

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona's outdoors; recreation; supporting

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2022

# SCR 1010

Introduced by  
Senator Shope

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES TO STATE RESIDENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, communities across Arizona recognize that outdoor  
2 recreation supports health, contributes to a high quality of life and  
3 attracts and sustains employers and families; and

4           Whereas, scientific research shows that both children and adults are  
5 spending more time inside than previous generations, are increasingly  
6 distanced from nature, are engaging in less physical exercise and are at  
7 an increased risk for poor health because of sedentary practices; and

8           Whereas, research shows that time spent in nature by all people can  
9 lead to physical, developmental and behavioral health benefits; and

10           Whereas, there is significant value in providing opportunities for  
11 the people of this state to experience awe-inspiring moments while gazing  
12 and reflecting on the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon State's uniquely  
13 spectacular outdoor places; and

14           Whereas, quality time in the natural world encourages curiosity and  
15 provides hands-on field experience and experiential learning, resulting in  
16 improved learning across various fields of science; and

17           Whereas, outdoor pursuits result in a unique and intimate  
18 relationship with the land, wildlife, clean water, clear skies and  
19 cultural resource protection; and

20           Whereas, the outdoor industry in Arizona is a major economic engine  
21 that brings jobs, prosperity and wellness to all state residents. The  
22 outdoor industry employs 201,000 people and annually generates \$21.2  
23 billion in consumer spending and \$1.4 billion in local and state tax  
24 revenues; and

25           Whereas, public lands represent a significant portion of this  
26 state's land base and are critical components of a healthy outdoor  
27 environment that are low cost to access and ubiquitous for all residents;  
28 and

29           Whereas, fostering equity of access to outdoor opportunities is  
30 fundamental to ensuring that all state residents can enjoy Arizona's  
31 natural resources; and

32           Whereas, investments in outdoor spaces and amenities will serve to  
33 enhance the quality and quantity of outdoor experiences for all Arizonans.  
34 Therefore

35 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
36 Representatives concurring:

37           1. That the Members of the Legislature recognize that it is  
38 critical for the physical, mental and social well-being of Arizona's  
39 residents that the state promote healthy, active lifestyles filled with  
40 outdoor experiences of all types for Arizona residents, while respecting  
41 private property rights.

42           2. That the Members of the Legislature recognize that each resident  
43 in Arizona should have the opportunity to:

44           (a) Enjoy and observe nature and wildlife in Arizona through  
45 activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, trail running,

- 1 trail riding, mountain biking, four-wheeling, rock climbing, stargazing,  
2 wildlife watching or just wandering in the outdoors.
- 3 (b) Learn about, appreciate and respect indigenous cultural  
4 resources, petroglyphs, pictographs, ancient habitation sites and sacred  
5 landscapes as places best left undisturbed.
- 6 (c) Explore Arizona's parks, forests, public lands and wild places.
- 7 (d) Experience Arizona's mountains, deserts, grasslands and  
8 canyons.
- 9 (e) Gaze at a starry sky or sleep outdoors in a tent.
- 10 (f) Bring along a friend to discover nearby nature right outside  
11 one's own backyard and beyond.
- 12 (g) Splash or refresh in Arizona's rivers, lakes, streams and hot  
13 springs.
- 14 (h) Follow a trail.
- 15 (i) Plant a seed, tend a garden or create a wildlife habitat  
16 garden.
- 17 (j) Be a steward and take care of Arizona's outdoor places and  
18 landscapes so future generations will also be able to enjoy these precious  
19 assets.