



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL on OUTDOOR RECREATION

CHARTER

I. PURPOSE

The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Report called for the establishment of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR). The purpose of the FICOR is to support outdoor recreation access and opportunities on Federal public lands, waters, and shores. The goal of the FICOR is to promote better coordination and collaboration among Federal agencies whose missions or programs include providing outdoor recreation and conserving or managing natural and cultural resources.

In May 2011, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the FICOR and requiring the parties to identify agency and bureau representatives for a FICOR working group. As required by the MOU, the working group drafted this charter for the FICOR, and is developing a prioritized list of actions or work plan, to be completed by the FICOR within the first year of its existence.

The FICOR's role is to create, promote, coordinate, and support an effective, efficient, and collaborative nationwide system of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and benefits that will significantly contribute to America's economy, community development, and environmental conservation, as well as citizens' health, wellness, and quality of life.

II. AUTHORITIES

The Department of the Interior will implement the Charter pursuant to existing programmatic statutory authorities, including the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. §1 *et seq.*); the

Outdoor Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. § 4601 *et seq.*); the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. § 460 *et seq.*); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1787); and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 6801-6814).

The Department of Agriculture will implement the Charter pursuant to the Forest Service's Organic Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. § 551).

The U.S. Department of Army (Civil Works) will implement the Charter pursuant to existing programmatic statutory authorities, including section 4 of the Flood Control Act (16 U.S.C. § 460d); the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 4601-12, *et seq.*), and section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act (33 U.S.C. § 2320).

The Department of Commerce will implement the Charter pursuant to existing programmatic statutory authorities, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1801 *et seq.*), the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. § 1431 *et seq.*).

III. OBJECTIVES

To the extent appropriate and feasible the FICOR shall:

- a. Exchange information on best practices and lessons learned, as well as important tools, techniques, programs, policies, trends, research, and related aspects of outdoor recreation planning, management, and administration.
- b. Coordinate recreation management, access, and policies across multiple agencies to improve public enjoyment and recreational use of Federal lands, waters, and shorelines.
- c. Improve collaboration by Federal agencies with state-level conservation and outdoor recreation planning efforts, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund-mandated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.
- d. Provide the public with reliable and up-to-date web-based information on outdoor recreation that is easily accessible with modern communication devices; and evolve and promote the Federal interagency www.recreation.gov website to become a one-stop portal for information and resources about Federal and federally supported outdoor recreation opportunities, locations, permit and reservation requirements, access, routes, features, and transportation options.
- e. Streamline and align policies and procedures among Federal agencies for the purpose of clarity and consistency in working with State, local, tribal, and other outdoor recreation providers.
- f. Provide national leadership and encouragement to agencies and states to organize and support state-level outdoor recreation and conservation cooperatives to support outdoor recreation, access, and opportunities on state, local, and tribal lands.

- g. Identify and support opportunities for interagency demonstration projects that may have significant implications and benefits (e.g., spatial analysis of recreation assets, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning) to the sustainability of outdoor recreation opportunities and resources on Federal lands, waters, and shorelines.
- h. Improve access and engagement in outdoor recreation and expand opportunities for all Americans, with particular attention to:
 - 1. young people and their families,
 - 2. underserved and disadvantaged communities, and
 - 3. persons with disabilities.
- i. Identify partners in the private recreation and tourism industry, and related industries such as health, communications, and transportation to partner with the FICOR on projects.
- j. Identify inconsistent and conflicting partnership legal requirements and authorities that create barriers to working with public and private partners and determine options to create more seamless partnering processes and requirements.
- k. Identify and pursue opportunities to leverage multiple Federal resources for joint outdoor recreation projects and initiatives.

IV. COORDINATION

The FICOR will work closely with existing Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) bodies that support outdoor recreational activities, including the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council and the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The FICOR will meet at least once each year with the Chairs and/or Co-chairs of these FACA bodies to encourage effective communication and coordination.

The FICOR will help support, complement, and coordinate the work of other National interagency councils established for or related to outdoor recreation including, but not limited to, the Interagency Working Group for Visitor Safety on Federal Lands and Waterways, the Tourism Policy Council, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council, the Federal Interagency Council on Trails, the Interagency Recreation Fee Council, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, and the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council.

The FICOR will coordinate with other Federal agencies, state agencies, and tribes who have outdoor recreation related interests, programs, or resources.

The FICOR will identify partners outside the Federal Government who can promote outdoor recreation, provide expertise, research, and information and provide additional resources.

V. MEMBERSHIP

The FICOR consists of the agency directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the National Ocean Service on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The FICOR working group is comprised of representatives identified by each respective FICOR agency director.

The FICOR working group will serve in an advisory capacity to the FICOR and provide day to day operational support for the FICOR. The working group will ensure on-going communication and coordination among agencies and other interests.

The FICOR and the FICOR working group shall be chaired by the Bureau of Land Management from the date of its establishment until September 30, 2012. From that date, the chair will rotate on an annual basis among the member agencies, with no one agency serving in consecutive years.

When necessary, proposals from the FICOR working group will be presented to the FICOR for a decision. The FICOR and FICOR working group will make decisions by consensus. The FICOR may establish interagency subgroups composed of Federal officials with appropriate subject matter expertise to address specific issues in areas of their responsibility or jurisdiction.

VI. MEETINGS

The FICOR will meet twice yearly. The FICOR may schedule additional meetings as necessary. The FICOR working group will meet monthly or as necessary to complete the actions in the work plan.

VII. CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES

The agencies will handle their own activities and use their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives enumerated in this Charter. In implementing this Charter, each agency will be operating under its own laws, regulations, and policies and be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

VIII. MODIFICATION, TERM, AND TERMINATION

This charter may be modified and amended upon written request of any party and the subsequent written concurrence of the other parties.

The term of this charter commences upon the date of the last of the seven signatures appearing below and shall expire five (5) years from the date of the last of the seven signatures appearing below, unless renewed beforehand in writing by all the parties.

Any of the seven parties may terminate their participation in the FICOR by written notice to the other parties thirty (30) days before the desired date of their termination.