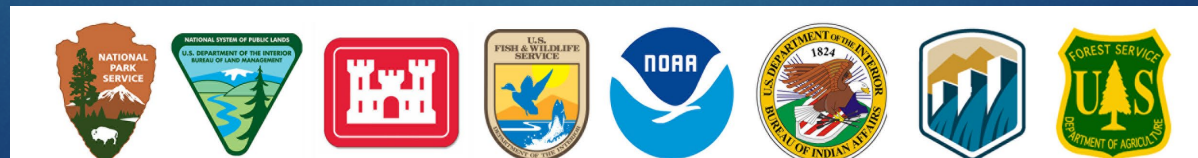
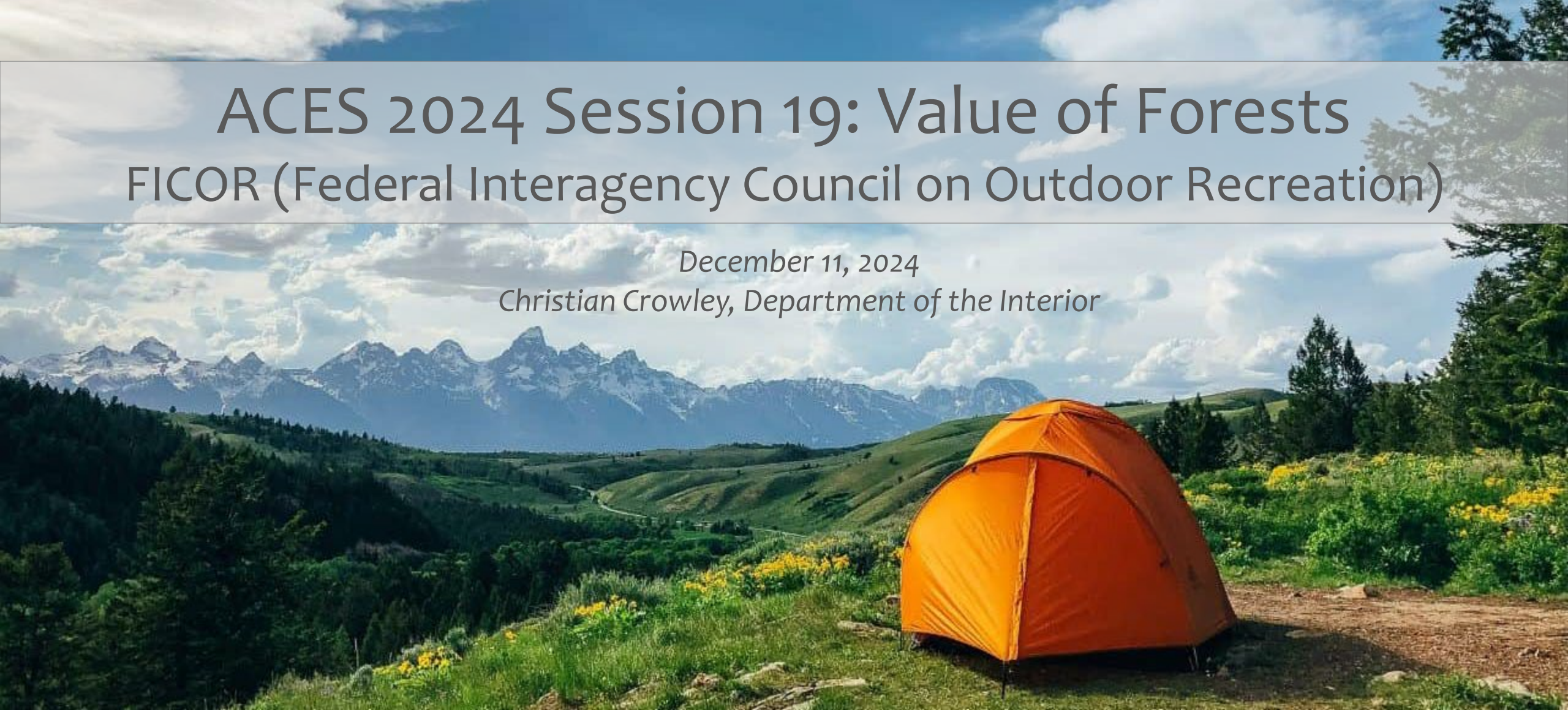


ACES 2024 Session 19: Value of Forests

FICOR (Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation)

December 11, 2024

Christian Crowley, Department of the Interior





Share information about

- FICOR's purpose
- Structure
- Workplan
- Activities
- areas of emphasis



FICOR Overview

The vision for FICOR is to institutionalize and improve coordination and **collaboration** among Federal agencies whose missions or programs include providing **outdoor recreation** and conserving or sustainably managing **natural and cultural resources**. FICOR provides a coordinating framework to address common challenges and **opportunities** in outdoor recreation and public lands and waters management.

From FICOR 2023-2024 Work Plan

Who Participates in FICOR?

Agency Directors (Principals) from:

- ▶ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ▶ Bureau of Land Management
- ▶ Bureau of Reclamation
- ▶ National Park Service
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ▶ U.S.D.A. Forest Service
- ▶ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The FICOR working group includes staff from each FICOR agency, supporting their Principal

FICOR 2023-2024 Workplan

Program Focus Areas

1. Coordinate Permitting and Fees
2. Improve Recreation Policy
3. Invest in a Trained Workforce
4. Intergovernmental and Community Collaboration
5. Enhance Stewardship and Sustainable Recreation Partnerships
6. Implement Outdoors for All
7. Engage Youth
8. Harness Data and Technology
9. Enhance Sustainable Visitor Experience and Visitor Use Planning
10. Establish Long-Term Sustainability of FICOR

Areas of Emphasis in 2023

Remove language barriers on signage and publications to improve outdoor recreation for all

Outdoors for All



Reduce barriers to transportation and rec access, with a focus on low-income and Tribal youth

Engage Youth



Establish consistent federal fee-free days (where appropriate)

Permitting & Fees



Assess recreation policies for potential alignment opportunities

Recreation Policy



- Establish a FICOR funding/org structure
- Establish a process for engaging non-federal audiences

Long -Term Sustainability of FICOR



Additional Areas of Emphasis in 2024

Provide equitable access, accessibility, and recreational opportunities

Recreation Policy



Develop recreational experiences relevant to a diverse public

Outdoors for All



Support ongoing development of consistent data standards across FICOR Agencies

Data & Technology



- Conduct strategic planning around Outdoor Recreation
- Seek interagency partnership & participation

Intergovernmental / Community Collaboration



Non-Federal Partners Meeting

- ▶ May 15, 2024
- ▶ 28 representatives of non-government organizations /non-profits
- ▶ All FICOR agencies represented
- ▶ Meeting Purpose:
 1. Familiarize participants with the FICOR
 2. Discuss non-Federal partners' challenges and opportunities around accessibility/DEI, federal recreation partnerships, and federal recreation program coordination
 3. Explore future non-Federal partner engagement



Non-Federal Partners Meeting Opportunities

- ▶ Close the access gap and improve the welcome and experience of visitors from **underrepresented groups**
- ▶ Improve **coordination among Federal recreation programs**, while recognizing differences in agency recreation authorities
- ▶ **Fund partnerships consistently** to help sustain projects & collaboration
- ▶ Establish more **youth workforce** opportunities on Federal lands and waters
- ▶ Future Engagement
 - ✓ Hold regular opportunities for non-Federal **partner-convened engagement**
 - ✓ Establish a presence at existing regional and national **conferences** and other gatherings

Next Steps

- ▶ Develop an actionable non-federal partners engagement strategy
- ▶ Maximize information sharing through the FICOR website and FICOR Working Group members as points of contact
- ▶ Find opportunities for leveraging connections at future conferences and other recreation gatherings



Native American Program Points of Contact & Tribal Liaisons Meeting

- ▶ July 25, 2024
- ▶ All FICOR agencies were represented (POCs/Liaisons and Working Group)
- ▶ Purpose:
 1. Familiarize federal Tribal leads with the FICOR.
 2. Gain their insights for how to engage Tribal partners with the FICOR.
 3. Receive recommendations for convening Tribal partners for a future FICOR conversation.



Native American Program POCs/ Tribal Liaisons Meeting Key Takeaways

- ▶ Topics/Issues of potential interest to Tribal partners:
 - ✓ Youth programs
 - ✓ Jobs/internships
 - ✓ Land management
 - ✓ Public land access
- ▶ Ways to engage Tribal partners:
 - ✓ Tribal non-profits
 - ✓ Regional organizations and conferences
 - ✓ Economic development organizations & events



Next Steps

- ▶ Create a Tribal Engagement Subgroup
- ▶ Develop an actionable Tribal engagement strategy
- ▶ Find opportunities for connecting with Tribal partners at planned regional gatherings





Thank you!