State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY
GOVERNOR

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

2013

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina offers some of the richest natural resources in the country, from the highest mountain to the tallest active sand dune in the eastern United States, providing opportunities for its citizens and visitors to explore, contemplate and connect with the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of North Carolina to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife, spectacular lands and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, camping, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting and boating are among the many outdoor activities which offer the mentally and physically healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the month of June is the setting for significant events that engage the public in outdoor recreation and appreciation in North Carolina, such as National Trails Day, the Great American Backyard Campout, the Take Pride in America volunteer effort, National Fishing and Boating Week and in our state parks, this year's Outdoor Nation summit; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreationists are among the most active volunteers in North Carolina, developing trails, removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs, restoring habitat and supporting our state parks system, gamelands and recreational forests, nonprofit conservation organizations and trails programs; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is significant nationally, exceeding $650 billion annually, and in the state, exceeding $19.2 billion annually, with direct economic impacts of the state parks system exceeding $400 million annually; and

WHEREAS, many of North Carolina's important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are part of national, state and local parks systems and conservation lands; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate partnerships of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries, the nonprofit conservation community, the business community and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages citizens to take advantage of North Carolina's vast outdoor activities and to enjoy the benefits and scenic beauty of our great outdoors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I PAT McCRORY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as "**GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventh day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

Pat McCrory

PAT McCRORY
Governor