

WHEREAS; as Wisconsinites, we pride ourselves on the variety of recreational opportunities that our state has to offer, many of which involve the great outdoors and enjoying our natural resources; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's 49 state parks, 15 state forests, 44 state trails, 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, nearly 15,000 lakes, and recreation areas, national parks, and more attract millions of visitors every year and reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; and

WHEREAS; with an economic impact estimated at \$7.8 billion annually, Wisconsin's outdoor recreation industry directly supports 93,000 jobs and was the number one marketable driver of recreational tourism in our state in 2020; and

WHEREAS; enjoyment of our great outdoors provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to celebrate our long-standing history of natural resource stewardship and to renew our commitment to protecting and appreciating our air, water, wildlife, and land; and

WHEREAS; outdoor recreation in Wisconsin soared during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has only underscored the importance of safe and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to our mental and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS; in July 2019, Wisconsin established the Office of Outdoor Recreation through the Wisconsin Department of Tourism—becoming one of the first states in the Midwest to create an office dedicated exclusively to the promotion of outdoor pursuits—and the 2021-23 Badger Bounceback budget proposal includes the creation of permanent positions in the office to ensure it continues to operate; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the long-standing partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries, and recreationists, which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available and continually adds new and needed features such as improved trails, water access points, boat landings, and park enhancements;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 2021 as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 19th day of May 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State