

**PARTNERS OUTDOORS 2007:
UNLOCKING THE FUN AND BENEFITS OF THE OUTDOORS TO URBAN AMERICANS,
AND ESPECIALLY URBAN YOUTH**

Date: January 7-10, 2007

Location: Lake Arrowhead Resort
27984 Highway 189
Lake Arrowhead, California 92352
(909) 336-1511 Fax (909) 744-3088

Theme: *Unlocking the fun and benefits of the outdoors to urban Americans, and especially urban youth, in partnership with families, youth organizations, churches and other organizations. Making visits to the outdoors enjoyable and memorable by providing appropriate, diverse opportunities for healthy fun and learning.*

Participants in Partners Outdoors 2007 will review leisure patterns of Americans in the 21st Century and ways by which activities appropriate to public lands can be increased and enhanced. Special attention will be given to new and modified recreational activities, from geocaching to digital photography, from group camping to adventure sports, as a means to attract youth and non-traditional public land visitors. In addition to traditional participants, representatives of such organizations as Boy Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs, school systems and youth health advocates, will be invited to participate in the discussions.

The southern California site has been selected because of the large population proximate to federal lands, the demographic complexity of the population and the innovative actions taken by BLM and the Forest Service in the region to accommodate changing public recreation preferences.

Partners Outdoors 2007 will include a half day field seminar in the Big Bear Lake area that will focus on innovative management and public-outreach techniques and opportunities for new public/private infrastructure development. Topics will range from OHV use to forest recreation gateway centers.

The session may also include a post-trip allowing additional learning about innovative partnership-based programs in the region. Details will be provided separately.

Participation: Participation in Partners Outdoors is by invitation only and will be restricted to approximately 150 persons. Invitations are extended by sponsoring organizations, including seven federal agencies, the National Association of State Park Directors and the American Recreation Coalition. Attendees hold senior management positions in the recreation and resources fields or are identified as candidates for such posts. Confirmation of attendance is required by December 1, 2006.

Accommodations: Overnight accommodations and general sessions will be at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa in Lake Arrowhead, California, located within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest. A room rate of \$84 single/double occupancy will be offered to participants. *Each federal agency partner will compile a list of its participants and forward that list to the American Recreation Coalition, which will then make all initial room reservations. Each participant will then be notified by ARC and asked to call Lake Arrowhead and provide credit-card information to finalize the reservation.*

Transportation: The Lake Arrowhead Resort is 44 miles from the Ontario International Airport. Transportation to and from the hotel will include Supershuttle (maximum per person cost of \$70) and rental cars. Additional options are under consideration.

Tuition/Event Costs: Each participant will be charged a fee of \$450 for all materials and meals offered in conjunction with the Partners Outdoors 2007 conference. Participation in certain optional activities may involve an additional cost. The basic fee may be sent to the American Recreation Coalition before the conference or may be paid at the time of registration. No refunds for cancellations will be honored after December 15, 2006. Checks should be made payable to the American Recreation Coalition. ***Provisions for guests at selected events can be arranged at an additional charge and should be requested in advance and in writing.***

Displays: There will be limited areas for the display of materials relating to partnership activities between federal agencies and for-profit enterprises. Arrangements should be made through the American Recreation Coalition at (202) 682-9530.

Expected Outcomes: Central objectives of Partners Outdoors are to (1) create a shared understanding of societal benefits available through recreational use of America's public lands and waters among public and private sector leaders in the recreation field and (2) identify partner organizations capable of providing assistance in attracting and assisting urban visitors – especially youth – to public lands. In addition, each Partners Outdoors seeks to (1) produce a report and recommendations for presentation to federal policymakers and recreation industry CEOs and (2) initiate one or more specific pilot, partnership-based efforts linked to the theme of the specific Partners Outdoors. The 2007 session will produce a website on the session topic with links to examples of current and prospective partnerships aiding visits of urban Americans, especially youth, to public lands.

Attire: Normal dress will be “business casual,” but recreational attire will also be appropriate at most sessions. Although we hope that participants will be able to temporarily disengage from day-to-day realities, they may be reached with phone messages or by fax.

October 4, 2006