

## External Engagement & Follow-up

On Friday, January 20, 2012, you joined the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Bob Abbey and the entire Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR) in a live discussion re: Outdoor Recreational opportunities on public lands and waters.

The discussion and your comments were in sync with prior responses from the last two years beginning with the America's Great Outdoors listening sessions. The American public wants the outdoors to be relevant, accessible, and sustainable. More importantly, the public wants to help in achieving these goals. This discussion was the first of many with FICOR and the public-at-large.

After your questions and comments were analyzed, we divided your comments into three major topics:

- **Off-Highway Vehicle Recreational Access**
- **Water Recreational Access**
- **Tribal Interests**

### **Off-Highway Vehicle Recreational Access –**

We were asked many questions about Off-Highway Vehicle Access. The responsible use of motorized vehicles is a legitimate use of BLM-managed public lands as well as lands managed by other Federal agencies. This topic has been given added emphasis with the America's Great Outdoors Initiative which has made improved access to public lands one of the major goals. Specifically, the BLM is working to strengthen its long standing partnerships with the motorized recreation community to improve and expand responsible motor vehicle recreation opportunities on public lands. Through FICOR agencies, partnerships exist with Tread Lightly and National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. The FICOR is committed to greater coordination between the Federal land management agencies to expand and share cooperative, partner-based success stories.

### **Water Recreational Access–**

Promoting greater collaboration among FICOR agencies, states, and partners to improve access to water, trails and other recreation opportunities is a priority action item. As indicated in the "America's Great Outdoors" Report, Recommendation 2.1, FICOR will work closely with the Sports Fishing and Boating Council and other organizations to develop strategies and best management practices to improve efficiency and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

### **Tribal Interests –**

The FICOR will work directly with tribal nations to consider specific actions to enhance recreation access and increase domestic and international tourism opportunities. The FICOR will continue communication with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association. Some FICOR members will attend the American Indian Tourism Conference in Billings, Montana, in September 2012. The conference provides a valuable venue for FICOR and other participants to explore opportunities for creating sustainable tourism partnerships that: conserve natural and cultural settings/destinations, provide appropriate interpretation and education, advance stewardship practices, and promote local employment and economic prosperity for local communities.

The FICOR would like to thank everyone for participating in this discussion. We welcome your participation in future discussions and at outreach events across the country. We are committed to keeping the public aware and engaged and we appreciate your help in achieving our objectives.

For more information and to answer questions related to specific areas please contact your federal land and water management agency's regional, state or field office. Please contact FICOR directly at: [FICOR@ios.doi.gov](mailto:FICOR@ios.doi.gov) with additional questions and comments.

Sincerely,  
FICOR