

Recreation Forum Project: National Forum Description

The American Recreation Coalition and the National Forest Foundation will convene a national Recreation Forum on April 30, 2007 as a complement to five regional Recreation Forums conducted during March 2007. The national Forum will:

- 1) *provide a platform for showcasing key presentations and recommendations originally delivered at the regional sessions;*
- 2) *provide an additional platform for suggestions and information designed to enhance the contributions of America's public lands to the American public, especially for representatives of national organizations and interests; and*
- 3) *invite public and private figures to present information relevant future recreation opportunities on public lands, ranging from the value of recreation to the nation's physical and mental health, to the role of recreation to the nation's regional and national economy, to the role of recreation in meeting America's educational needs and to key infrastructure and budgetary issues associated with recreation on public lands; and*
- 4) *provide a national town hall session for open discussion of key recreation issues, with participation by representatives of the principal federal recreation providers.*

More than a dozen national organizations have agreed to be part of the Recreation Forums process and are expected to participate actively in the national Recreation Forum, including associations representing segments of the recreation industry, local and state governments, other public land-dependent industries and the tourism industry. The Recreation Forum is expected to attract recreation industry leaders, Members of Congress and top Executive Branch officials.

Like the regional Forums, the national Forum will be held on a single day. The forum will commence with four topical sessions meeting between 10 AM and noon. One of the sessions will focus on recreational access issues and will be hosted by the National Association of Counties, Tread Lightly! and the National Wild Turkey Federation. A second session will focus on partnerships and volunteerism and will be hosted by the National Forest Foundation and the Forest Service. A third session will focus on travel, tourism and recreation and public lands and will be hosted by the Southeast tourism Society, the Western States Tourism Policy Council and the American Recreation Coalition. A fourth session will focus on youth service organizations and public lands and will be hosted by Camp Fire USA, Girl Scouts of the USA and The Corps Network.

At 1 PM, all participants will convene at the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (1200 New York Avenue, NW) for a session lasting until 5 PM. Participants will hear from key national leaders and receive key recommendations of the five regional forums and reports from the topical sessions held earlier in the day. Participants will hear a panel of youth representing organizations serving millions of youth nationwide. And presentations will be made by national organizations on key challenges and key opportunities to enhance the contributions of America's public lands to the American public. The forum will conclude with comments from the Forum conveners. A reception for all participants will be held at Bobby Vann's, 1201 New York Avenue, NW, from 5 to 6:30 PM. Further information is available at www.recreationforums.info.