

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 21-13

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AND THE ARKANSAS OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS: Outdoor recreation is major economic force, annually adding \$887 billion in national consumer spending and supporting 7.6 million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Tourism is Arkansas's second largest industry and annually adds \$7.68 billion in consumer spending; and

WHEREAS: Visitors from across the country and the world are drawn to Arkansas's rich forests, stunning vistas, clear running rivers, rugged mountains, and built human environments; and

WHEREAS: Outdoor recreation has always played a key role in Arkansas's tourism appeal. Outdoor recreation supports 96,000 direct jobs in Arkansas and contributes \$9.7 billion in consumer spending annually; and

WHEREAS: Incredible organic growth has taken place in the outdoor recreation sector through direct state investment, the mission of federal agencies, public-private-partnerships, non-profit philanthropic giving, and the tireless work of countless individual advocates and enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS: There exists a broad and diverse group of stakeholders statewide but no central platform to organize and consolidate major efforts to further enhance outdoor recreation in Arkansas. As such, there is no entity to study, coordinate, or expand the efforts of these stakeholders to maximize the positive benefits of outdoor recreation for the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: There is an ongoing need for the State of Arkansas to support and expand its outdoor recreation opportunities while also acting as careful stewards of the landscapes that sustain recreation and our way of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to create an Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation (the Office). The office shall be headed by a Director of Outdoor Recreation (the Director) and shall report directly to the Secretary of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. The Director shall coordinate with states agencies, federal partners, and other stakeholders on projects where outdoor recreation intersects with their goals and missions.

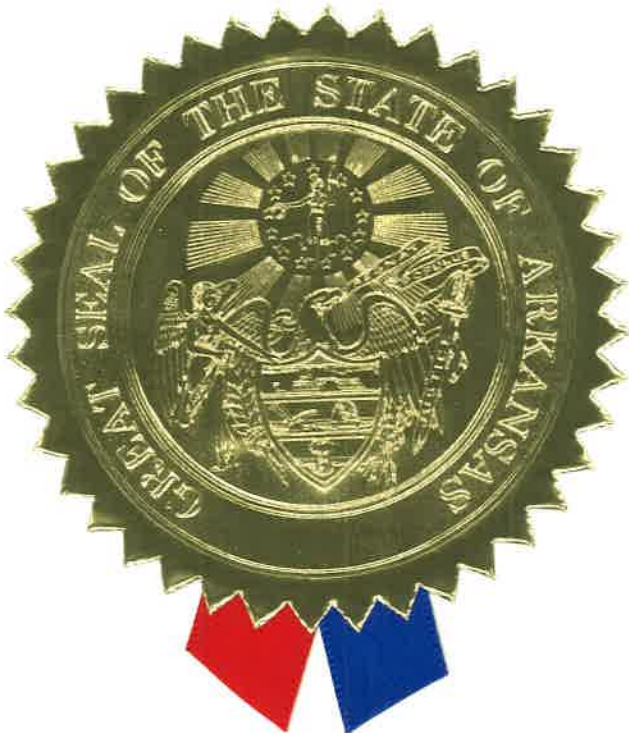
FURTHERMORE, there is hereby created an Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Advisory Board (the Board). The Board shall advise and assist the Director of Outdoor Recreation and the Secretary of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism in identifying outdoor recreation opportunities, growing and aligning the outdoor recreation workforce with future economic opportunities, and conserving the natural landscapes that support outdoor recreation.

- (1) The Board shall consist of not more than ten members.
- (2) Each member shall be selected by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 17th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:



John Thurston, Secretary of State