Section I – Purpose

The Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence of States, was established in recognition of the impact and importance of the outdoor recreation industry to the future prosperity and health of our Nation. The Confluence of States acts as a unified coalition to provide a central point of contact, advocacy, and resources for the diverse businesses, communities, and individual constituents that rely on the continued health of our Nation’s outdoor recreation industry. Specifically, the Confluence of States’ purpose is to:

1. Promote and advance the four pillars and twelve common principles of the Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence Accords.
2. Provide a common forum for the exchange of ideas and best practices between state outdoor recreation industry offices.
3. Identify values and issues shared among the Confluence States and take coordinated action on those issues affecting the collective outdoor recreation industry.
4. Enhance the ability of individual outdoor recreation Industry office directors to perform their responsibilities for the benefit of both the industry and the general public.

Section II – The Accords

Recognizing a growing confluence of states creating outdoor recreation offices with the purpose of cultivating a strong outdoor recreation industry within their respective states, directors and delegates from the founding eight member states drafted and signed the Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence Accords (The Accords) in 2018.

The Accords enumerate four pillars of the outdoor recreation industry and twelve common principles to which the Confluence States have adopted and committed to work collectively toward. These four pillars work in synergy to promote not only the outdoor recreation economy, but also the quality of life of each of our state’s residents and visitors:

1. Conservation and stewardship
2. Education and workforce training
3. Economic development
4. Public health and wellness

The Accords may be found at https://goo.gl/NAj57j

Section III – Confluence States

The Five Criteria

The founding members of the Confluence of States are: Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Additional states may sign The Accords and join as members of the Confluence of States, thus becoming a Confluence State, by adopting the four pillars and committing their state to supporting the twelve common principles enumerated in The Accords.

Each Confluence State will necessarily take its own path in developing its operational framework for adopting, committing to and supporting The Accords. The Confluence of States celebrates this diversity while recognizing five common criteria each state must demonstrate before signing The Accords and joining as a Confluence State (The Five Criteria). For the purposes of this document, the term “states” or “state” shall include the fifty states of the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia. The Five Criteria are:

1. State Director. States must appoint or designate a state employee through executive or legislative action, directed to supporting the four pillars and twelve common principles enumerated in The Accords, to represent the outdoor recreation industry sector.
2. New Role or Charter. These staff members may be appointed with the above charge as a new director or equivalent executive leader, or existing staff or advisors may be designated through a new organizational charter or mission which intentionally expands the representative’s role to include stewardship of the state’s outdoor recreation sector.
3. Public Declaration. For the offices to be visible and accountable to their constituents, creation of new offices, appointment of state employee and/or designation of existing state employee must be made through a durable and public declaration including, but not limited to, executive order, enabling legislation, gubernatorial press release, or similar policy actions.
4. Executive Access. Each state’s staff member representing the outdoor recreation sector must have reasonable and timely access to their state’s Governor such that the
endorsement of coordinated actions by the Confluence of States carries the weight not only of the staff member, but also the informed backing of their state government.

5. Budget and Resources. These state staff members must be endowed with a budget that includes necessary resources to travel and engage with both outdoor recreation constituents within their respective states and other Confluence States to advocate for the outdoor recreation industry both locally and nationally.

Membership Determination
Once a prospective Confluence State has met each of The Five Criteria, the state may initiate the process for applying for member status in the Confluence of States. Applicant states must first have the sponsorship of a current Confluence State in order to begin the application process. Sponsor states may invite prospective member states to attend meetings in an observational capacity, and shall assist with review of the applicants operational framework for adopting, committing to, and supporting The Accords.

The prospective Confluence State shall supply evidence demonstrating the state has satisfied The Five Criteria to the sponsoring state for a preliminary review. The sponsoring state shall conduct a preliminary review of the application before offering the application, and a recommendation to the full Confluence of States for consideration. During the preliminary review, a sponsoring state may request additional information or clarification from the Applicant, prior to submitting a recommendation to the Confluence of States.

Recommendations must be made by the Monthly Meeting prior to the Biannual Meeting during which the state’s application will be considered by the full Confluence of States. Determination of whether an applying state has met The Five Criteria will be made by a vote of current Confluence of State members according to Section IX – Voting.

Upon a positive vote of the full Confluence of States on an applying state’s application, the state must sign The Accords to become a Confluence State and ratify their admission into the Confluence of States.

Withdrawal
Each Confluence State may withdraw from membership and participation in the Confluence of States for any or no reason at anytime. Before withdrawing from the Confluence of States, a member shall provide written notice to the current chair of the Confluence of States. Withdrawal is effective immediately from the date the written notice is delivered to the chair. The chair may call a special meeting for the purposes of discussing the reasons for withdrawal and potential alternatives.

Removal
A state may be removed from the Confluence of States, for failure to meet The Five Criteria or inability or unwillingness to support The Accords. In all cases of removal, the State Director of the state to be removed shall receive fifteen (15) days notice in writing from the chair of the Confluence of States of the pending motion to remove the state. Within that 15-day period, the state whose removal is being considered may mail to all current Confluence States a written statement in opposition. At any time after the expiration of the 15-day period the Confluence of States may act on the motion to remove and shall immediately notify the party in question in writing. Removal will be determined by a vote of current Confluence of State members, excluding the state being considered for removal, according to Section IX – Voting.

Section IV – Representation
Each Confluence State will be represented by the state’s designated employee (State Director) according to The Five Criteria described in Section III – Confluence States. That individual will be endowed with voting rights and other responsibilities and privileges within the Confluence of States. Each State Director may designate and alternate representative to cover the contingency that the State Director may not be available. In the absence of the State Director, the alternate will have full representative status for his or her state. The Confluence of States recognizes that State Directors have statutory, regulatory and organizational responsibilities that may not be delegated. Delegation of a State Director’s representative role within the Confluence of States is not intended to abrogate any State Director’s non-delegable responsibilities.
Section V – Leadership

Elections
State Directors or their designee shall elect a chair and co-chair from the membership to serve one-year terms. Chairs shall have such powers and obligations as the Confluence of States may delegate to them, including coordinating Annual Summits, and overseeing Biannual, Monthly and Special Meetings of the Confluence of States.

Chair and co-chair shall serve terms of one (1) year, beginning January 1, and ending December 31. In the case of a chair or co-chair elected to replace a current elected leader, the new chair or co-chair shall serve from the date of their election until December 31. Elections will be made by a vote of current Confluence of State members, excluding the State Directors being considered for election, according to Section IX – Voting.

Withdrawal
A chair or co-chair may withdraw from their leadership position in the Confluence of States for any or no reason. Before withdrawing from their leadership position, the chair or co-chair shall provide written notice to the current chair of the Confluence of States or co-chair in the case of the chair’s withdrawal. Withdrawal is effective immediately from the date the written notice is delivered to the appropriate leader. The chair or co-chair may call a special meeting for the purposes of discussing the reasons for withdrawal and potential alternatives.

Removal
Either chair or co-chair may be removed from their position for any reason or no reason. In all cases of removal, the party to be removed shall receive fifteen (15) days-notice in writing of the pending motion to remove and any reasons why removal is being considered. Within that 15-day period, the party whose removal is being considered may mail to all current Confluence States a written statement in opposition. At any time after the expiration of the 15-day period the Confluence of States may act on the motion to remove and shall immediately notify the party in question in writing. Removal will be determined by a vote of current Confluence of State members, excluding the chair or co-chair being considered for removal, according to Section IX – Voting.

Section VI – Meetings

Annual Summit
The Annual Summit of the Confluence of States shall occur once a year at a time and place as determined by the voting members. The Annual Summit’s organizing committee will be led by the current chair of the Confluence of States. The current co-chair and the most recent past chair of the Confluence of States shall also be included on the organizing committee. Notice of the Annual Summit stating place, day and time of the meeting, along with the meeting agenda, shall be delivered to Confluence States not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting. Annual Summits are open to non-members by invitation only. Non-members must be sponsored by a Confluence State attending the Annual Summit.

Biannual Meetings
Regular meetings of the Confluence of States shall occur at least twice per year, unless otherwise determined by a vote of the members. The day, time, and location for the next Biannual Meeting shall be scheduled before the end of the current Biannual Meeting, whenever possible. Notice of the next Biannual Meeting shall be delivered to members thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting. Biannual Meetings may be conducted in-person, by telephone, video conference, or other appropriate means of electronic communications.

Monthly Meetings
On months when a Biannual Meeting is not scheduled, a monthly meeting of the Confluence of States shall be held to provide an ongoing forum for the exchange of ideas and best practices among State Directors unless otherwise determined by a the chair of the Confluence of States. The day, time, and location for the next Monthly Meeting shall be scheduled before the end of the current Monthly Meeting, whenever possible. Notice of the next regular meeting shall be delivered to members fifteen (15) days before the date of the meeting. Monthly Meetings should be held in a manner which allows for remote attendance, such as by telephone, video conference, or other appropriate means of electronic communications.

Special Meetings
Special meetings of the Confluence of States may be called as soon as practicable upon the request of at least five (5) members to the chair of the Confluence of States. The special meeting request will provide a suggested date, time, and place of meeting, along with a proposed agenda of items to be discussed. Members shall be notified at least seven (7) days prior to a special meeting. Special Meetings may be conducted in-person, by telephone, video conference, or other appropriate means of electronic communications.
Section VII – Coordinated Action

As the Confluence States work together to identify issues which affect the member states’ shared values and/or the principles of The Accords, one or more states may wish to call upon other states to take coordinated action on a given issue. The Confluence of States recognizes that each state outdoor recreation office, and its respective state government, will have its own internal process for evaluating, approving and taking action on a given issue.

As such, the Confluence of States will not take action as an independent entity, but the Confluence of States may recommend independent, but coordinated and simultaneous action by the appropriate authorities within Confluence States’ state government. Actions that Confluence States may take in unison may include, but are not limited to, signing joint letters of support for or in opposition to an issue, issuing a collective public policy position on an issue, or other actions which are appropriate for the item being considered by the Confluence of States.

Section IX – Voting

The Confluence of States may be called upon to reach a decision by vote on various motions. The state director, or his or her designee, may cast one vote per motion on behalf of his or her Confluence State. No vote can commit the rights, authorities, resources, finances, or operations of any Confluence State without that member’s approval. Voting process for motions is as follows:

Meetings and Regular Business
An affirmative vote of a simple majority of Confluence States is required pass motions related the setting of meeting dates and locations and other regular business. Votes may be held a any meeting convened under the procedures of Section VI – Meetings.

Membership Determination
An affirmative vote of two-thirds of Confluence States is required to admit a new member state. Votes to admit new states will be held biannually at the Biannual Meetings of the Confluence of States. States’ application to the Confluence of States will be considered from those recommended for admission by a sponsor state at any prior meeting of the Confluence of States.

Coordinated Action
A unanimous consent vote of all Confluence States present at a meeting is required for an action to be endorsed by the Confluence of States. On any action considered by the Confluence of States, votes may be cast as “in support”, “opposed”, or as “abstain”. Any Confluence State casting a vote in opposition to the measure being considered shall provide the rationale for its opposition, and an alternative measure for consideration by the voting states. A vote abstaining on the action under consideration shall not be counted as a vote opposing the measure. Votes on coordinated actions may held at any meeting of the Confluence of States.

Amendments to Charter and Governance
An affirmative vote of two-thirds of Confluence States is required to modify the Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence of States Charter and Governance. Votes to modify the Charter and Governance may be called for at each of the Biannual Meetings of the Confluence of States.

Section VIII – Amendments

The Confluence of States Charter and Governance may be amended by a vote of the full Confluence of States at a Biannual Meeting. To be considered, Amendments must be presented at a Monthly or Biannual Meeting prior to the Biannual Meeting during which the amendment will be considered. Amendments will be ratified by a vote of all current Confluence of State members according to Section IX – Voting.
Elections
An affirmative vote of a simple majority of Confluence States is required to elect the chair and co-chair of the Confluence of States. The State Directors being considered for election may not cast a vote on the motion concerning their election. Votes to elect new chair and co-chair for the coming calendar year will be held at the 2nd Biannual Meeting of the Confluence of States of the current calendar year. In the case of the withdrawal or removal of the chair or co-chair, elections to replace the withdrawn or removed chair or co-chair will happen at the next meeting of the Confluence of States immediately following the leader’s withdrawal or removal.

Removal
Chair or Co-chair: An affirmative vote of two-thirds of Confluence States is required to remove the chair or co-chair of the Confluence of States. The State Directors being considered for removal may not cast a vote on the motion concerning their removal. Votes to remove a chair or co-chair may be called as-needed and held in-person or via phone or electronic means of communication once the procedures in Section V – Leadership have been observed.

Confluence State: An affirmative vote of two-thirds of Confluence States is required to remove a state from the Confluence of States. The State Directors of the state being considered for removal may not cast a vote on the motion concerning their state’s removal. Votes to remove a state may be called as-needed and held in-person or via phone or electronic means of communication once the procedures in Section IV – Confluence States have been observed.

Tie Votes
In simple majority votes if the vote is equally divided between an even-number of total votes the current chair of the Confluence of States shall cast the deciding vote.

Section X – Non-Disclosure
From time to time, confidential information may be disclosed at Confluence of States meetings and in personal director-to-director communications. State Directors may disclose confidential information in confidence provided that the disclosing individual identifies such information as proprietary and confidential either in writing, verbally, or via other means of communication as might be appropriate. When informed of the proprietary and confidential nature of the information that has been disclosed by State Directors, all parties shall refrain from disclosing or discussing such confidential information to any person who is not a member of the Confluence of States except as required by law. Should confidential information be inadvertently disclosed or disclosed pursuant to state public disclosure laws, the disclosing party shall promptly notify the other party of the disclosure of the confidential Information.