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Send us your news!

Have you read an article that you think other outdoor recreation professionals might be interested in? How about an award winning project that overcame some unique challenges? Have you published a technical manual or handbook? Do you have internships or job opportunities for college students, recent graduates or seasoned professionals?

We gather our news from a lot of sources, including members. We cannot promise to publish or post everything, but we want our newsletter to represent the interests of our members.

Send your news to
Brenda@RecPro.org

Above the Fold

SORP gives you the tools to save you time and do a better job

No other professional organization is positioned to support outdoor recreation professionals with the same depth and breadth of expertise as SORP. Our focus is the complex interactions between outdoor recreation and natural, historic, and cultural resources.

Join us and enjoy the following benefits and services:

This **e-newsletter** is an exclusive benefit of membership. It's delivered to member's inboxes every week.

SORP charges non-members \$45 to attend their **webinars**. We plan to conduct at least three webinars each year, which makes your \$90 membership a great value.

Members also receive a **discount to our annual conference** - The National Outdoor Recreation Conference. Next year the conference will be in Scottsdale, Arizona from May 1-4, 2017. Members save \$100 on their conference registration.

Members can **save up to 70%** on brands like Smartwool, Otterbox, Merrell, Diamondback, Carhartt, Old Towne and many, many more.

SCORP Planners – SORP works with the National Park Service to provide targeted training for professionals involved in statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans. Sessions are offered at our annual national conference and through webinars.

Membership dues are \$90 for individuals, \$25 for students and \$40 for retirees. We also offer group rates where the first person pays \$90 and each additional person is \$80. Memberships are valid one year from date of payment.

Give us a try! We are confident that you'll see a positive return on investment when you become a SORP member.

Join online: <http://www.recpro.org/join-us>

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Did someone forward you this newsletter? [Become a member](#) and enjoy this newsletter every week.

Member Forum

Got an issue or best practice you want to share? Send us the details and we will publish it in the next News from SORP.

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Member News

Ousted Missouri parks director called 'casualty of politics'

Courtesy of the Springfield News Leader

By Wes Johnson

Bill Bryan, the Missouri State Parks director who oversaw a major expansion of the park system during his tenure, has been fired from his post.

In a phone interview with the News-Leader Wednesday, Bryan, 51, said he was walking down the hall to meet the new director of the Department of Natural Resources on Jan. 23 when he got a call "informing me my services were no longer needed."

Read more:

<http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/missouri/2017/02/01/missouri-state-parks-director-bill-bryan-fired-post/97339462/>

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News

Interior secretary nominee Zinke: National parks repair list should be part of Trump infrastructure plan

Courtesy of the Washington Post

By Ed O'Keefe and Darryl Fears

President-elect Donald Trump's pick to lead the Interior Department told senators Tuesday that completing billions of dollars in backlogged projects at national parks should be a major part of the new president's plans to revamp aging roads, bridges and transportation hubs.

Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who is nominated to serve as the next interior secretary, told the Senate Natural Resources Committee that Trump's ambitious infrastructure spending plans should "prioritize the estimated \$12.5 billion in backlog of maintenance and repair" at hundreds of national parks across the country.

Zinke also said publicly for the first time that unlike Trump, he doesn't believe

climate change is a hoax. Answering pointed questions on the issue from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Zinke said humans are almost certainly the drivers of climate change, but he said there's a debate among scientists over how much.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/je7qc54>

Riding the Trail to Revitalization: Rural and Small Town Trail-Oriented Development

Courtesy of Citizens' Institute on Rural Design

By Angela Moreno-Long

A major challenge facing many rural American communities is strengthening and diversifying the economy. Limited opportunities and resources threaten economic vitality and a community's quality of life. Often this is perpetuated by a steady decline with low property values creating a low property tax base, impacting schools, services and infrastructure.

Making a place welcoming, beautiful, and usable for the community while also creating an attractive setting for new business investment is a key step in development and ensuring a vibrant future for communities. This is no small task and there are a variety of economic development and revitalization tactics, however creating access to high quality multi-modal recreation trails is one tool that has been shown to be a powerful economic engine for small towns and rural communities.

Read more: <http://rural-design.org/blog/riding-trail-revitalization-rural-and-small-town-trail-oriented-development>

Scott Walker proposes dangerous times for state parks

Courtesy of Madison.com

By Bill Lunney

Wisconsin was one of the first states to have state parks by setting aside thousands of acres of land in the late 1800s. Ironically now under the funding policy imposed by Gov. Scott Walker, we may be the state most likely to dismantle the park system as we know it. To most people, a park is a park. Ownership is not that important. However, the method of funding and supporting a park can significantly influence people's use and enjoyment of the park. We are in uncharted waters for our parks with the Walker-proposed policy for our state parks that they shall receive no tax support and instead be sustained by fees and other revenues. In essence this creates an unusual and untried "pay to play" funding model.

Under this mandate, the Department of Natural Resources is treating the parks system as a commodity to be managed with no tax dollars, and relying on fees and other as yet undetermined revenue sources. This is unsound public policy and will eventually lead to a significantly deteriorated State Park System. There is nothing inherently wrong with using fees to augment public tax support but it is unwise for fees to be the sole source of park support and that can lead to disastrous consequences. One has to wonder whether this isn't the first step toward privatizing the parks. The state's approach is ill conceived for several reasons...

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/gqggfeg>

Gov. Dayton proposes to bolster Minnesota's natural resources and outdoor recreation

Courtesy of Minnesota DNR

Minnesota's world-class natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities would be maintained and improved under a budget being proposed by Gov. Mark Dayton, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Without raising these user fees – some of which have not been increased for more than a decade – Minnesotans and visitors will see deteriorating parks and trail facilities and reduced visitor assistance. There will be declining fishing opportunity and quality, less habitat management on wildlife areas and other public lands and waters, fewer hunting opportunities, and fewer conservation officers to protect resources from poaching and misuse.

The governor's budget also seeks to make key investments from the state's General Fund to replant forests, conduct studies to help protect water resources, and upgrade the DNR's technology.

Landwehr said the governor's proposed DNR budget seeks to restore funding to programs that are slipping toward deficits, maintain other programs at current levels and make strategic investments for the future.

Read more: <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2017/01/25/gov-dayton-proposes-to-bolster-minnesotas-natural-resources-and-outdoor-recreation/>

Park and Trail Planning in America's Most Populous County

Courtesy of losangeles.urbdezine.com

By Clement Lau

We all need parks. Specifically, the availability of parks, trails, and other recreational facilities is an important factor in creating healthy communities and providing a high quality of life for residents. These amenities offer opportunities to encourage active living, to exercise, to access open space, and to connect with others and the natural environment.

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the largest local parks and recreation agency in L.A. County which has a population of over ten million residents and is the most populous county in the United States. DPR oversees a parks and recreation system which includes over 70,000 acres of local and regional parks, lakes, trails, golf courses, cultural event facilities, natural areas, and botanic gardens. In terms of planning, 2016 was a banner year for DPR during which several major park and trail planning projects were completed. In this article, I would like to highlight several of these efforts.

Read more: <http://losangeles.urbdezine.com/2017/02/08/park-trail-planning-america-populous-county/>

Sunny start for online summit reservation system

Courtesy of MauiNews.com

HAWAII - Haleakala National Park officials reported roughly a third of normal crowds gathered to watch sunrise at the dormant volcano's summit on Wednesday, the first day of the park's new reservation system for early-morning visitors.

Wednesday marked the first time visitors were required to use an online reservation system at recreation.gov to gain vehicle entrance to the park from 3 to 7 a.m.

All 150 parking reservations were sold out by 4 p.m. Tuesday, according to park spokeswoman Polly Angelakis.

On Wednesday, "sunrise visitors commented on how peaceful and uncrowded the sunrise was," Angelakis said. "Many expressed gratitude that, due to the park reservation system, they were guaranteed a sunrise parking spot. From 3 a.m. on, park rangers greeted cars and checked reservations near the park entrance, while other park staff assisted visitors in the summit area parking lots."

Read more: <http://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2017/02/sunny-start-for-online-summit-reservation-system/>

Poll Says Westerners Want Public Lands Protected, But Will It Matter?

Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler

By Kurt Repanshek

Polling in seven Western states shows a strong majority of voters value clean air and water and outdoor recreation above energy development on public lands. And while the results showed eight in 10 voters want to retain, not decommission, national monuments, Utah officials were working to ask the Trump administration to do just that.

Colorado College has been polling Western views for seven years, and the latest poll released Tuesday indicates strong support for repairing national park infrastructure, improving access to public lands for hunting, fishing and hiking, and promoting the outdoor economy. Conversely, just one-third of the respondents supported more coal mining on federal lands and allowing oil and gas companies to "purchase the right to drill in new areas of national public lands."

Read more: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2017/02/poll-says-westerners-want-public-lands-protected-will-it-matter>

Federal Lands Transfer Bill Withdrawn

Courtesy of Planetizen

By Irvin Dawid

Facing backlash from hunting and angling groups, Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz withdrew legislation that would have transferred millions of acres of federal lands to state governments in the West. But news wasn't good for other environmental bills.

Read more: <https://www.planetizen.com/node/91024>

Utah Representative Wants Bears Ears Gone and He Wants Trump to Do It

Courtesy of National Public Radio

By Kirk Siegler

Republicans want to eliminate one of the nation's newest national monuments. Former President Barack Obama created the 1.3 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah just days before he left office.

At the center of the brewing legal fight is a relatively obscure federal law called the Antiquities Act that dates back to President Teddy Roosevelt, who famously used it early and often. It was meant to protect ancient artifacts and ruins that at the time were being pilfered from western lands. It also allows for a president to protect these sites and the lands around them as national monuments, without going through Congress.

"Under the Antiquities Act, there is no ability of having any input," says Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah. Bishop, who chairs the powerful House Committee on Natural Resources, has emerged as one of the act's biggest critics. Bishop wants the Trump administration to also act by executive order, and either shrink Bears Ears or nullify it altogether.

What Bishop is talking about doing, overturning a national monument of this size, has never been done before. Only a handful of smaller historical monuments have been shut down or transferred over to state management.

Read more: <http://www.npr.org/2017/02/05/513492389/utah-representative-wants-bears-ears-gone-and-he-wants-trump-to-do-it>

Congressmen Wants To Restrict NPS Oversight of Oil and Gas Development in Parks

Courtesy of National Parks Traveler

By Kurt Repanshek

An Arizona congressman trying to block the National Park Service's authority to regulate oil and gas drilling operations in the National Park System says the agency's updated regulations would be "job-killing" and that "extremist groups" are maligning his intentions.

U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar and six colleagues have asked the House of Representatives to pass House Joint Resolution 46, which would prevent the Park Service from implementing its "9B" regulations. The regulations, which the Park Service has spent the past seven years updating, apply to oil and gas development on privately owned energy reserves located below park units.

Read more:

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2017/02/congressmen-wants-restrict-national-park-service-oversight-oil-and-gas-development-parks>

Santa Cruz Invests Big in Trails through \$500 Million Transportation Measure

Courtesy of the Rails to Trails Conservancy

By Yamelith Aguilar

CALIFORNIA - During the November 2016 election, Santa Cruz County proved its commitment to active transportation when two out of every three residents voted yes on Measure D, the 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan. This half-cent, 30-year sales tax provides roughly \$500 million to Santa Cruz County for a comprehensive package to 1) improve Santa Cruz County's transportation network through numerous transportation projects; and 2) fund sustainable alternative transportation efforts.

Measure D is a landmark initiative in the state of California, providing the highest rate of investment in walking and biking projects (55 percent of all measure funds) of the 11 county transportation measures put before California voters this November. It provides for investment in five project categories: Neighborhood & Street Projects, Coastal Rail Trail, Highway Corridors, Transit & Paratransit and the Rail Corridor, and comes at a time when transportation funding has been dwindling due to decreasing state gas-tax revenues.

Read more: <http://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2016/december/22/santa-cruz-invests-big-in-trails-through-500-million-transportation-measure/>

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Resources

Park use influences perceived health, study shows

Courtesy of Penn State University

By Jennifer Miller

Penn State researchers have long understood the important connection between parks and health.

A research article published in Preventing Chronic Disease, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's peer-reviewed journal, clarified this connection across a national sample of Americans.

The article, published in January and titled "The relationship between self-rated health and use of parks and participation in recreation programs, United States, 1991 and 2015," showed that Americans who use their local parks or participated in recreation programs offered by local park and recreation agencies are more likely to report high levels of self-reported overall health status through the SF-1, a measure of self-rated health frequently used by health organizations.

Read more: <http://news.psu.edu/story/449875/2017/02/08/park-use-influences-perceived-health-study-shows>

Bay Area open space under threat by sprawl, study warns

Courtesy of SFGate.com

By Peter Firmité

CALIFORNIA - The combination of a sizzling economy and a shortage of housing has left hundreds of thousands of acres of Bay Area open space from ranches in Antioch to scenic landscapes in San Mateo in danger of being developed, according to a report being released Tuesday by a land conservation group.

The study, called At Risk, found that 293,100 acres of farmland and natural areas could be paved over in the next 30 years if suburban sprawl is not stopped.

Wholesale bulldozing is not inevitable, though, according to the report by San Francisco's Greenbelt Alliance, which seeks to steer all new development into areas that have already been urbanized. In fact, the open space under threat in the Bay Area has been reduced by 29,700 acres since 2012, when the last At Risk report was released.

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Area-open-space-under-threat-by-sprawl-study-10895271.php>

APA Funds Planner-Public Health Coordination in 28 States

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

The American Planning Association (APA) is providing \$1.5 million in funding to 28 of its chapters through the Planners4Health initiative to continue to create stronger, healthier communities. The initiative will focus on greater coordination between planners and public health professionals at the state level. The six-month initiative will ensure planners and public health professionals have access to information and resources to help their communities more easily support and implement healthy living choices.

Read more: <https://www.planning.org/newsreleases/2017/jan25/>

Bicycle Tourism in Rural Oregon

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

Bicycle-related activities contribute a growing share of total travel expenditures in rural regions in Oregon. From overnight trips to organized bicycle tours, bicycle tourism accounted for over \$400 million in 2012, representing 4.4% of the direct travel spending in the state. This market has seen significant development over the last 15 years both at the state level and in local communities. This macro and

micro approach creates a strong bicycle tourism market in Oregon. Bicycle tourism requires more than paths and cyclists. Physical infrastructure needs to be coupled with strong partnerships, quality bicycle-friendly accommodations and thorough promotion and marketing campaigns for bicycle tourism to be successful.

Read more: <https://www.westernplanner.org/transportation-articles/2017/1/17/bicycle-tourism-in-rural-oregon>

Economic Impact Analysis of Orange County Trails

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

American Trails published "Economic Impact Analysis of Orange County Trails, Florida." This project studied the Little Econ Greenway, West Orange, and Cady Way Trails in Orange County and Winter Garden, Florida. The survey found trail users spend an average of \$20 per visit. With 1.7 million visitors each year the trail system supported 516 jobs and had an estimated positive economic impact of \$42.6 million.

For more information: <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/orange-econ.pdf>

Scientists to speak on impacts of users on protected lands

Courtesy of the Aspen Daily News

By M. John Fayhee

The image is so intertwined and ingrained into the Colorado high country mindset that it reaches the level of argumentatively inviolate: A line of hikers, brightly colored daypacks forming a focal point for the inevitable wide-angle photograph, making their way along a sinewy footpath toward a distant summit on a blue-sky, wildflower-dense summer day.

After all, what negative impact could a few hikers possibly do to a landscape as rock solid as the Rocky Mountains? What harm could a sinewy trail to the top of a mountain possibly do? Turns out: Lots — though it often takes a learned eye to perceive the ramifications.

And the conclusions, though always site-specific, are generally uniform: When you add human use, even of the non-motorized, self-propelled, holier-than-thou variety, to a protected landscape previously unvisited, the impact on wildlife populations is almost always negative.

But, Reed concedes, the issue is not black and white.

Read more: <http://www.aspendailynews.com/section/home/174191>

Paris Planters Make Public Peeing a Public Service

Courtesy of Next City

By Rachel Dovey

It's a stinky urban problem known in Paris as "les pipis sauvages." As The Guardian reports, it's the "time-honoured if technically prohibited practice of urinating in the street."

Now, however, the city has a sweet-smelling solution: the Uritrottoir, which is essentially a sidewalk urinal topped with a fragrant mini-garden. When nature calls, a Parisian may simply approach one of the large boxes with an opening in front and relieve themselves with some lovely plants at eye level. Their urine will trickle into a bin full of dry straw, sawdust or wood chips. After a time, the mixture will be collected for compost, according to the Guardian.

Read more: <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/paris-solution-to-public-urination>

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Training

SORP Webinar: Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation: Strategies for Impact

Date: February 16, 2017

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

Cost: SORP webinars are free to members and \$45 for non-members.

One AICP Continuing Maintenance credit is available for this webinar. Although we will not be offering Continuing Education Units (IACET), we can provide you with proof of attendance and a description of the session upon request.

Description:

This webinar is specifically designed for land management personnel interested in the intersection between environmental education and outdoor recreation. Join us to learn more about the current landscape of environmental education, covering the big initiatives and research impacting the field at the local and national level. It will also address current issues in the field with a focus on the role that land management personnel can play in addressing and alleviating these issues. Topics will include diversity and inclusion, public school integration, and connecting people to nature, to name a few.

Presenters:

- Sarah Bodor, Director of Policy & Affiliate Relations, North American Association for Environmental Education
- Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
- Katie Navin, Executive Director, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

For more information: <http://www.recpro.org/webinars>

Webinar Series to Focus on Collecting and Using Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Data

Courtesy of the PBIC

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) will host two free webinars to help agencies understand how to collect and use bicycling and walking count data:

Part One - Programs, Data and Metrics

Tuesday, February 21, 2:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

To register, visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7076128462772186371>

Part Two - Equipment

Thursday, February 23, 2:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

To register, visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7882000117187999747>

Part One of the webinar series will briefly cover the "how" and "why" of bicycle and pedestrian count data collection, present examples of count program implementation from across the country, and introduce the recently revised 2016 Federal bicycle and pedestrian count data format. Presenters include Krista Nordback (UNC Highway Safety Research Center), Scott Brady (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission), Jeremy Raw (Federal Highway Administration), and Kelly Laustsen (Kittelson and Associates).

Part Two of the webinar series will focus on the types of counting equipment and what works where, how well, and how to make sure it's working. Presenters include Frank Proulx (Alta Planning + Design) and Sarah O'Brien (NCSU Institute for Transportation Research and Education).

Each webinar will feature presentations from the panelists listed above and a discussion period, during which the speakers will respond to questions from attendees.

For more information: www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars

Webinar: Creative Reassembling of Former Railroad Corridors

Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter

Date: February 23, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET

Cost: Free members/\$55 non-members

Organization: American Trails

Has the idea of a trail built upon a former railroad or former trolley corridor been proposed in your town but never got built because of a gap? Or perhaps the gap prevents a longer, more useful trail? This webinar is presented on February 23, 2017 by Craig Della Penna, owner of Northeast Greenway Solutions, Realtor (specializing in the sale of houses near rail trails and greenways), and owner of Sugar Maple Trailside Inn in Massachusetts.

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/land/Webinar-Reassembling-Railroad-Corridor-DellaPenna.html>

International Trails Symposium

Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter

Date: May 7-10, 2017

Location: Dayton, OH

Organization: American Trails

American Trails hosts the 23rd International Trails Symposium in Dayton, Ohio May 7-10, 2017. We are proud to feature for a second Symposium the Professional TrailBuilders Association's (PTBA) Sustainable Trails Workshop Series, Legacy Trail, Technical Track, and Outdoor Trade Show. This will be an inspiring and educational conference as we come together as a trails community.

For more information: <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017>

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Opportunities

Pathways Conference 2017 - Request for Abstracts

Courtesy of the Organization of Wildlife Planners

We invite you to submit an organized session or an individual abstract for the 6th International Pathways Conference. We hope you will join us September 17 - 20, 2017 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado USA where you are encouraged to participate by organizing a session or presenting your original research or managerial case study as an individual oral presentation.

Pathways is the premier scientific meeting and training for academic and government researchers, students, agency scientists, land managers, NGO representatives, and other individuals who are interested in the human dimensions of fish and wildlife management issues. Our theme this year is FUTURES. We welcome participation from around the world.

Submission Deadline: April 24, 2017

For more information: <http://www.hdfwconference.org>

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Jobs

Jefferson County Open Space

Planning and Projects Manager

SALARY: \$76,281.00 - \$99,165.00 / Per Year

LOCATION: Golden, Colorado

JOB TYPE: Full-Time

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, February 16, 2017, 6:00 PM Mountain

Time

For more information: <http://jeffco.us/jobs/>

Baltimore City Department of Planning

Assistant Director

SALARY: \$87,100 - \$143,600 / Per Year

LOCATION: Baltimore, Maryland

JOB TYPE: Full-Time

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

For more information:

<http://humanresources.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Assistant%20Director%20-%20Planning%2011817.pdf>

Baltimore City

Director of Recreation & Parks

SALARY: \$132,000 - \$175,000 / Per Year

LOCATION: Baltimore, Maryland

JOB TYPE: Full-Time

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 10, 2017

For more information: <https://pughforbaltimore.com/files/2017/02/Baltimore-Job-Descriptions-Recreation-Parks.1.pdf>

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