary routines, we need to do more to help all Americans reconnect with the outdoors. To lead the way, First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Outside!* initiative encourages families to get out and enjoy our beautiful country, whether at a National Park or just outside their doorstep. And through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, young men and women will get hands-on experience restoring our public lands and protecting our cultural heritage.

Fortunately, we do not have to choose between good environmental stewardship and economic progress because they go hand-in-hand. Smart, sustainable policies can create jobs, increase tourism, and lay the groundwork for long-term economic growth. For example, our National Travel and Tourism Strategy aims to bring more people to all of our national attractions, including our public lands and waters, and the five new National Monuments I was proud to designate earlier this year. Our natural spaces are also laboratories for scientists, inventors, and creators—Americans who sustain a tradition of innovation that makes our country the most dynamic economy on earth.

For centuries, America's great outdoors have given definition to our national character and inspired us toward bold new horizons. This month, let us reflect on those timeless gifts, and let us vow to renew them in the years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as Great Outdoors Month. I urge all Americans to explore the great outdoors and to uphold our Nation's legacy of conserving our lands and waters for future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", written over a blue horizontal line.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is steward to over 450,000 acres of protected land, stretching from the picturesque Boston Harbor Islands through the rolling farmland of the Connecticut River Valley to the majesty of Mount Greylock and the beauty of the Great Blue Hills; and

Whereas From celebrations on the Esplanade to the birthplace of the conservation movement at Walden Pond State Reservation to the historic Plymouth Rock at Pilgrim Memorial State Park, Massachusetts has a proud legacy of parks, trails, beaches, campgrounds and forests throughout the Commonwealth; and

Whereas Everyone has a role to play in preserving and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources on our public lands and these public lands play a role in contributing to our quality of life; and

Whereas Whereas recreational activities such as biking, swimming, hiking, boating, camping and other outdoor recreation promotes healthy lifestyles, and relaxation and quiet time in nature contributes to our mental and spiritual well-being and celebrates a Naturally Healthy New Year; and

Whereas The Department of Conservation and Recreation will connect people with nature through its Park Passport Program and Recreational Activity Maps, encourage healthy lifestyles by exploring DCR's Healthy Heart Trails, promote camping under the stars through the Great American Backyard Campout® and the Learn to Camp Series, and encourage families to personalize their summer adventure through The Great Park Pursuit as well as offer other programs that highlight the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our state park system,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim June 2013 to be,

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-first day of March, in the year two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

A blue ink signature of Deval L. Patrick, written in a cursive style.

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of William Francis Galvin, written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



PROCLAMATION
GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH 2014

WHEREAS, [state] is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in [state], working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month connects all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children, through diverse events including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in our state, where it is estimated at \$xxx and supports some yyy jobs; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, I, [name] as Governor of [state], do hereby proclaim June 2014 as Great Outdoors Month in [state] and urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other lands to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve [state]'s Great Outdoors.

Appendix V: Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation

Table V-A: Total economic impacts (thousands) for all outdoor recreation.

State	Total Output	Jobs	Wage & Salary Income	Contribution to GDP	Federal Tax Revenue	State & Local Tax Revenue
Alabama	\$10,895,764	135	\$3,636,939	\$5,928,071	\$922,608	\$906,342
Alaska	\$11,524,612	122	\$3,974,029	\$6,640,943	\$707,794	\$887,531
Arizona	\$17,105,686	166	\$6,009,199	\$10,050,412	\$1,452,693	\$1,356,202
Arkansas	\$13,568,541	171	\$4,507,164	\$7,380,222	\$901,411	\$865,472
California	\$147,342,124	1,214	\$52,159,044	\$86,785,676	\$11,964,809	\$11,221,222
Colorado	\$20,026,977	185	\$6,894,594	\$11,816,353	\$1,666,563	\$1,471,167
Connecticut	\$10,771,720	102	\$3,986,136	\$6,585,211	\$989,070	\$790,071
Delaware	\$5,292,977	55	\$1,776,062	\$3,041,083	\$405,877	\$421,745
Florida	\$60,316,722	561	\$20,366,860	\$34,711,090	\$4,935,312	\$3,809,813
Georgia	\$35,777,953	359	\$12,596,470	\$21,040,084	\$2,971,461	\$2,276,130
Hawaii	\$8,557,010	89	\$3,022,509	\$4,913,651	\$620,438	\$659,227
Idaho	\$8,556,189	105	\$2,771,358	\$4,755,837	\$662,118	\$648,601
Illinois	\$35,989,160	325	\$12,887,102	\$21,430,553	\$2,715,484	\$2,336,882
Indiana	\$13,557,741	154	\$4,526,107	\$7,655,001	\$1,200,220	\$1,129,881
Iowa	\$8,440,652	105	\$2,740,227	\$4,605,500	\$655,871	\$632,365
Kansas	\$9,301,404	116	\$3,103,345	\$5,179,518	\$705,868	\$672,584
Kentucky	\$12,028,920	148	\$4,094,088	\$6,640,518	\$908,947	\$804,715
Louisiana	\$21,358,553	217	\$7,455,203	\$12,078,734	\$1,508,082	\$1,500,443
Maine	\$7,414,147	94	\$2,493,578	\$4,159,324	\$628,649	\$600,343
Maryland	\$13,478,196	127	\$4,750,490	\$7,824,748	\$1,127,075	\$1,042,539
Massachusetts	\$16,407,713	140	\$6,332,352	\$10,034,525	\$1,411,651	\$1,177,493
Michigan	\$29,545,697	305	\$10,186,318	\$17,387,771	\$2,384,024	\$2,169,201
Minnesota	\$18,351,614	182	\$6,271,960	\$10,430,632	\$1,512,526	\$1,299,218
Mississippi	\$6,358,537	78	\$1,965,029	\$3,361,250	\$547,734	\$545,689
Missouri	\$16,609,478	170	\$5,755,551	\$9,536,457	\$1,196,407	\$1,057,267
Montana	\$7,277,033	89	\$2,262,275	\$4,007,044	\$565,341	\$551,016
Nebraska	\$8,255,219	104	\$2,795,579	\$4,539,515	\$845,457	\$770,483
Nevada	\$21,240,611	216	\$7,625,017	\$12,472,366	\$1,350,253	\$1,154,413
New Hampshire	\$6,124,041	72	\$2,154,226	\$3,559,747	\$521,780	\$452,316
New Jersey	\$28,121,412	243	\$10,651,622	\$17,254,967	\$2,156,334	\$1,796,639
New Mexico	\$8,149,556	95	\$2,632,827	\$4,425,514	\$992,026	\$853,009
New York	\$54,093,233	455	\$21,397,367	\$34,399,109	\$3,981,267	\$3,929,342
North Carolina	\$27,915,061	294	\$9,644,430	\$15,601,830	\$2,290,494	\$2,019,653
North Dakota	\$2,878,779	38	\$935,012	\$1,545,379	\$1,411,254	\$1,150,691
Ohio	\$26,479,731	294	\$9,115,581	\$15,142,809	\$2,024,851	\$1,937,148
Oklahoma	\$11,949,664	135	\$3,988,507	\$6,868,152	\$922,295	\$820,748
Oregon	\$20,457,962	221	\$7,189,565	\$11,688,900	\$1,726,346	\$1,502,838
Pennsylvania	\$33,962,513	334	\$12,572,011	\$20,327,953	\$2,942,519	\$2,436,303
Rhode Island	\$3,374,636	36	\$1,234,238	\$2,007,275	\$1,912,322	\$266,131
South Carolina	\$23,573,297	289	\$7,796,781	\$12,984,645	\$287,057	\$1,454,310
South Dakota	\$4,530,941	56	\$1,454,986	\$2,520,059	\$337,657	\$315,058
Tennessee	\$12,755,004	129	\$4,496,510	\$7,304,614	\$990,159	\$802,941
Texas	\$48,012,663	440	\$16,622,414	\$28,060,063	\$3,729,053	\$2,980,588
Utah	\$18,315,971	194	\$6,214,956	\$10,277,251	\$1,389,782	\$1,294,270
Vermont	\$3,640,607	47	\$1,225,572	\$1,984,820	\$403,704	\$365,060
Virginia	\$19,404,933	199	\$6,698,026	\$11,271,666	\$1,461,145	\$1,260,756
Washington	\$35,287,241	339	\$12,158,938	\$20,185,616	\$2,875,362	\$2,367,187
West Virginia	\$9,150,793	109	\$2,964,504	\$4,941,292	\$586,106	\$597,745
Wisconsin	\$18,210,415	212	\$6,247,733	\$10,331,254	\$1,534,719	\$1,413,680
Wyoming	\$5,427,856	64	\$1,817,656	\$3,002,691	\$433,054	\$384,094

Source: The Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation: Technical Report on Methods and Findings, Outdoor Industry Association, http://www.outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/oia-state-recreation-economy-technical-report-2013.pdf