

The Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

An Introduction

By: Wayde Morse, Randall Rosenberger
NASORLO and SORP Webinar
August 2026



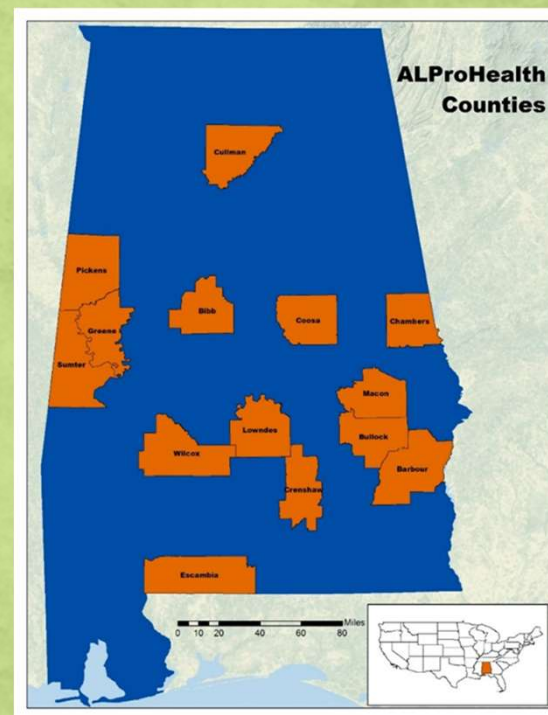
Today's presentation

- The origins and development of the ORAPS
- Theory to support data collection
- Seven modules and examples of how they link to state-level SCORP to actionable projects
- Two-stage implementation
- Next steps

ORAPS origin story & why we needed a new survey

ALProHealth: A CDC-funded initiative

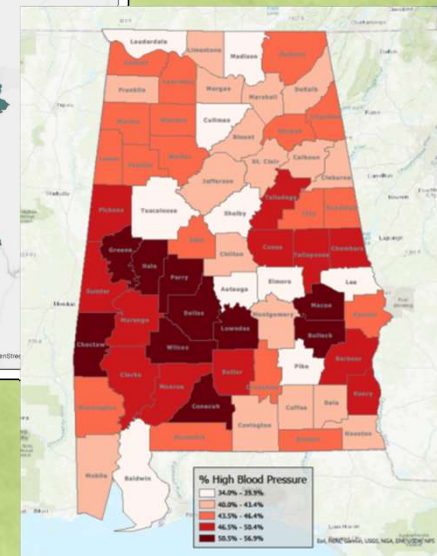
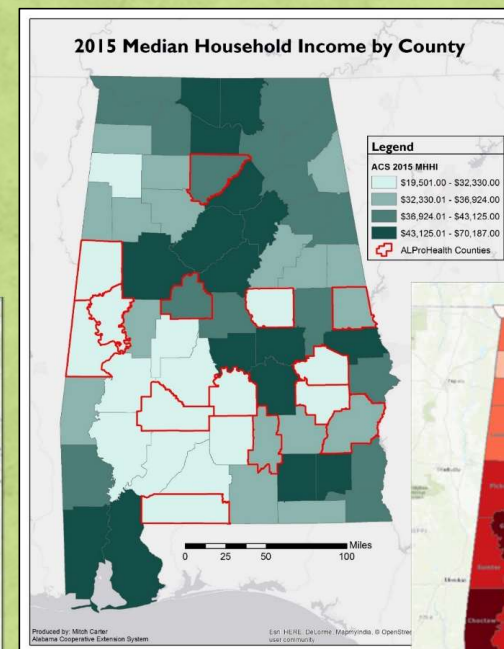
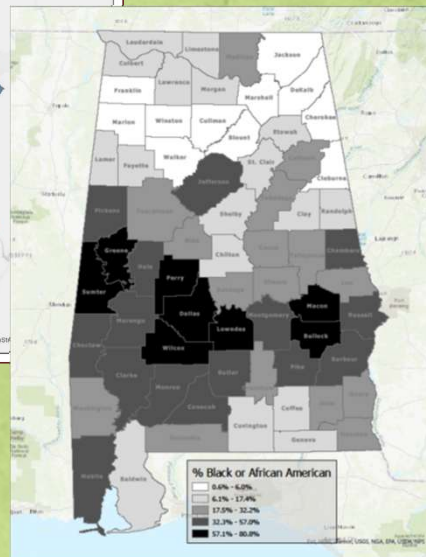
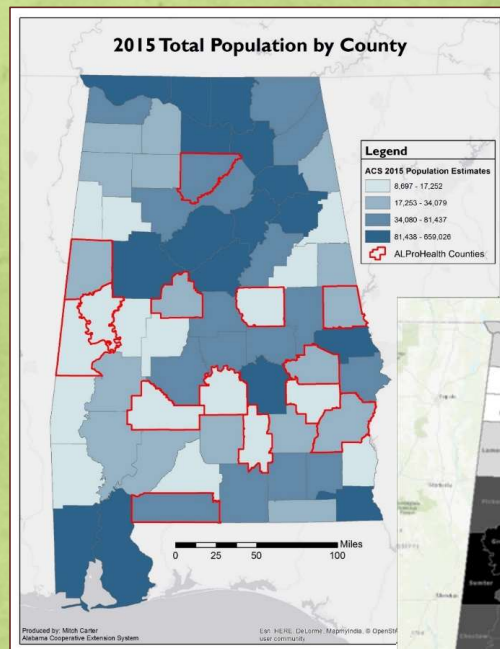
- **ALProHealth: Alabama Preventing and Reducing Obesity – Helping to Engage Alabamians for Long-Term Health**
- 3-year pilot project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Mandated to work in **14 counties** with adult obesity rates greater than 40%
- 3-prong approach to address health issues
 - Nutrition Education
 - Food Retail
 - **Physical Activity**



ALProHealth county comparisons

The CDC wanted actionable county and community project ideas.

- Wealth of health & socioeconomic data
- No local outdoor recreation participation data
- Survey in each county (1st draft)
 - Access, participation, constraints, needs, health & nutrition



Igniting the science of outdoor recreation

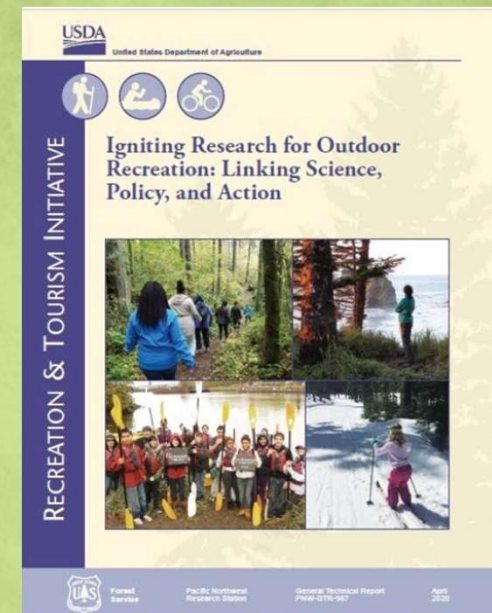
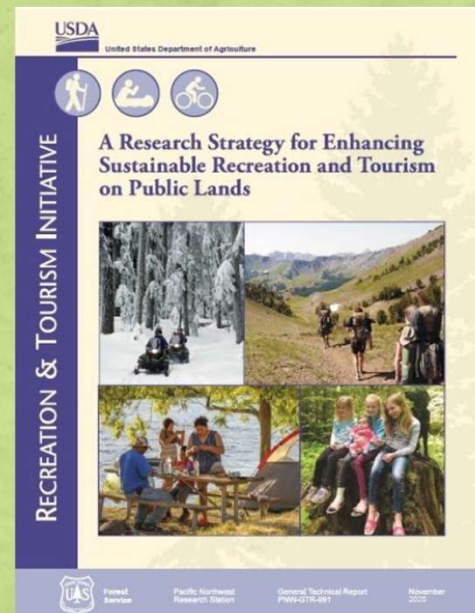
USFS-PNW project

Developing a strategy that outlines the future direction of recreation and tourism research on public lands.

- Conversations in Golden, CO (April 2018)
 - USFS funding to develop a new national survey

Two special issues in 2022

- Journal of Park and Recreation Administration
 - Sustainability and Outdoor Recreation Management on Public Lands: New Directions
- Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
 - Sustainably Managing Outdoor Recreation and Nature-based Tourism as Social-ecological Systems



Please note that, as of mid-2014, this RWU is no longer in operation. The contents of this website will remain accessible, but there will be no further updates.



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NSRE- National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) represents the continuation of the ongoing Recreation Survey (NRS) series. Begun in 1960 by the congressionally created Outdoor Recreation Resource Commission (ORRRC), the first NRS was a four-season, in-the-home survey of outdoor recreation participation in the United States. Since that time, five additional NRSs have been conducted in 1965, 1970, 1972, 1977, and 1982.

What the NSRE did well...

- General public survey collected approximately every 5 years
- Long-term consistent database back to the 1960s on 70+ activities
- State and national level data used for planning, understanding trends, and forecasting (e.g., SCORP)

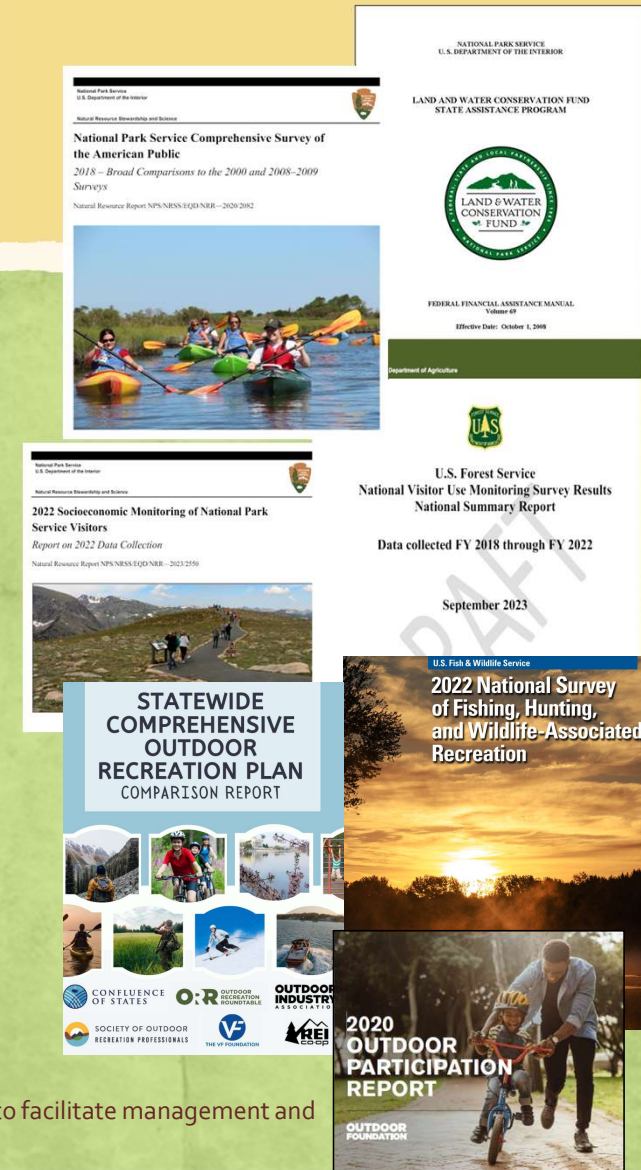
What could be improved?

- Activity focus: Did not systematically address constraints, needs/facilitators, health, or access
- Did not link supply and demand in context
- Scale of data collection & analysis (state-level and nationally consistent, but not as useful for local projects)

Why develop a new survey?

- They largely focus on visitation to their own lands and survey current visitors (not the general public)
- The data sets are largely incompatible
- Not designed to integrate supply and demand information
- Don't address constraints/barriers or needs/facilitators that might limit or enable participation
- Don't directly address local access, economic, or health impacts
- No single publicly available authoritative source
- Opportunity identified with SCORP reporting.

Morse, W.C., Cerveney, L.K., Blahna, D. (2022). Coordinating and standardizing outdoor recreation supply and demand databases to facilitate management and promote conservation, health, and accessibility. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 40(1), 175-194.



Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (LWCF-SCORP)

- “The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a **bipartisan commitment** to safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide **recreation opportunities to all Americans**.”
- “States must have a **current SCORP** in place that assesses **demand** and **need** for outdoor recreation resources...”
- Enacted "...to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring **accessibility to all citizens**such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources ... for individual active **participation** in such recreation and to strengthen the **health and vitality** of the citizens of the United States.”
- **Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)**: Measurable scoring and ranking framework to establish priorities for allocation of funds for local projects.
- **Who can apply**: State agencies, local units of government (e.g., cities, counties, park districts), and Federally recognized Tribes.
- SCORP requires **public input** for a demand and needs assessment, but there is no standardized methodology.



Lack of standardization causes problems....

Currently, each state independently collects SCORP demand data using similar but slightly different questions and varying methodologies, resulting in:

- 1) Limited consistency in sampling and questions over time
- 2) Incomplete and incompatible data that cannot be compared across states or over time for trend analysis
- 3) Redundancies and cost inefficiencies in data collection
- 4) Limited insight into rural, regional, and community recreation needs
- 5) Inconsistent assessment of recreation barriers and opportunities
- 6) Has very limited utility for regional or national assessment

In development since 2014....



- **CDC** [2014-2019] and **USFS** projects [2018-2021, 2022-2025]
- **Hosted workshops/presentations:** National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium [2022, 2023, 2024], National Outdoor Recreation Conference [2022, 2023, 2024], Basecamp [2021, 2024]
- **SORP Webinar:** What is the Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)? [2024]
- **SCORP University:** SERR [2023], NORC [2024, 2026], online presentations for state feedback
- Tested ORAPS survey modules for **SCORP: Oregon** [2022-2023] & **Vermont** [2024]
- Conducted **Expert Technical Review:** 12 agencies and 12 academic members [2023-2024]
 - Revised prior to the Alabama SCORP
- Implemented fully revised ORAPS in the **Alabama SCORP** [2025]

Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

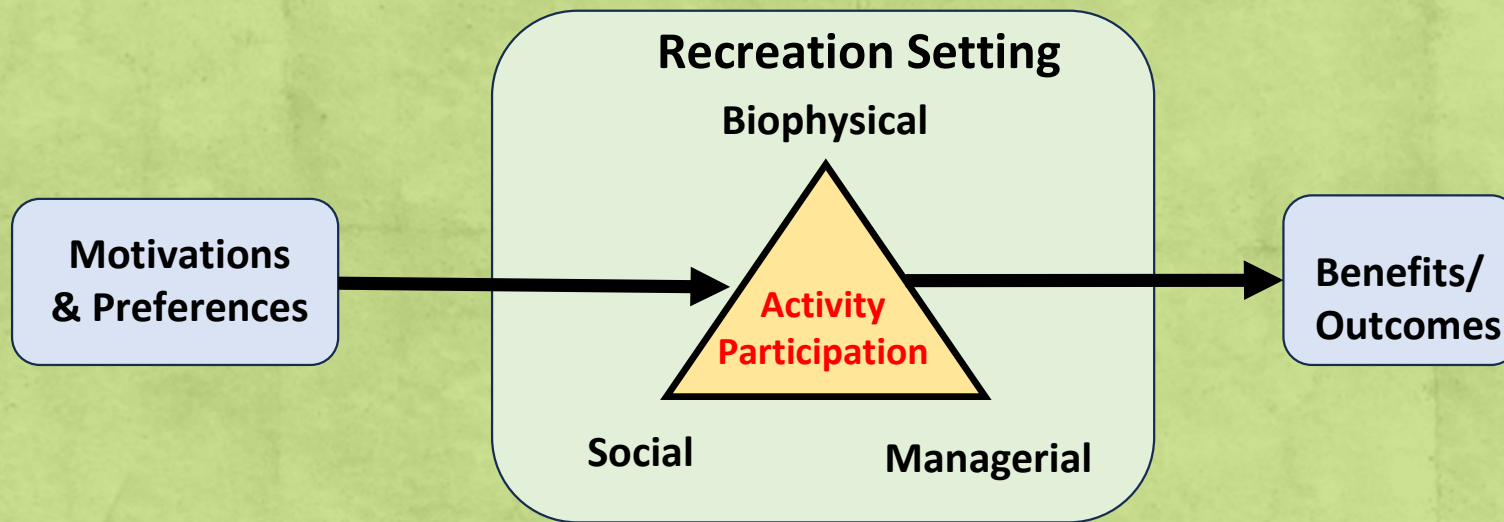
Our goals:

Design the ORAPS to be a cost-efficient, standardized, scientifically rigorous system for collecting and disseminating information on outdoor recreation for U.S. households at the county, state, and national levels.

- Design it to
 - Meet SCORP demand and needs requirements
 - Identify actionable projects
 - Identify trends across the country and over time
 - Have the data publicly available

Theory-based model: Recreation Experience Model

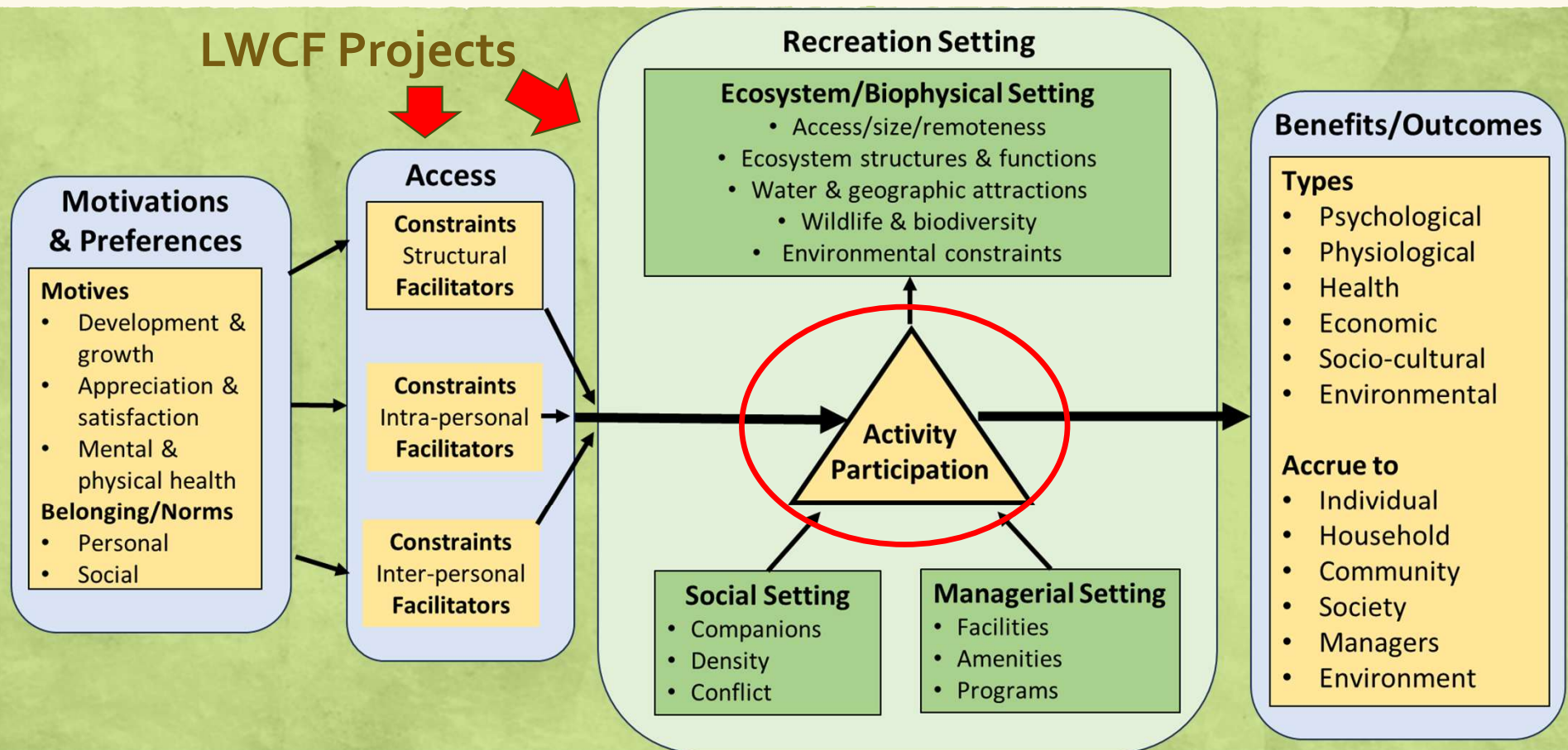
Recreationists are motivated to participate in an activity in a chosen setting to achieve desired benefits/outcomes. Settings include environmental, social, and managerial components.



Activity participation focus of data collection. Necessary but not sufficient.
Participation alone does not help us to identify actionable projects.

Theoretical model frames data collection

ORAPS data identifies actionable LWCF projects and initiatives



7 Survey Question Modules



- 1. Access:** ~1/2 mile or 10-minute walk
- 2. Motivations**
- 3. Constraints:**
Interpersonal, intrapersonal, structural, environmental
- 4. Needs/facilitators:**
Facilities, infrastructure, programs, information
- 5. Participation:** Near and away from home
- 6. Benefits:** Economic and Health
- 7. Demographics:** U.S. census



Access: Distance

- Proximity and setting characteristics
- Recreation home range: Visitation decay function
- LWCF goal: Ensuring opportunities for, and benefits from, outdoor recreation are available for everyone

Access: Recreation settings within ½ mile or 10-minute walk from home

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Asset (12 items)	Yes	No	I Don't Know
Paved streets or dirt roads that you feel are safe to walk, bike, or do other recreational activities	75.1%	21.6%	3.2%
Other outdoor natural or open spaces (e.g., grassy areas, forests, or other natural areas)	68.9%	28.6%	2.5%
Parks/playgrounds	68.1%	30.4%	1.5%
Sidewalks	62.6%	36.1%	1.4%
Public school facilities (e.g., athletic fields, courts, track, playground)	60.5%	38.0%	1.5%
Outdoor water resources (e.g., lake, pond, river, reservoir)	55.4%	42.0%	2.6%
Dirt paths or nature trails	52.3%	42.0%	5.7%
Non-school multi-use facilities (e.g., athletic fields, courts, track, playground)	49.0%	47.5%	3.5%
Recreation center, sports arena, gym (indoor or outdoor)	48.9%	49.2%	1.9%
Paved paths or trails	48.5%	47.5%	4.0%
Swimming pool or aquatic center (indoor or outdoor)	41.4%	56.4%	2.1%
Bicycle lanes (on roads)	37.0%	60.1%	2.9%

Recreation home range: Participation near and away from home

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Inside your recreation community - recreation activities you could do on a daily or weekly basis if desired.

Outside your recreation community - recreation activities conducted in places involving some travel and would be more difficult to do daily or weekly.

Approximately how many minutes of driving time in a personal vehicle from your household would be the FARTHEST you would consider to still be INSIDE your community for frequent outdoor recreation activity participation?

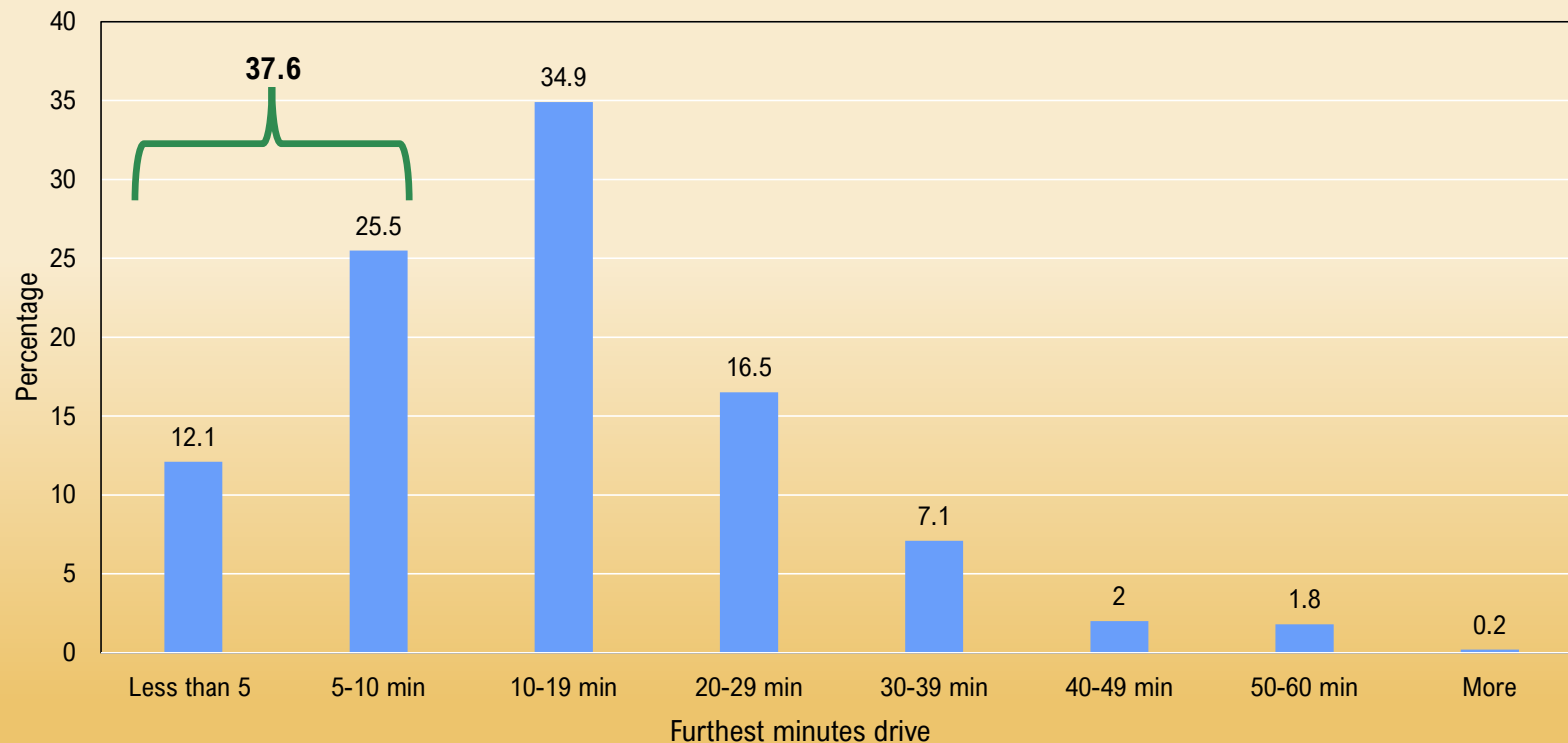
- ☐ Less than a 5-minute drive
- ☐ 5-9-minute drive
- ☐ 10-19 minute drive
- ☐ 20-29 minute drive
- ☐ 30-39 minute drive
- ☐ 40-49 minute drive
- ☐ 50-60 minute drive
- ☐ More than 60 minutes



Alabama Access: What is FARTHEST you would consider to still be INSIDE your community for frequent outdoor recreation activity participation?

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Recreation community size



Motivations

Outdoor Recreation Motivations (21 items)

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Average based on a scale of 1-5 where 1=Not at all important to 5=Extremely important

Motivation Statement	Panel Survey
To relax and recharge	4.10
To experience fresh air	3.96
To maintain or improve my mental health	3.96
To get away from the usual demands of life	3.94
To clear my head	3.91
To do something with my family and/or friends	3.89
To appreciate the scenic beauty and the sights, sounds, scents, or texture of the outdoors	3.84
To maintain or improve my physical health	3.77
To be close to nature	3.70
To escape noise and crowds	3.67
To be with others who enjoy the same things I do	3.55
My motivation is just to do the activity I am going to do (e.g., hike, bike, fish)	3.48
To experience solitude	3.40
For thrill and excitement	3.28
To feel part of something bigger than myself	3.26
To learn about the history/culture of an area	3.19
To challenge my skills and abilities	3.14
To share knowledge across generations	2.96
To connect with my cultural heritage	2.79
To meet new people	2.68
To engage in competition	2.30



Constraints

Constraints: The factors that inhibit or limit people from recreating as much as desired.

- **Intra-personal:** within ourselves - *lack of skills* (15 items)
- **Inter-personal:** Related to other people - *crowding* (15 items)
- **Structural:** Physical – *No opportunities nearby* (15 items)
- **Environmental:** Natural – *Fire danger* (10 items)

Recreation constraints: Structural

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Average based on a scale of 1-5 where 1=Strongly disagree to 5=Strongly agree

Access Statement	Panel Survey
There are not enough recreation areas near where I live.	3.31
It is not safe to access recreation areas without a car from my home or residence.	3.13
There is a lack of accessibility facilities and features (e.g., vision, hearing, or mobility).	3.10
There is a lack of transportation to visit areas for recreation.	3.04
There are not enough places that allow me to do the recreational activities I want to do.	2.87
The recreation areas where I live are not properly maintained.	2.86
The recreation areas where I live are unattractive, unappealing, or undesirable.	2.68

Needs/facilitators:

Facilities, infrastructure, programs, information

- Facilitators are the facilities (15 items), programs (10 items), infrastructure (10 items), and information (5 items) that managers and communities can provide to facilitate participation in outdoor recreation.

These are the projects that LWCF often funds.

- Can be used to rank projects for the OPSP.
- “Please indicate the level of priority (e.g., investing time, energy, and/or funding) that leaders and managers should give to support the following recreational programs.”

Needs/facilitators: Programs

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Average based on a scale of 1-5 where 1=Not at all important to 5=Extremely important

Community Investment Topic	Panel Survey
Programs for adults or youth with special needs	3.67
Programs designed for accessibility	3.47
Health, nutrition, and fitness clinics	3.46
Interpretation and educational programming	3.38
Guided group activities (e.g., hikes, bike rides, floats)	3.25
Arts and crafts	3.29
Outdoor concerts, performances, and movies	3.27
Fitness classes	3.11
Outdoor skills training	3.07

Needs/facilitators: Facilities and staffing

ORAPS data from Alabama SCORP 2025

Average based on a scale of 1-5 where 1=Not at all important to 5=Extremely important

Outdoor Amenity	Panel Survey
Clean Restrooms	4.23
Maintaining facilities/upkeep	4.02
Lighting and/or security cameras in key places	3.98
Secure parking	3.95
Free-of-charge or low-cost recreation opportunities	3.86
Officers/law enforcement or security in uniform	3.68
On-site recreation area staff and rangers	3.63
Accessibility and opportunities for people with special needs (cognitive, behavioral, or emotional)	3.57
Public pools and/or waterparks	3.57
Accessibility and opportunities for people with physical disabilities (e.g., vision, hearing, mobility)	3.56
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.54
New or expanded park and recreation areas (e.g., develop new sites)	3.52

Activity participation: 0 to 365 days

- Please indicate the number of days (any portion of the day) you participated in (*ACTIVITY*) **inside** your recreation community during the last 12 months?
- Please indicate the number of days (any portion of the day) you participated in (*ACTIVITY*) **outside** your recreation community during the last 12 months?

Grouped activities for efficiency: 100 activities

Average participation across our 3 states (10-15 activities)

Did you participate in any of the following **winter and/or snow activities** during the past 12 months? (Check all that apply or check **NO**)

- ☐ Alpine/downhill skiing
- ☐ Nordic/cross-country skiing
- ☐ Back-country skiing
- ☐ Snowboarding
- ☐ Sledding, tubing
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ Ice-skating
- ☐ Snowbiking
- ☐ Ice-climbing
- ☐ Winter mountaineering
- ☒ **NO**, I did not do any of these.

Did you participate in any of the following **biking or other wheeled recreation activities** (human or electric-powered) during the past 12 months? (Check all that apply or check **NO**)

- ☐ Road biking (human-powered)
- ☐ Mountain or gravel biking (human-powered)
- ☐ BMX (human-powered)
- ☐ E-biking (electric-powered)
- ☐ Scooter (human or electric-powered)
- ☐ Skateboard/monowheel (human or electric-powered)
- ☒ **NO**, I did not do any of these.

Benefits: Economic

- Travel cost method for their most recent out-of-town trip
- Consistent with federal best practices
- Data provided to the BEA – Outdoor Recreation Satellite account
- Will contribute to the understanding of outdoor recreation impact at the county-block, state, and national level.


Recreation Use Values Database

[Home](#)
[Database](#)
[Brief History](#)
[Benefit Transfer Guides](#)



Climber at Smith Rock, Oregon

RECREATION USE VALUES DATABASE

Welcome to the 2025 updated Recreation Use Values Database (RUVd) for North America. What you will find here are links to the database, bibliography, and background information. If you have questions, comments and/or suggestions about the RUVd, would like assistance in using it for benefit transfer, or would like to submit documentation on North American studies not included in the database, please contact Dr. Randall Rosenberger (R.Rosenberger@oregonstate.edu).

We also are interested in how you apply benefit transfer for recreation valuation, so please submit documentation about your applications.

The 2025 version of the RUVd contains 527 documents of economic valuation studies that estimated the use value of recreation activities in the U.S. and Canada from 1958 to 2025, totaling 4,023 estimates in per person per activity day units, adjusted to current 2025 USD.

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account

OUTDOOR RECREATION and **STATE ECONOMIES**

2.3% or \$639.5 billion of U.S. GDP in 2023

5.0 million jobs in the U.S.

Outdoor rec made up at least 4 percent of these states' economies:



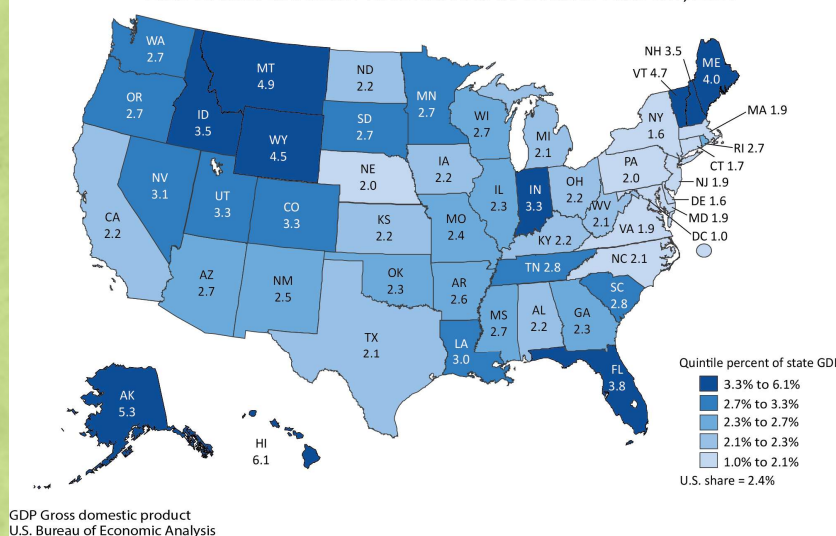
Hawaii's state GDP share of outdoor rec was 6.3 percent, the highest among states

Outdoor recreation GDP measures production within the United States for activities such as biking, RVing, and snowboarding.

bea.gov/outdoor-rec
Data are in current dollars



State Outdoor Recreation Value Added as a Percent of State GDP, 2024



Benefits: Health and well-being



States are increasingly exploring the intersection of health policy and outdoor recreation to better understand how these policy areas could be leveraged for the positive benefit of their constituents. While formal partnerships are still relatively novel, Governors have a variety of opportunities to engage with outdoor recreation and health agencies to create long-term benefits. This policy brief will examine these opportunities and highlight examples of innovative policy development from state and territory Governors.

On August 20, 2025, the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices hosted a one-day in-person event where Governors' health advisors, directors of state and territory offices of outdoor recreation, academics, and non-profit stakeholders discussed opportunities for state and territory innovation at the nexus of health and outdoor recreation policy. This roundtable was generously supported by the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA).

BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT SOCIETY:



THURSDAY, 2/26, 12 PM ET



National Executive Forum on Health and Outdoor Recreation

by 436

ORR will be hosting a first-of-its-kind National Executive Forum on Health and Outdoor Recreation May 2026 in Washington, D.C. This invite-only Forum will unite leading outdoor recreation CEOs with CEOs from healthcare, pharmaceuticals, experts on physical and mental health, wellness, and social vitality and state and national policy makers. Drawing on evidence-based research and lessons from the U.S. and abroad, the convening will chart a forward-looking agenda for harnessing outdoor recreation as a solution to the nation's pressing health challenges. From lowering health care costs to improving mental resilience, gut health, reducing rates of diseases like obesity and diabetes, and enhancing overall well-being, it's time to elevate the \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy as part of the solution and ensure its benefits are central to the national dialogue on health and wellness.

Benefits: Health and activity participation



COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

Recreation Use Values Database

HEALTH BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN OREGON



This site provides public access to the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator Tool (OR Estimator Tool) developed at Oregon State University in collaboration with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Health Authority. The OR Tool was used to estimate the health benefits of Oregonians participating in 30 outdoor recreation activities of moderate- to vigorous-intensity as part of the 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning project.

Documented throughout ORAPS:

- **Motivations:** Mental and physical health
- **Constraints and Facilitators:** Health and accessibility related items
- **Activity Focus:** It captures data on moderate- to vigorous-intensity activities, including hiking, cycling, and water-based activities
- **Time in nature and Demographics**

Benefits: Health and time in nature

Question set from Matthew Browning at Clemson University.

- On how many days did you spend at least 10 minutes outdoors in nature over the past week?

- [numeric: 0 to 7]

- How much time in total did you spend outdoors in nature over the past week?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Less than 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 to <60 minutes
- ☐ 1 to <2 hours
- ☐ 2 to <4 hours
- ☐ 4 to <6 hours
- ☐ 6 to <8 hours
- ☐ 8 hours or more [enter number of hours: ____]

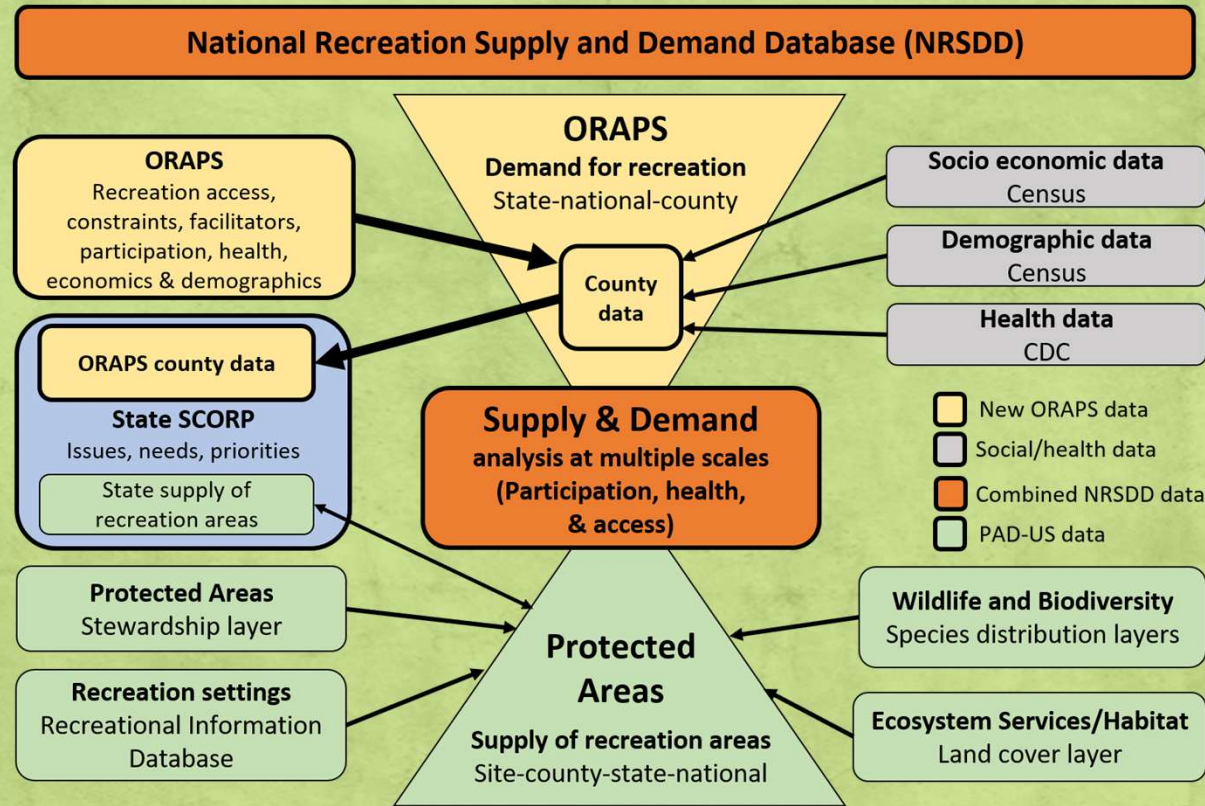
3. How many days did you visit each of the following settings for at least 10 minutes last week?
Please give a number from 0 (no days) to 7 (all days last week).

	Number of days last week
Your own yard or garden	
Local park or field	
State, county <u>or</u> regional park	
National park, forest <u>or</u> monument	
Local woods or forest (not a local park or field)	
Beach, river <u>or</u> other body of water	
Hills or mountains	
Desert	
Nature or wildlife reserve	
Fields, farmland <u>or</u> countryside	
Other (please explain)	

Linking ORAPS to SCORP to set priorities for the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

- 1) **Access and home range:** Identifies spatially underserved areas, local needs
- 2) **Motivations:** Justifies facility selection and setting design, strengthens narrative
- 3) **Constraints/barriers:** Identifies barriers to overcome with proposed projects
- 4) **Facilitators/needs:** Identifies and prioritizes project investments
- 5) **Activity participation:** Prioritize projects with strong demand
- 6) **Benefits:** *Economic benefits:* Supports administrative buy-in, strengthens narrative, identifies gateway and community impacts. *Health benefits:* Aligns health and recreation priorities, brings in collaborators.
- 7) **Demographics:** Identifies underserved areas and populations

Supply And Demand



- Supply and Demand of outdoor recreation can be integrated with other socioeconomic and health data and linked across scales to identify gaps and opportunities for development.

ORAPS Administration:

State flexibility and tailoring

- **Flexibility and follow-on data collection:** States (and industries) with specific interests or data needs could augment and support data collection efforts.
 - **Activities +:** Space to add specific activities that are unique to each state is provided. For example, information on Outrigger canoe and kitesurfing may be desired for Hawaii, whereas Dog sledding and Salmon bake/crab feed might be unique to Alaska.
 - **Tailoring “Other”:** Each module (access, motivations, constraints, and needs) has several “other” options listed that can be substituted with specific state-level items.
 - **Follow-up data collection:** The ORAPS would identify specific participants (e.g., freshwater anglers) who could *opt in* for follow-up data collection. Using the rest of the survey as base information, states or industries could develop short targeted activity-specific modules or separate opt-in surveys.

ORAPS Administration:

Data reporting and distribution

- **Reporting:** Standardized LWCF-formatted ORAPS reports will be produced for each state and territory (56 reports) that can be used for their SCORP. With longitudinal data, trend analysis will be provided.

States can choose to use these reports:

- 1) As their demand/needs public participation survey for SCORP,
- 2) to complement their own data collection, or
- 3) use ORAPS as the baseline and develop their own targeted investigations.

- **Publicly available data:** ORAPS data will be made freely available through the coordinating research center, federal and state agencies, and collaborating partner platforms.
 - The return on investment (ROI) of the ORAPS data has the potential to be enormous. Data partners will use their own resources to conduct analysis and develop reports.

ORAPS Administration:

Data partners and users will increase the ROI

In addition to state SCORP planners, beneficiaries of ORAPS data would include:

1. Governors, state parks, natural resource agencies, and offices of outdoor recreation (e.g., NGA, NASPD, Confluence of States)
2. Community chamber of commerce, tourism entities, outdoor recreation industry, and economic development groups
3. Active military and veterans (e.g., VA, MWR)
4. American Indians and Alaska Natives (e.g., BIA, tribes)
5. Outdoor industry (e.g., equipment, apparel, guides, tourism, etc.), and
6. Others, such as researchers, non-profit organizations, consultants, and associations (e.g., SORP, TPL, ORR, Headwaters Economics, university faculty, and **graduate students**).
7. Federal, state, and local park and land and water management agencies (e.g., FICOR) and health agencies (e.g., CDC, NIH)

Road to implementation

- Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) as a home for ORAPS research at OSU

ORAPS Implementation

- **Stage 1:** An initial 50-state survey (plus the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories) to provide baseline national data representative at the state level
- **Stage 2:** A rotating 5-year cycle collecting county-block level data in ten states and one U.S. territory per year



Stage 1: National baseline survey

State-level sampling

- **3-year project** to gather baseline data by applying ORAPS to all 50-states, D.C., and five U.S. Territories.
- **Intensive representative probability-based** random sample (1,200 respondents for a 3% sampling error)
- **Becomes the critical starting point** to monitor trends in Access, Needs, Constraints, Activity Participation, and Economic and Health impacts.
- Allows states/D.C./territories to understand their regional and national context (recreation does not stop at state borders)
- Collectively provide a baseline for the Nation.



Stage 2: Five-year cycle trend analysis

County-block level sampling

- **5-year cycle** where data from 10 States and one U.S. Territory or DC are collected each year
- **Sampling** designed to be representative at the county or county-block level
 - LWCF projects are local
 - Ensures representation across a state, especially low-population and rural counties, including tribal lands
- Enables **targeted allocation** of LWCF funds, prioritizes community needs, and supports rural economic development
- Provides the direct means to **measure** the local economic, health, and other **benefits** from LWCF projects and SCORP planning
- Maintain continuous longitudinal data collection every 5 years for trend analysis

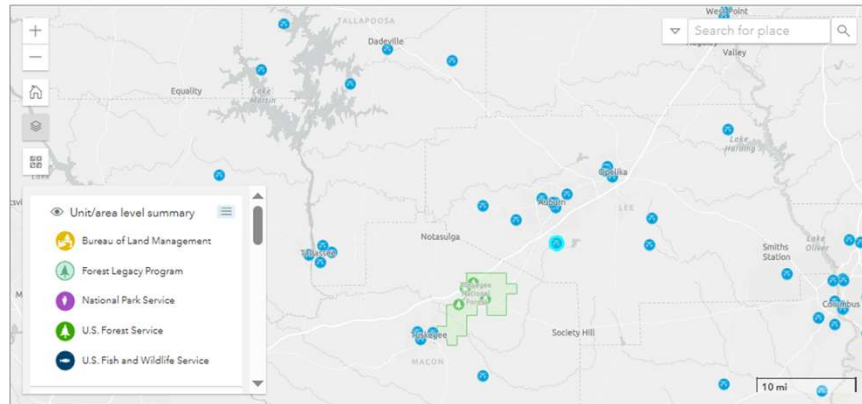
  **The Land and Water Conservation Fund**
PROTECTING THE PLACES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Home Maps ▾ More info ▾ Contact us

Past projects

▼ Map information/help (click to expand or collapse)

- Explore the [user guide](#) for the map below
- The more you zoom in on the map, the more LWCF-funded places you will see
- Points with *i* symbols have additional information/stories
- For more information about LWCF's specific programs, see the [LWCF programs](#) page
- The LWCF-funded places databases were last updated in June 2022, see the [About the data](#) page for more information on data status per program.
- Do you see anything missing or in the wrong location? Use the [Contact us](#) page to let us know.



Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

► Project filters and reports (click to expand or collapse)

► Unit or project descriptions and photos (click to expand or collapse)

Stage 2: Five-year cycle trend analysis

County-block level sampling

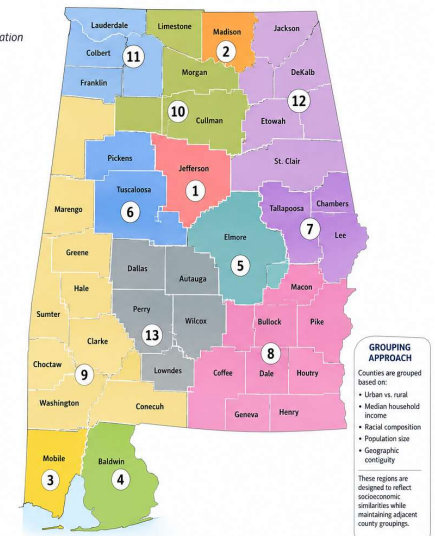
- **5-year cycle** where data from 10 States and one U.S. Territory or DC are collected each year
- **Sampling** designed to be representative at the county or county-block level
 - LWCF projects are local
 - Ensures representation across a state, especially low-population and rural counties, including tribal lands
- Enables **targeted allocation** of LWCF funds, prioritizes community needs, and supports rural economic development
- Provides the direct means to **measure** the local economic, health, and other **benefits** from LWCF projects and SCORP planning
- Maintain continuous longitudinal data collection every 5 years for trend analysis

Alabama County Groupings

Based on U.S. Census Data: Urban/Rural, Median Income, Race, Population

REGION	COUNTIES	POPULATION*
1	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	665,409
2	Madison County (Huntsville)	408,697
3	Mobile County (Mobile)	413,210
4	Baldwin County (Gulf Coast)	251,669
5	Montgomery Region	349,027
6	Tuscaloosa Region	273,201
7	Auburn-Opelika Region	289,169
8	Dothan / Wiregrass Region	261,482
9	Gulf Southwest Region	225,346
10	North Alabama Region	231,440
11	Shoals Region	151,997
12	Northeast Alabama Region	272,002
13	West Central Black Belt Region	174,843

* Populations are 2020 Decennial Census totals. All regions have a minimum population above 50,000.



SCORP year organization	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
States 1-10 + 1 Territory & D.C.	County-level				
States 11-20 + 1 Territory		County-level			
States 21-30 + 1 Territory			County-level		
States 31-40 + 1 Territory				County-level	
States 41-50 + 1 Territory					County-level

Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

A Common Information Format

- The ORAPS is a cost-efficient, standardized, scientifically rigorous system for collecting and disseminating information on outdoor recreation for U.S. households at the county, state, and national levels.
- The ORAPS has been designed to support local and statewide planning through Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP).
 - However, through standardization across states, ORAPS will also provide consistent data at regional and national levels.
 - Finally, through longitudinal data collection, the ORAPS will provide trend data at county, state, and national levels.

EXPLORE Act data requirements

- In **2025**, Congress unanimously passed The **EXPLORE Act** (H.R. 6492 - 118th Congress), which requires outdoor recreation information on barriers (**constraints**), needs (**facilitators**), benefits (e.g., health, social, and economic), and long-term activity **participation trends** to forecast demand, with special attention given to military personnel and veterans.
- ORAPS gathers demand-side information for SCORPs and recreation information for the EXPLORE Act implementation, creating **cross-program efficiency**.
- States and federal agencies could use the data to meet the EXPLORE Act goals.

138 STAT. 2836

PUBLIC LAW 118-234—JAN. 4, 2025

Public Law 118-234 118th Congress

An Act

Jan. 4, 2025
[H.R. 6492]

To improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, and for other purposes.

Expanding Public
Lands Outdoor
Recreation
Experiences Act.
16 USC 8401
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act” or the “EXPLORE Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Outdoor Recreation Policy

Sec. 111. Congressional declaration of policy.
Sec. 112. Identifying opportunities for recreation.
Sec. 113. Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.
Sec. 114. Recreation budget crosscut.

Subtitle B—Public Recreation on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

Sec. 121. Biking on long-distance trails.
Sec. 122. Protecting America’s rock climbing.
Sec. 123. Range access.
Sec. 124. Restoration of overnight campsites.
Sec. 125. Federal interior land media.
Sec. 126. Cape and anvil preservation enhancement.
Sec. 127. Motorized and nonmotorized access.
Sec. 128. Aquatic resource activities assistance.

Subtitle C—Supporting Gateway Communities and Addressing Park Overcrowding

Sec. 131. Gateway communities.
Sec. 132. Improved recreation visitation data.
Sec. 133. Monitoring for improved recreation decision making.

Subtitle D—Broadband Connectivity on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

Sec. 141. Connect Our Parks.
Sec. 142. Broadband internet connectivity at developed recreation sites.
Sec. 143. Public lands telecommunications cooperative agreements.

Subtitle E—Public-Private Parks Partnerships

Sec. 151. Authorization for lease of forest service administrative sites.
Sec. 152. Partnership agreements creating tangible savings.
Sec. 153. Partnership agreements to modernize federally owned campgrounds, resorts, cabins, and visitor centers on Federal recreational lands and waters.
Sec. 154. Parking and Restroom opportunities for Federal recreational lands and waters.
Sec. 155. Pay-for-performance projects.

Building a coalition of data partners and users

Public-private partnership and a collaborative implementation and distribution effort

State
Agencies

NASORLO



TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND®



OUTDOOR
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

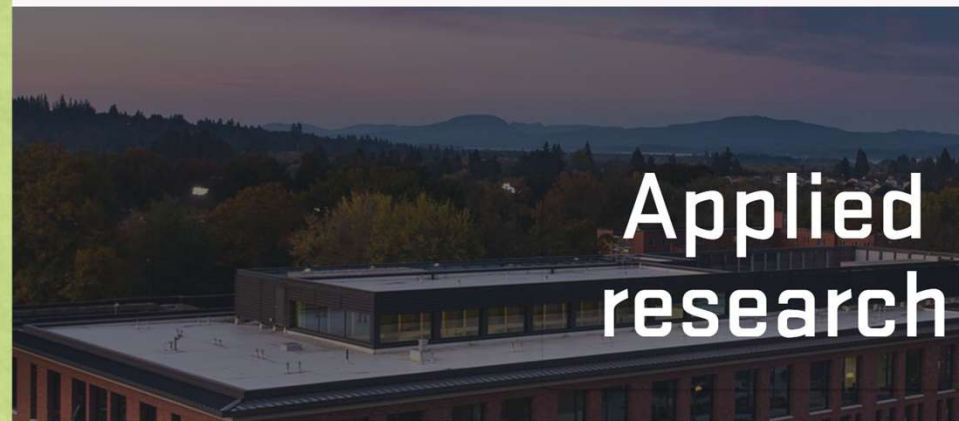


Oregon State
University

Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy

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Applied
research

The Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

The Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy is collaborating with [Dr. Wayde Morse](#) at Auburn University on the development of a cost-efficient, standardized, scientifically rigorous system for collecting and disseminating information on outdoor recreation access, constraints, needs, participation, and benefits for U.S. households at the county, state, and national levels.

Questions?

Where can I get more information on CORE and on the ORAPS?

- Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) at Oregon State University:
- <https://outdooreconomy.oregonstate.edu/>
- ORAPS website:
- <https://morsecsslab.weebly.com/oraps.html>

How can I support the ORAPS project?

- Use the following link or QR code to link to a brief 4-question survey to document your organization's support for the Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS) project.
- You will be asked to provide text describing how the ORAPS will benefit your organization.
- <https://www.cognitoforms.com/MorseORAPS/ORAPSSupport>



Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

Dr. Wayde Morse

Professor, Parks and Recreation
Management

College of Forestry, Wildlife and
Environment

Auburn University

morsewc@auburn.edu

Dr. Randy Rosenberger

Professor, Applied Economics of
Outdoor Recreation

Interim Director of the Center for
the Outdoor Recreation Economy
(CORE)

College of Forestry, Oregon State
University

r.rosenberger@oregonstate.edu