

NEVADA

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
2022-2026

**Nevada Department of Conservation
& Natural Resources**

Division of State Parks

Division of Outdoor Recreation

“Outdoor recreation is integral to life in Nevada, and the SCORP underscores that our outdoor infrastructure should inspire people to get outside, connect with nature, and enjoy our state’s diverse recreational splendor. Collectively, the goals and action items put forward under the SCORP will help elevate Nevada’s celebrated outdoor heritage for generations to come.”

— Governor Steve Sisolak

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE (775) 684-5670
FAX NO. (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE (702) 486-2500
FAX NO. (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

March 31, 2022

Dear Fellow Nevadans,

I am pleased to present the 2022-2026 Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The newly updated SCORP highlights critical recreation needs, challenges, and opportunities in every corner of the state, along with a suite of key priorities and action items designed to advance a vibrant, sustainable, inclusive outdoor recreation future for Nevada.

These priorities were developed with robust input from nearly 7,000 Nevada residents and stakeholders, and are consistent with best management practices within the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the outdoor recreation industry. Of note, the 2022-2026 SCORP is the first to have developed a baseline inventory of all local, state, and federal outdoor recreation assets throughout the state – including trails, campsites, picnic tables, and much more – that will help Nevadans and visitors discover all that Nevada's great outdoors have to offer.

The key focus areas and recommendations identified in the SCORP are more critical than ever considering the growing impacts of climate change – including more frequent and severe wildfire risks, drought-stricken landscapes and waterways, and extreme heat. Adding to these challenges, Nevada is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, and the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities is at an all-time high. The updated SCORP, coupled with the historic Nevada Agreement for Outdoor Recreation Shared Stewardship (Appendix N) that I signed in March 2022 with state and federal officials, will help solidify Nevada as a world-class recreation destination, while protecting the natural environment and combating climate impacts, supporting healthy communities, strengthening our recreation economy, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our prized outdoor spaces.

Outdoor recreation is integral to life in Nevada, and the SCORP underscores that our outdoor infrastructure should inspire people to get outside, connect with nature, and enjoy our state's diverse recreational splendor. Collectively, the goals and action items put forward under the SCORP will help elevate Nevada's celebrated outdoor heritage for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Governor Steve Sisolak, written in a cursive style.

Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Advisory Team and the Nevada Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation members who provided key oversight, insight, and contributions to the 2022-2026 Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In addition, we would like to acknowledge and thank the outdoor enthusiasts and outdoor recreation professionals across the state who participated in surveys and group discussions, and provided helpful input and feedback to early drafts of this document.

Nevada SCORP Core Team

Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of State Parks
Dana Dapolito, Planning Program Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks
Heather Giger, Park and Recreation Program Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks
Colin Robertson, Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
Gretchen Kelley Bietz, The Blueprint Collaborative
Lois Ann Porter, The Blueprint Collaborative

Nevada SCORP Advisory Team

Alan "Scott" Bohemier, Active Transportation Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation (former)
Kelly Clark, Rural Development Special Projects and Outreach Coordinator, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nevada State Office (retired)
Tina Dortch, Program Manager, Office of Minority Health and Equity, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Cheva Gabor, Nevada State Liaison, U.S. Forest Service, Region 4 Intermountain Regional Office
Jamie Fields, Nevada State Wilderness Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office
Bobby Jones, Outdoor Connections Coordinator, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Joseph Lednický, Economist, Community and Economic Development, University of Nevada, Reno Extension
Brina Marcus, Managing Director, High Energy Sports, Inc., and Owner/Consultant, Brinergy, LLC
Zachary Ormsby, National Monuments and National Conservation Lands Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
Sydney Martinez, Content Manager, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Matthew Weintraub, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
James Woolsey, Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS *(Continued)*

Nevada Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation

Lieutenant Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead, Chair

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall, Chair (former)

Mauricia Baca, Nevada State Director, The Nature Conservancy

Amy Berry, CEO, The Tahoe Fund

Bradley Crowell, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Kostan Lathouris, Chair, Nevada Indian Commission

Robert Mergell, Administrator, Nevada Division of State Parks

Dr. Andrew Pasternak, Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine

Bob Potts, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development

Brenda Scolari, Director, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

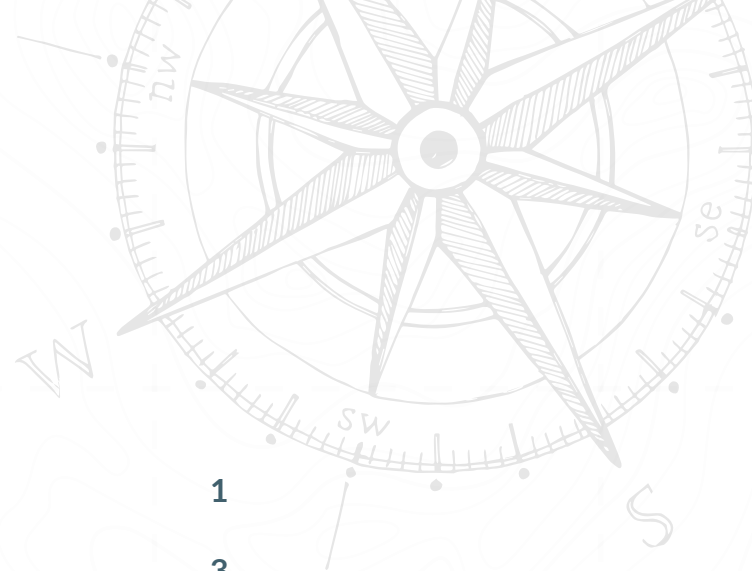
Mario Walther, Walther Law Offices

Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

We also want to recognize the Northern Nevada International Center's Language Center for translating the public survey into Spanish and assisting with outreach to the Hispanic/Latino communities across the state to encourage participation in the public surveys for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Executive Summary	1
Part 1: Introduction	3
Nevada in Context	5
Once in Generations: An Opportunity for Nevada	6
Outdoor Recreation Economic Impacts in Nevada	7
Background, Purpose, and Legal Authority	9
Wetlands Priority	11
Outdoor Recreation Agencies and Programs	12
2016–2021 SCORP: Our Accomplishments	15
2022–2026 SCORP: Our Planning Process	22
Part 2: Outdoor Recreation in Nevada: Research and Findings	25
Outdoor Recreation Supply in Nevada	26
2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory Summary	31
Outdoor Recreation Demand in Nevada	33
Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Results	36
Land Manager Survey Results	53
Part 3: 2022–2026 Nevada SCORP Framework	62
Outdoor Recreation Issues of Statewide Importance	63
2022-2026 SCORP Themes	64
Goals, Strategic Objectives, and Recommendations	66
Part 4: Implementation Plan	68
How to Use this Plan	69
Implementation Matrix	71
Ongoing and Future Engagement	75
Part 5: Call To Action	77

TABLE OF CONTENTS *(Continued)*



Acronyms	78
-----------------	-----------

Appendices	78
-------------------	-----------

Appendix A:	BEA ORSA 2020 Numbers
Appendix B:	BEA Nevada 2020
Appendix C:	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside Assistance Program Funding Overview
Appendix D:	Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, Technical Review Draft, January 2006
Appendix E:	Nevada Priority Wetlands Inventory 2007
Appendix F:	Land Manager Survey Summary Data
Appendix G:	Land Manager Survey Comments
Appendix H:	2021 SCORP Stakeholder Engagement and Targeted Outreach
Appendix I:	2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation System Asset Inventory
Appendix J:	Public Surveys Summary Data
Appendix K:	Public Surveys Comments
Appendix L:	County Data Reports
Appendix M:	Part 2 Survey Regional Maps
Appendix N:	Outdoor Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement, Nevada 2022
Appendix O:	2022-2026 Nevada Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside Assistance Program was created to assist states in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources and to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. citizens.

The program provides funding for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects for states, cities, counties, and tribal governments. To be eligible for LWCF assistance, each state must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. This document is Nevada's 2022-2026 SCORP.

In Nevada, the Division of State Parks (NDSP) leads the development of the SCORP, a research-based plan that evaluates the supply and demand of outdoor recreation resources and facilities across all jurisdictions. Specifically, the SCORP identifies outdoor recreation needs and opportunities for recreation improvements and development, provides the foundation for the distribution of LWCF monies for outdoor recreation and open space acquisition, and outlines the overall status of outdoor recreation in Nevada. At the core of the SCORP is an implementation plan designed to address the needs and goals identified by Nevada's citizens, recreation planners, land managers, and community leaders.

The 2022-2026 Nevada SCORP was developed over an 18-month period and represents a collaboration between NDSP and the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR). From the extensive data collection, analysis, and significant public and land manager engagement and feedback, the SCORP provides an aspirational yet essential vision for the future of outdoor recreation in Nevada.

Why does it matter? People and businesses are drawn to Nevada by outdoor recreation, which contributes substantially to Nevada's high quality of life and plays a significant role in Nevada's overall economy. Good-paying jobs in outdoor recreation businesses and industries drive Nevada's economic diversification and contribute to the recruitment and retention of highly skilled workers. Outdoor recreation is a key reason why people want to live, work, and play in Nevada.

The following pages provide valuable information gained through multiple surveys that garnered almost 7,000 responses. Additional input was provided by the Nevada Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, and the Nevada SCORP Advisory Team. Based on this input, three themes emerged:

- **Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**
- **Community and Economic Vitality**
- **Pathways to Health and Wellness**

These themes respond to issues, current trends, user preferences, and opportunities for outdoor recreation in Nevada. They also reflect the finicky supply-and-demand matrix necessary to balance high-quality outdoor experiences while conserving and stewarding natural and cultural resources. The SCORP themes are interconnected and critical components to achieving a vision for the future where Nevada's great outdoors continue to provide rich recreation experiences and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.



The SCORP concludes with an implementation plan outlining goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations based on public and land manager input. To address identified recreation issues, barriers and priorities, the plan also highlights the partnership needed between outdoor recreation and conservation agencies. No single entity can address all the challenges and opportunities outdoor recreation faces in Nevada. Successful achievement of the goals outlined in this plan will come from working collaboratively across interests, sectors, agencies, and organizations to implement projects supporting meaningful outdoor experiences and vibrant communities and economies statewide.

SCORP in the time of COVID-19

The 2022-2026 SCORP has been influenced in ways different from all past plans. The data collection for this SCORP cycle took place as the nation was within the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and, as such, certainly impacted how Nevadans participated in outdoor recreation in 2020-2021. A few of the findings that seem most influenced by the pandemic and outlined in the narrative of this document include:

Increase/decrease in level of recreating outdoors

Types of barriers to outdoor recreation

The pause/cancellation of team and organized sports in 2020/2021

INTRODUCTION

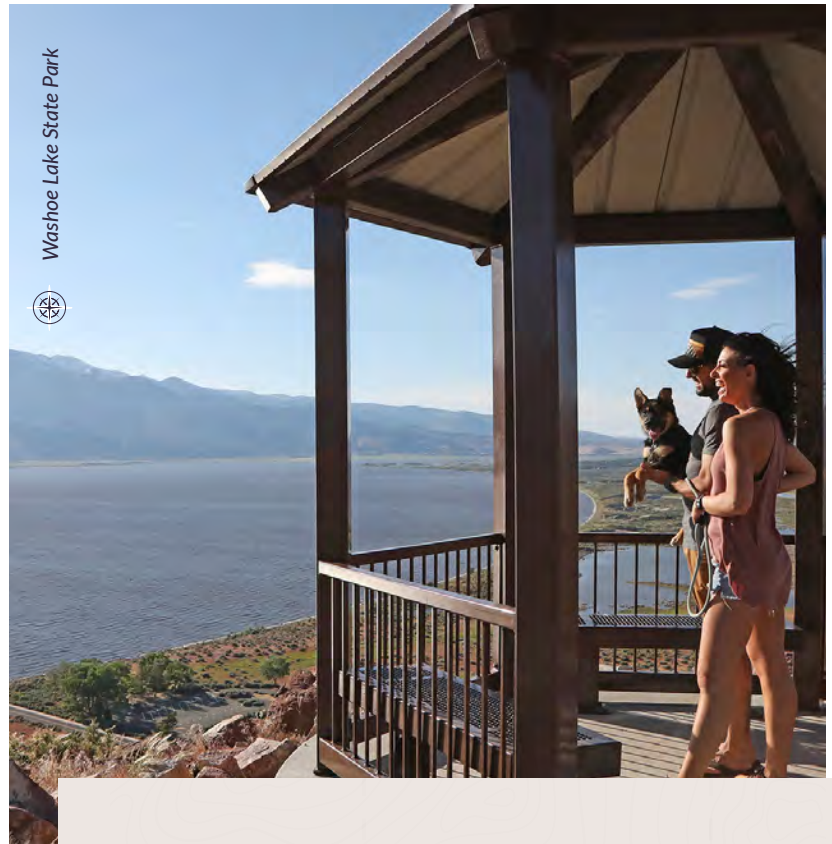


In this section:

- Nevada in Context
- Once in Generations: An Opportunity for Nevada
- Outdoor Recreation Economic Impacts in Nevada
- Background, Purpose, and Legal Authority
- Wetlands Priority
- Outdoor Recreation Agencies and Programs
- 2016–2021 SCORP: Our Accomplishments
- 2022–2026 SCORP: Our Planning Process

Humans have an innate affiliation with nature, with a connection to the outdoors that evolved over hundreds of thousands of years. Our ancestors were required to study, understand, and rely on the natural environment for their survival. It was critical to know what plants to eat, the migration patterns of animals, and how to predict the weather.

So, it comes as no surprise — even today, with technology as a constant distraction and most learning and working occurring indoors — that people are not satisfied with an indoor lifestyle. Concrete, asphalt, and four walls are not a natural environment for humans, and our bodies know that instinctually. More and more people are beginning to view outdoor recreation as fundamental, similar to the need for public schools, clean water, and affordable housing. Spending time outdoors is not only a necessity for a high quality of life, it is a necessity of the human spirit. We must maintain our connection to the outdoors, or we lose the connection to ourselves.



“I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright.”

— Henry David Thoreau





NEVADA IN CONTEXT

It is no mystery why spending time outdoors is a way of life for so many Nevadans.

More than 85 percent of Nevada is public land - the highest percentage among all states in the continental U.S.¹ This land is open to the public for recreational purposes, with limited exceptions. Because of the state's large areas of public land, low population density, and high levels of public access, the outdoors is an important part of residents' lives, visitors' experiences, and the state's economy.²

Geographically, Nevada is the seventh largest state in the nation in sheer land mass, with 110,000 square miles, 70 million acres, and 314 named mountain ranges³, earning the state the distinction of the most mountainous state in the continental U.S. The Silver State is known for its wide-open spaces; other-worldly landscapes; more than 6 million acres of National Forest lands; 48 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands; four national park units; and 27 state parks, historic parks, and recreation areas in all reaches of the state. While many people might conjure up images of Nevada as neon lights, casinos, deserts, and dry creek beds, Nevada has more than 200 lakes and reservoirs (including Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America); upwards of 600 rivers and streams; over 300 natural hot springs (more than any other state); the oldest living trees on earth (*Pinus longaeva*, known as the Great Basin bristlecone pine); some of the darkest skies and brightest stars in the U.S.; and more ghost towns than "living" towns (600+).

As a result of access to the natural and cultural resources Nevada has to offer, participation in outdoor recreation in Nevada has increased in recent years⁴. Many factors are cited for this surge, including an increasing awareness of Nevada's spectacular scenic beauty and diverse landscapes; the ease of access to the outdoors and public lands here; and a growing population drawn, in part, by extraordinary opportunities to recreate outdoors.

In the past decade alone, the population of Nevada grew by 14%, spiking from 2.7 million to 3.1 million people between 2010-2020. However, challenges arise with the growth in participation and appreciation for Nevada's great outdoors. Consequences of this growth include: overcrowding in some areas; insufficient financial and/or human resources to manage, maintain, or grow park and recreation infrastructure in response to population growth; misuse, abuse, and vandalism; and heavier use of parks, trails, and other facilities than is sustainable. In short, the integrity of existing outdoor recreation facilities, the availability of new outdoor recreation infrastructure, and positive visitor experiences is at risk.

¹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/PandPReport/35-PLGNR.pdf>

² Nevada Outdoors

³ Travel Nevada, 2021 Official State Visitors Guide

⁴ 2021 Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation

<https://ip0o6y1ji424m0641msgjfy-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2021-Outdoor-Participation-Trends-Report.pdf>

ONCE IN GENERATIONS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NEVADA

The timing of the 2022-2026 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) coincides with a constellation of historic circumstances: the COVID-19 pandemic, the incredible resilience of Nevadans in the face of pandemic-induced uncertainty, and the unprecedented state and federal response to the pandemic.

The largest federal investments ever seen in outdoor recreation infrastructure, maintenance, and programming will be made during the period of time this SCORP is relevant, from 2022-2026. Legislation passed during the pandemic, including the Great American

Outdoors Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) will contribute to the enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities and related infrastructure across the country. Simultaneously, awareness of the importance of safe, fun, and engaging outdoor recreation experiences is increasing. The unique combination of federal investment, growing awareness, and increasing participation afford Nevada the chance to markedly improve the daily lives of citizens across the state through outdoor recreation.



Gold Butte National Monument



OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN NEVADA

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA), Nevada's outdoor recreation economy generates substantial economic benefits to the state through direct spending on travel and hotel room nights, retail equipment and gear purchases, private industry, manufacturing and logistics, and a myriad of supporting and supplemental sectors across the entire economy.⁵

The BEA established the ORSA in the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2018. The ORSA conducts annual analyses of industry specific clusters at the national and state levels, developing methods and estimates for understanding the economic contributions of outdoor recreation to state and national economies.⁶ The ORSA is a collaborative, intergovernmental effort to measure the impact of outdoor recreation on the U.S. economy, focusing in particular on current dollar gross domestic product (GDP), employment, and compensation estimates for the outdoor recreation sector.

See Appendix A. BEA ORSA 2020 Numbers

In 2020, outdoor recreation in Nevada contributed:

- \$4 billion** in economic output
- 49,501** jobs in the state
- \$2.2 billion** in compensation and wages earned
- 3.8%** of Nevada's total employment

⁵ [Outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/ORDA-Nevada.pdf](https://www.outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/ORDA-Nevada.pdf)

⁶ BEA ORSA 2020 Numbers

2020 – Nevada ⁷

Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation in Nevada

Value added (GDP)		Employment		Compensation	
ORSA TOTAL	Share of State	ORSA Total	Share of State	ORSA Total	Share of State
\$4.0 billion	2.30%	49,501 jobs	3.80%	\$2.2 billion	2.40%

Value Added by Select ORSA Activity (thousands of dollars)

Activity	2018	2019	2020	State Rank
Boating/Fishing	\$179,497	\$194,931	\$260,673	34
RVing	\$130,914	\$140,659	\$155,967	31
Motorcycling/ATVing	\$64,214	\$68,195	\$76,832	34
Hunting/Shooting/Trapping	\$63,649	\$64,701	\$62,648	39
Snow Activities	\$53,096	\$59,193	\$45,111	23
Climbing/Hiking/Tent Camping	\$34,063	\$37,256	\$37,370	30
Equestrian	\$33,876	\$31,374	\$27,624	42
Bicycling	\$10,761	\$12,753	\$14,831	30
Recreational Flying	\$7,465	\$9,062	\$9,399	34

People and businesses are drawn to Nevada by its outdoor recreation opportunities. Outdoor recreation contributes substantially to Nevada’s high quality of life and plays a significant role in the effort to grow and diversify Nevada’s overall economy. Good-paying jobs in outdoor recreation businesses and industries are driving Nevada’s economic diversification and contributing to the recruitment and retention of highly skilled workers. Outdoor recreation is a strong reason why people want to live, work, and play in Nevada.

For the Nevada 2020 BEA analysis, see Appendix B. BEA Nevada 2020.



⁷ BEA – Nevada 2020



BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

Lake Mead



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside Assistance Program was established by the LWCF Act of 1965 to stimulate a nationwide program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources, and to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. citizens. The program provides matching grants to states and through states to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

The income for the entire LWCF (\$900 million per year) is provided largely from Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts.⁸ No taxpayer dollars are distributed through this process.⁹ Reflecting the goals of the LWCF Act, the goals of the LWCF Stateside Assistance Program are to:

- Meet state and locally identified public outdoor recreation resource needs to strengthen the health and vitality of the American people
- Increase the number of protected state and local outdoor recreation resources, and ensure their availability for public use in perpetuity
- Encourage sound planning and long-term partnerships to expand the quantity, and ensure the quality of needed state and local outdoor recreation resources

To be eligible for LWCF assistance for acquisition and development grants, each state must prepare and update, every five years, a SCORP to:

- Address the demand for, and supply of, public outdoor recreation resources (local, state, federal, and tribal)
- Identify capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing, and protecting all types of outdoor recreation resources
- Assure continuing opportunity for local units of government and private citizens to take part in planning for statewide outdoor recreation
- Coordinate all outdoor recreation programs throughout the state

Each state shall develop an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that provides objective criteria and standards for grant selection that are, in part, explicitly based on each state's priority needs for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources as identified in the SCORP. The OPSP is the connection between the SCORP and the use of LWCF grants to assist state efforts in meeting high priority outdoor recreation resource needs.

⁸ Land and Water Conservation Fund, Stateside Assistance Program, Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Volume 71, Effective March 11, 2021

⁹ <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/congressionalacts.htm>



The LWCF Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to states for outdoor recreation purposes. To be eligible for assistance under the LWCF Act, the governor of each state shall designate a State Liaison Officer (SLO) and one or more Alternate State Liaison Officers (ASLO) who have authority to accept and administer funds for purposes of the LWCF Program. In Nevada, the LWCF program is administered by NDSP. The SLO is the NDSP Administrator and the ASLO's are the Deputy Administrator and Park and Recreation Program Manager. LWCF monies are apportioned to the states by the Secretary of the Interior each fiscal year.

LWCF assistance may be available to:

- Acquire lands and waters or interests in lands and water for public outdoor recreation
- Develop outdoor recreation facilities to serve the general public

To be eligible for assistance, projects must be in accordance with the SCORP, be sponsored by a governmental agency, and meet other state and federal requirements. Eligible entities include local units of government and native American tribal governments.

LWCF assistance is provided on a matching basis, up to 50%, to individual projects that are submitted through the SLO to the NPS for approval.

The 2022-2026 SCORP will help guide investment in and planning for outdoor recreation projects in Nevada by providing funding to eligible entities to acquire lands and waters, as well as to develop and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure. See Appendix C for a more detailed overview and explanation of the legal authority of LWCF.

Over the past 20 years, NDSP has granted over \$19 million in federal funding for outdoor recreation through the LWCF program.

WETLANDS PRIORITY

Wetlands provide values that no other ecosystem can. They serve as nurseries for fish, feeding and nesting grounds for birds, and critical habitat for many animals and plants that can only live in wetlands. In fact, more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands, and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives.¹⁰ Wetlands also provide natural water quality improvement, flood protection, shoreline erosion control, and opportunities for recreation and aesthetic appreciation. The importance of wetland protection cannot be overstated. Although conservation efforts since the 1950s have reduced the substantial loss of this diminishing resource, we remain on an alarming downward trend and must prioritize this resource to protect our entire ecosystem.

Wetlands are defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. As required by 54 U.S.C. § 200305(d)(4), each SCORP must contain or reference a wetlands priority component consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. At a minimum, the wetlands priority component must:

- Be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan prepared by the USFWS
- Provide evidence of consultation with the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources
- Contain a listing of those wetland types which should receive priority for acquisition
- Consider outdoor recreation opportunities associated with its wetlands resources for meeting the State's public outdoor recreation needs

In 2006, the Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, Technical Review Draft (Appendix D) was completed, which contained an assessment of the conservation status of wetlands in Nevada, the state's list of priority (vulnerable and valuable) wetlands, and strategies that state agencies can employ to conserve priority wetlands.

In 2007, Nevada prepared the Priority Wetlands Inventory (Appendix E) which identified 234 vulnerable wetland areas highly valued for their wildlife habitat functions as well as their capacity to convey, store, and cleanse water; to control erosion and floods; and to provide immeasurable socioeconomic benefits, most notably a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities. Each priority wetland area in the inventory possesses some combination of wildlife, ecological, and socioeconomic characteristics and some combination of threats and deteriorating ecosystem health which, in aggregate, indicate elevated conservation importance and need.

The Wetlands Priority remains a critical component of conservation and recreation planning in Nevada. Given the predominance of arid environments within the state, Nevada cannot withstand unmitigated wetland losses and achieve objectives to maintain and enhance our wildlife, plant, water, and outdoor recreation resources. The priorities and strategies contained in both documents remain current and have been considered in the development of this SCORP and the OPSP. The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage will complete an updated wetlands inventory and plan by September 2022.



¹⁰ United States Environmental Protection Agency



Fort Churchill State Historic Park



OUTDOOR RECREATION AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

NDSP plays the lead role in planning and implementing the SCORP. Achieving the SCORP’s broad goals, however, requires the collaboration of numerous other state agencies and programs in Nevada that work to help support the SCORP’s implementation. Some of the stakeholder agencies and programs include:

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) is a broad and multifaceted department consisting of eight divisions and three standalone programs committed to:



- Protecting Nevada’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Preserving Nevada’s unique historic and cultural heritage
- Enhancing Nevada’s outdoor recreation, quality of life, environmental stewardship, and recreation economy
- Leading efforts to address impacts of climate change throughout Nevada
- Fostering partnerships to advance innovative solutions and strategies to protect natural resources for the benefit of all Nevadans

Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation

In January 2020, the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR) was established to promote Nevada’s outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, advocate for the conservation of its natural environment, grow Nevada’s economy through outdoor recreation, and educate the public about responsible recreation and healthy and active lives enriched by the outdoors.¹¹ NDOR is committed to:



- Enhancing and stewarding Nevada’s one-of-a-kind outdoor recreation opportunities
- Promoting a healthy and sustainable outdoor recreation economy centered on protecting and conserving Nevada’s natural and cultural resources
- Attracting existing outdoor recreation-oriented businesses to the state and supporting the creation of new outdoor recreation-oriented businesses in the state
- Advancing understanding of Nevada’s unique variety of outdoor recreational opportunities as central to improving public health and wellness
- Educating and engaging Nevada’s youth in outdoor recreation activities
- Engaging underserved populations, ensuring all Nevadans have equitable access to outdoor recreation



Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a grant program administered by the Federal Highway Administration at the federal level, passed through to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), and administered by NDSP for the state of Nevada. RTP was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Most recently, the RTP was reauthorized as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. It was signed by President Obama on December 4, 2015 and covered Fiscal Years 2016-2020.

RTP applies the “user-pay/user-benefit” philosophy of the Highway Trust Fund, returning federal tax on fuel used for nonhighway recreation to the states for trail projects. Although the gas tax supporting the fund is paid primarily by gas-using vehicles, resources are shared with other users of recreational trails to develop a balanced system.

Project categories eligible for funding are varied, giving states flexibility to administer state trail programs. State administrative and educational program costs are capped at 7% and 5% respectively. States are also encouraged to work with qualified youth conservation or service corps.

¹¹ <http://dcnr.nv.gov/divisions-boards/ndor>

Eligible projects include:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails
- Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Construction of new recreational trails (with specific requirements when federal land is involved)
- Trail project planning and clearance activities
- Environmental education and trail building programs
- Acquisitions of lands and waters by fee simple title or permanent recreational use easements
- Assessment of trail conditions

**Nevada has received over \$33 million
in RTP funds since 1993**



Lincoln Bypass Trail



Nevada Department of Wildlife

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is the state agency responsible for the restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and the promotion of boating safety on Nevada's waters. Protecting and managing Nevada's wildlife is at the core of NDOW's purpose and mission.



2016-2021 SCORP: OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Successful implementation of a SCORP is a comprehensive effort that requires dedication from not only the state agencies responsible for developing and adopting the planning document, but also partnering land management agencies and nonprofit organizations at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

The following section outlines the outdoor recreation priorities that were the focus of the previous SCORP and highlights some of the accomplishments that were achieved from 2016-2021. Also, below are excerpts from the Land Manager Survey detailing areas of significant progress over the past five years, followed by a list of LWCF-assisted outdoor recreation projects that were selected for funding due to their close alignment with the 2016-2021 SCORP priorities.

Following the project list, three exceptional LWCF projects completed in recent years are showcased.

There were eight priorities set out in the 2016 SCORP:

- Maintain and rehabilitate existing facilities
- Increase connectivity between trails, facilities, and other recreation locations
- Ensure safety
- Develop new facilities
- Conserve water and habitat
- Engage youth
- Integrate with economic security and growth
- Meet the needs of under-served regions and populations

Significant Progress - In Their Words

The 2021 SCORP Land Manager Survey asked respondents to provide highlights of significant progress made over the past five years to improve outdoor recreation opportunities. Below, and throughout this section, we provide a sampling of land manager highlights of significant progress.

Federal Land Manager Respondents Cited:

- Increased and leveraged partnerships
- Finalized several travel management plans
- Increased level of programming to under-represented communities
- Improved visitor center
- Expanded opportunities for hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges
- Built multipurpose trails and improved ADA walking trail stability
- Upgraded campgrounds and facilities
- Implemented a reservation system
- Initiated three large-scale non-motorized trail projects in the last five years

State Land Manager Respondents Cited:

- Stayed open through budget cuts and COVID
- Different types of interpretive programs to cater to new visitor demographics
- New parks
- More trails in our parks, trail projects completed
- Installed power to many parks
- Campground upgrades and road improvements
- Constructed new cabins, improved campground by providing power/water hook-ups to many more locations

“Our greatest progress has been to partner with other federal, state, and local agencies to work towards common goals and pool limited resources.”

— Federal Land Manager

County Respondents Cited:

- Worked with Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) on regional trail map/plan
- Enhanced trail connectivity to federal lands
- Reduced wildfire risk on open space parcels adjacent to housing subdivisions
- Planted native plants in previous fire scars to promote native vegetation and discourage noxious weeds

City Respondents Cited:

- Leveraged sales tax initiative funds with grants
- Grant-funded trail and trailhead projects
- Added parking and trailhead infrastructure
- Multiple new parks
- Adopted both a parks and open space master plan, and a public arts plan

The full results of the land manager survey are included in Appendix F: Land Manager Survey Summary Data. All land manager responses to “Significant Progress” and additional quotes/comments are provided in Appendix G.

Projects Funded by LWCF

Since 2016, a total of \$9,155,567 in LWCF funding has been awarded across the state of Nevada, with over \$14 million in match. Below is a chart displaying the investments and match since 2016.

LWCF Funded Outdoor Recreation in Nevada 2016-2020	SCORP Priority	Award Amount	Match
2016			
Jaycee Inclusive Playground	D, F, H	\$99,984	\$99,184
Bird Viewing Preserve Signage and Dock	B, C, E, F	\$17,200	\$39,781
Valley of Fire State Park, White Domes Trailhead Restrooms and Parking Expansion	A, G	\$100,000	\$313,500
State Parks Interpretive Displays and Videos	D, F, G, H	\$30,675	\$30,675
2017			
Miguel Ribera Skatepark	D, F, H	\$225,390	\$350,000
Ross Gold Playground	A, C, F, H	\$262,157	\$261,657
Carson Ridge Disc Golf Course Complex	D, F, G, H	\$118,785	\$118,285
Kellogg Park Phase 1	D, F, H	\$211,519	\$833,481
Walker River Restrooms	D, G	\$463,750	\$463,750
Pitchfork Ranch Development	D, G	\$2,650,753	\$3,413,669
2018			
Ice Age Fossils State Park Visitor Center	D, G, H	\$2,394,914	\$2,394,914
Simkins Park Phase III Lighting	D, F, G, H	\$277,320	\$277,320
Robert Spellberg Recreation Complex Enhancement	D, F, G	\$42,500	\$42,500
Hamm Property Acquisition	B, D, E	\$250,000	\$250,000
Somerset West Park	D, F	\$200,000	\$850,000
2019			
Lions Park Pool	A, F, G, H	\$34,312	\$34,312
Echo Canyon Campground Rehab	A, G	\$290,125	\$290,125
Spooner Lake Frontcountry Improvements	D, G	\$593,533	\$3,363,356
2020			
SCORP Planning	N/A	\$150,600	\$150,600
Ice Age Fossils State Park - Phase 2a	D, F, G, H	\$742,050	\$742,050
Totals		\$9,155,567	\$14,319,159

- A. Maintain/rehabilitate existing facilities
- B. Increase connectivity
- C. Ensure safety
- D. Develop new facilities
- E. Conserve water and habitat
- F. Engage youth
- G. Integrate with economic security and growth
- H. Meet underserved needs



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Somerset West Park
- Jaycee Inclusive Playground
- Walker River State Recreation Area

Several projects completed during the 2016-2021 SCORP exemplified the intent of the LWCF program, assuring that natural areas, water resources, and recreation opportunities are protected and available for public enjoyment.



Somerset West Park

Located in northwest Reno, Somerset West Park was a successful partnership between the City of Reno, the Somerset Owners Association (SOA), the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation and Toll Brothers, a residential developer for Somerset. This project consisted of the construction of a new 5.6-acre neighborhood park that includes a children's playground, restroom, picnic shelter, pathways, open turf area, 50 community garden plots with 10 raised beds for accessibility, separate off-leash areas for small and large dogs, park furnishings, and landscaping.

The City of Reno and SOA partnered on the design and development of the site. The Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, a local 501c(3) organization, collaborated with SOA on an online fundraising campaign to raise additional funds to support the development of the park. Toll Brothers donated two acres of property to the City to expand the park and assisted with the community garden, off-leash dog parks, construction of the driveway entrance, and parking. All were provided as match for the project.

The resulting park and interior pathways increased connectivity to Somerset's internal trail network, a series of paved trails within the development totaling over 11 miles. Additionally, the park provided a new outdoor recreation facility in a neighborhood of 3,900 homes, which previously was approximately 2.5 miles from the nearest park.

The park provided a new outdoor recreation facility in a neighborhood of 3,900 homes.





Jaycee Inclusive Playground

Prior to construction of the Jaycee Inclusive Playground, the City of Las Vegas had no centrally located inclusive playgrounds that were open to the public. The only playgrounds with accessible equipment for children with disabilities were in affluent areas of the city where access was limited. The Southeast Sector of Las Vegas, which includes the 18-acre Jaycee Community Park, contains some of the oldest neighborhoods and parks in the city. With approximately 35% of the city's overall population, this sector is largely underserved in terms of park acreage with a level of service well below the city standard. The Southeast Sector's current level of service is 1.36 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, the most park acreage-deficient sector compared to other parts of the city. There are four schools that primarily serve children with disabilities (ages 3 to 22 years of age) within a 2-mile radius of the park.

This project created an inclusive playground in the most underserved sector of Las Vegas. The park offers recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to increase mobility, provide recreational opportunities for children with disabilities, and allow interaction with peers and family while fostering friendship in a safe environment. The City of Las Vegas partnered with Variety Children's Charity of Southern Nevada to match the LWCF funds 1:1. The project included an integrating carousel, G-flex playground surfacing, a Mega Tower, and a permanent shade structure to extend the season during which the playground can be used.



This project created an inclusive playground in the most underserved sector of Las Vegas.



Walker River State Recreation Area Pitchfork Ranch Development

The Walker River State Recreation Area was conveyed to Nevada in 2017 by the Walker Basin Conservancy and dedicated by Governor Brian Sandoval in 2018. The property had been under private ownership for over 125 years and was not previously accessible to the public. With over 12,000 acres, 29 miles of the Walker River and four historic ranches, the property was ideal for developing into a state park. Upon completion of the transfer, NDSP was tasked with first developing the Pitchfork Ranch for public outdoor recreation use with only two years to plan, design and construct the project.

With the assistance of approximately \$2.3 million of LWCF, NDSP was able to construct a full hook-up campground with 20 sites, a primitive campground, four cabins, restrooms, picnic areas with shelters, a kiosk, and an interpretive trail. Since opening, over 200,000 visitors have taken advantage of new outdoor recreation opportunities at the park to include camping, fishing, open float water recreation, mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing.



Since opening, over 200,000 visitors have taken advantage of new outdoor recreation opportunities at the park.



2022-2026 SCORP: OUR PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the 2022 SCORP began in October 2020 with three primary groups providing initial and ongoing guidance and oversight:

The SCORP Core Team was established to drive the process for the development of the SCORP by providing guidance and operational support. This team was made up of the NDSP Planning Program Manager, the Nevada LWCF ASLOs, and the NDOR Administrator.

A consulting group, The Blueprint Collaborative (TBC), was engaged by NDSP to facilitate and carry out the SCORP planning process and lead the development of the SCORP document.

The SCORP Advisory Team was established and made up of key stakeholders from varying levels of state government, land management agencies, and outdoor recreation constituencies with geographic and demographic diversity from across the state.

Key to the development of the SCORP were three surveys and the first iteration of a Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory. There were 6,807 public surveys (Outdoor Recreation Public Survey: Part 1 and Public Survey: Part 2 – *How and Where You Recreate*) submitted in 2021, which provided key responses regarding outdoor recreation participation, preferences, priorities, and barriers. This essential data provided the findings and informed the analysis that shaped the goals, strategic objectives, recommendations, and implementation plan defined in this document. In addition to the public surveys, the findings of 139 land manager survey responses have been incorporated into the analysis and resulting implementation plan. Further, the results of an unprecendented Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset

Inventory captured asset and site details of 844 outdoor recreation facilities and sites managed at federal, state, tribal, county, and local levels.

The SCORP planning process was divided into three categories of work:

- February 2021 – July 2021 | Discovery: data collection and initial engagement
- June 2021 – November 2021 | Data analysis and further engagement with focus groups
- September 2021 – May 2022 | Report draft, external solicitation for feedback, final report

Data Collection Tool/Method	Intended Audience	Timeframe	# Responses or Participants	Survey Completion Rate
Outdoor Recreation Public Survey: Part 1	Statewide public outreach	Feb – Jul 2021	6,086	92%
Public Survey: Part 2 – How and Where You Recreate	Emailed survey to 1,479 participants from Public Survey Part 1 who agreed to provide additional information	Apr – Jul 2021	720	95%
Land Manager Survey	Federal, state, city, county, tribal, private, land trust, general improvement district land managers	Mar – Sep 2021	139	55%
Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory	Federal, state, city, county, tribal, private, land trust, general improvement district land managers	Apr – Sep 2021	844	N/A
Focus groups/small group meetings	SCORP Advisory Team	Jun - Nov 2021	8	N/A
	Advisory Council for Outdoor Recreation		11	
	Federal/state land managers		11	
	City/county managers/Parks and Recreation directors, Travel and Tourism representatives		12	
SCORP Draft Review & Feedback	Public (survey posted in English & Spanish on NDSP website, posted on social media)	Jan – Mar 2022	901 unique views	100%
	SCORP survey respondents (email addresses for 1,479) and all SCORP small group participants		74 feedback surveys	

For each of the three surveys and the asset inventory, beta tests were conducted by targeted users to solicit feedback and ensure usability before the actual surveys and inventory were officially launched.

To encourage maximum participation in the public surveys, NDSP and NDOR enlisted the assistance of the public information officers at NDCNR, as well as the Office of Governor Steve Sisolak, and Travel Nevada, among others. A social media campaign was launched on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that included links to the public survey in both Spanish and English.

For a list of additional people, organizations, agencies, and both formal and informal networks that were solicited to assist in the distribution of the public survey, see Appendix H: 2021 SCORP Stakeholder Engagement and Targeted Outreach.

Once the survey period closed, TBC conducted the initial data compilation and analysis. Summary data was then shared across a variety of smaller groups of stakeholders for input (see chart above for groups engaged).

Through the discovery and analysis process, themes and goals emerged, which the SCORP Core Team used to draft strategic objectives and recommended tactics to address the goals and barriers that had been identified in the process. This initial content was presented to several small groups in focus group settings, including land managers, county/city planners and managers, travel and tourism representatives, etc.



Summary

This SCORP brings together the wants and needs of Nevada's outdoor recreation users and providers into a single, comprehensive document. The following pages carry out the objectives established for this plan, which were to:

- Establish outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and recommendations
- Set evaluation criteria to allocate LWCF dollars
- Protect, conserve, and provide direction for managing public lands, recreation spaces, and unique places for current and future generations
- Encourage a highly integrated and connected outdoor recreation system
- Provide information to ensure a diverse and growing population has access to outdoor recreation spaces and opportunities to enjoy a range of recreation activities
- Communicate the connections between sustainable outdoor recreation, individual health and wellness benefits, community health and vitality, and a thriving economy
- Elevate public participation and engagement in outdoor recreation planning initiatives and issues

OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEVADA: RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Washoe Lake State Park



Part Two



In this section:

- Outdoor Recreation Supply in Nevada
- 2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory Summary
- Outdoor Recreation Demand in Nevada
- Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Results
- Land Manager Survey Results



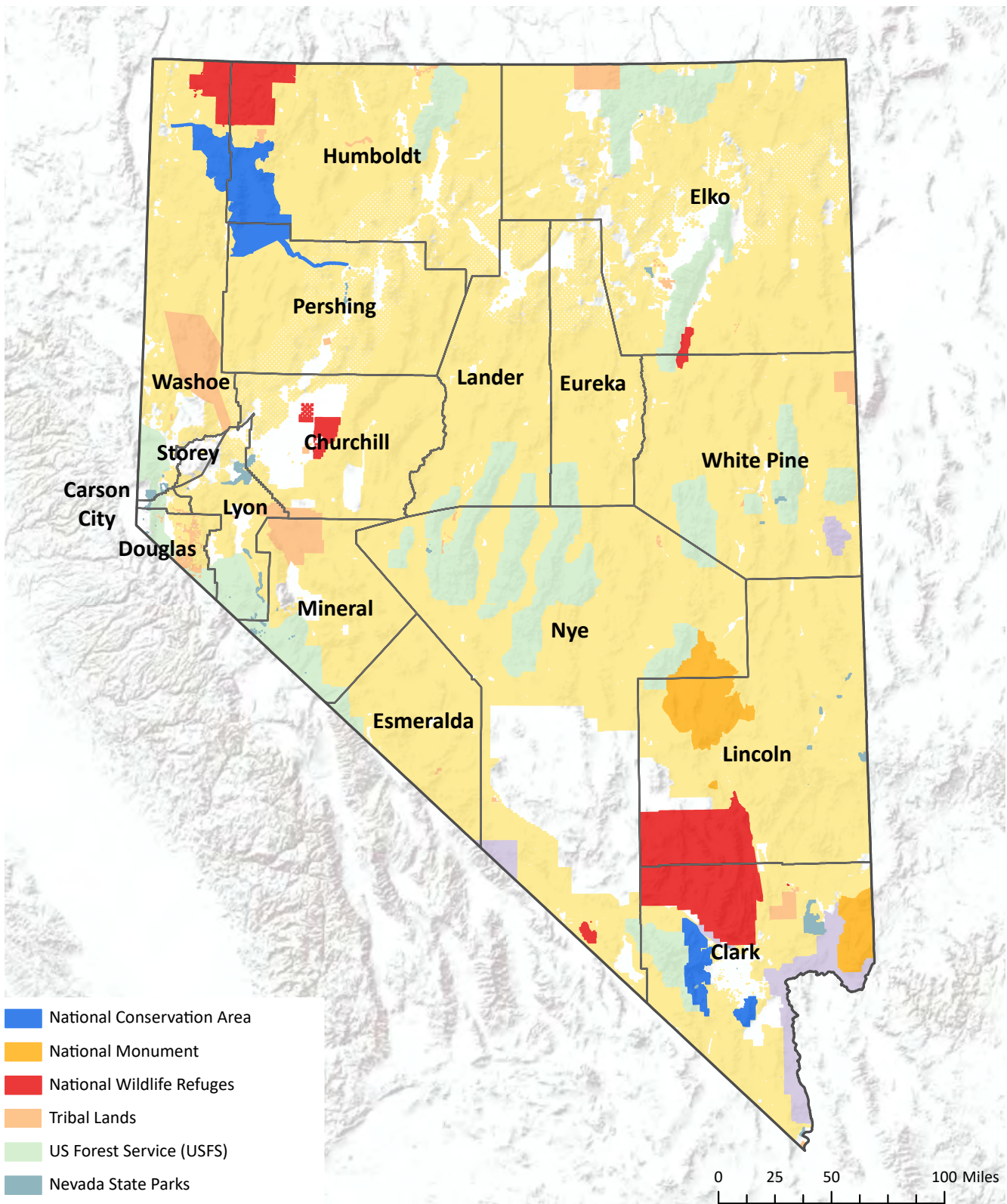
OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY IN NEVADA

Over 85 percent of land in Nevada is managed for public use – which, with limited exceptions, includes recreational opportunities. Nevada contains more federal acreage than any other state in the continental U.S. This massive resource is at the core of the Silver State’s “supply” of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Our outdoor recreation opportunities are managed by federal, state, county, city/municipal and tribal jurisdictions. Below is a sampling of opportunities enjoyed across Nevada annually by tens of millions of Nevadans and visitors alike.

To determine the amount and types of outdoor recreation infrastructure that we need, we must know what we have, along with what consumers want. It’s a simple supply and demand exercise, and in this case, one done specifically for outdoor recreation. Over the course of six months, NDSP and NDOR collected data regarding supply, demand, current use, and desired use of outdoor recreation.

The results represent a wealth of information which will be used by land managers to assess the gaps, and implement actions to fund and develop outdoor recreation infrastructure. This information will not only assist with closing the gaps but will ultimately contribute to the overall economic health and diversity in Nevada communities by informing the development of additional outdoor recreation opportunities, one of our state’s fastest-growing economic generators.



- National Conservation Area
- National Monument
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Tribal Lands
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Nevada State Parks
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Private or Restricted Lands

Public and Tribal Lands in Nevada





Recreation Supply Managed by Federal Agencies

National Park Service Units

NPS manages two parks in the state: Great Basin National Park and Death Valley National Park. NPS also manages the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in south-eastern Nevada, which is the first and oldest National Recreation Area in the U.S. It is also one of the NPS’s most visited sites, ranking amongst the top ten most visited park units in the country.¹²



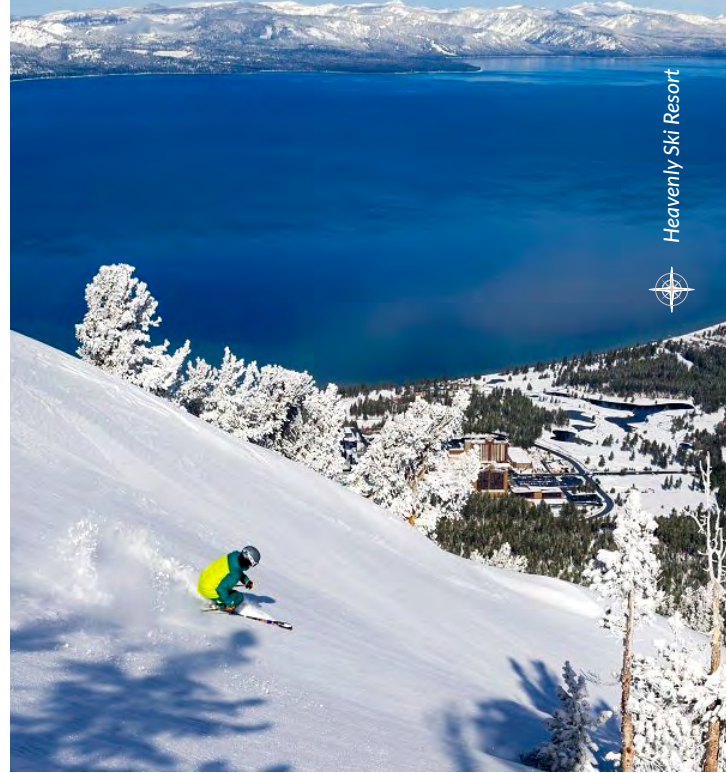
National Conservation Lands and National Monuments

BLM manages several unique areas popular with outdoor recreationists, including the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, a landscape notable for its scenic motoring loop, red rock formations, and deep canyon wildernesses, and renowned by rock climbers, hikers, sightseers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The BLM also manages the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, an area of almost a million acres that offers visitors access to hot springs, rugged canyons, and large salt flats or “playas”.

¹² Nevada’s Outdoor Recreation Economy and COVID-19 (etc.) page II-1.

National Forests

There are three national forests in Nevada managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is a 6.3 million-acre forest that is the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Besides being home to the Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe, Lee Canyon ski Resort, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, which includes Mount Charleston, the Humboldt-Toiyabe is also notable for being a non-contiguous national forest, with areas in western, northern, and eastern Nevada, and a small portion of the eastern Sierra in California. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit manages the forest lands inside the Lake Tahoe Basin, including those on the Nevada side of the lake, and includes Heavenly Ski Resort. A portion of the Inyo National Forest, which includes the Boundary Peak Wilderness and Nevada's highest point, is also located in the western part of the state.



National Wildlife Refuges

USFWS manages multiple wildlife refuges throughout the state. The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, located in the Great Basin, is the second largest in the state. Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, also located in the Great Basin, is a large area of spring-fed wetlands that supports an abundance of wildlife habitat for birds and mammals. The Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, near Reno, is regarded as a premier destination for birders due to its importance for migratory bird species. The largest refuge in the state, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, is also the largest refuge in the lower 48 states. Covering an area larger than Rhode Island, the 1.6 million-acre refuge was created to conserve habitat for multiple species, some of which are found nowhere else on earth.

Federally Recognized Tribal Nations

While all land in Nevada is part of the ancestry of the original indigenous nations who inhabited the area before European settlers arrived, today there are 32 federally recognized tribal lands that cover 1,098,360 acres across the state. Some tribal lands offer outdoor recreation. For example, Pyramid Lake, which covers an area of 125,000 acres and is one of Nevada's largest natural lakes, is managed by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and offers visitors a number of recreation opportunities, including world class fishing. The Walker River Paiute Tribe offers public access to the Walker River, which hosts numerous fisheries and offers visitors abundant recreation opportunities.

Recreation Supply Managed by State, County, and Local Agencies

The state of Nevada, along with county and municipal governments, also manage hundreds of sites with recreational amenities throughout the state. NDSP manages and maintains 27 parks, recreation areas, and historic parks throughout the state, including the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park in northern Nevada. This park showcases Nevada's mining heritage and paleontological history by allowing visitors to explore the ghost town of Berlin and nearby fossil beds. Valley of Fire State Park, a unique area of bright red sandstone outcrops, petrified trees, and petroglyphs, offers visitors opportunities to explore its sites through day trips, camping, hiking, and picnicking. Sand Harbor State Park is located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe, and offers visitors opportunities for swimming, kayaking, fishing, water skiing, and picnicking. County and municipal governments throughout the state also maintain regional and local parks to provide recreational opportunities for their residents.¹³



Valley of Fire State Park



¹³ Nevada's Outdoor Recreation Economy and COVID-19 (etc.) pages II-2-4.



2021 NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSET INVENTORY SUMMARY

Conducting the 2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory has been an essential part of determining outdoor recreation supply. The objectives for the inventory were to:

- Gather the most current information about outdoor recreation facilities across the state from the land managers closest to each facility/site to establish a record of supply
- Compile the data into a single Nevada outdoor recreation database, combining facility/site asset information from federal, state, county, local, and tribal outdoor recreation land managers
- Identify gaps between the supply and demand in outdoor recreation in Nevada
- Determine the priorities for the next five years for articulation into the SCORP
- Provide public access to the most up-to-date information about places to recreate in Nevada and what amenities are available at each site (types of trails, accessibility, restrooms, parking, potable water, etc.)

The submission rate of asset inventories has been exceptional, and an encouraging foundation for a comprehensive, statewide Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory.

In 2021, the SCORP discovery process generated 844 inventories from multiple entities. The BLM submitted 134 sites, the USFWS submitted 4 sites, and the USFS submitted 138 sites. Nevada state agencies submitted 27 state park, recreation area and historic park inventories while county and city/municipal governments added an additional 541 outdoor recreation assets.

While the full results of the 2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation System Asset Inventory are available in Appendix I, the data below highlights some of Nevada’s outdoor recreation assets.

4,059 Miles of Trails

83 Beaches

1,075 Toilets

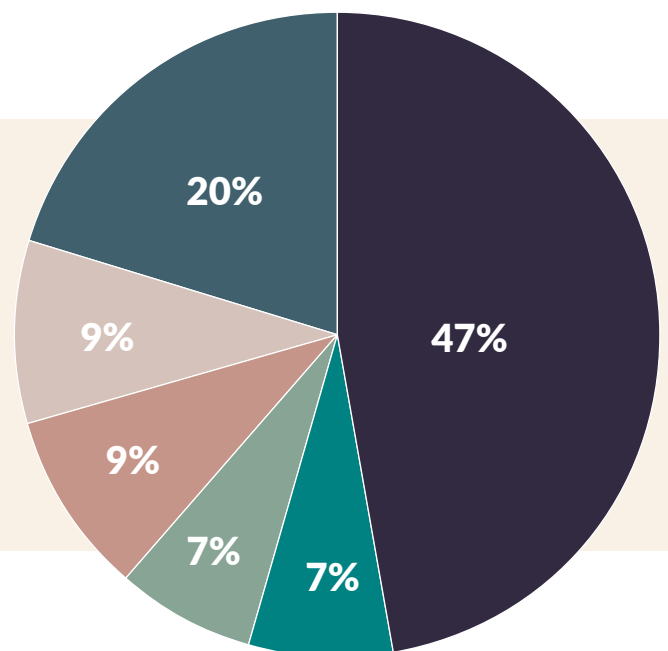
408 Playgrounds

4,185 Campsites



Type of Facility

- Park
- Recreation Area
- Trail System
- Open Space
- Conservation Area
- Other





Demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in Nevada is increasing as the state’s population and visitation grows. One outcome is that outdoor recreation’s contribution to Nevada’s overall economy is growing, due in part to the rich array of outdoor experiences available to residents and visitors alike. Nevada’s outdoor recreation opportunities are frequently mentioned as important quality-of-life indicators for residents, and the state’s diverse geography and natural environments beckon visitors with the possibilities of exploration, adventure, and fun.

As the population grows and more people visit the Silver State, however, it is essential to proactively plan for sustainable outdoor recreation in Nevada, to ensure the natural beauty and diverse environments that make Nevada unique are stewarded for future generations.

Visitation to the State

The Nevada Division of Tourism records data on out-of-state and national park visitation for the State of Nevada. Travel and tourism are particularly important for the outdoor recreation economy since many jobs in the industry depend on visitor revenue from accommodations, food services, and retail trade. Arts, entertainment, recreation, transportation, and local governments also rely on visitor spending, but these industries can offset reductions in visitor spending by capturing local expenditures. In 2018, the Nevada Division of Tourism reported more than 56.5 million visits to the state. The Division conducted a survey of visitors to better understand their travel habits and primary purposes of travel which found that the average length of trip for out-of-state visitors was four days. The survey also asked visitors about the primary attractions and experiences during their trip.

While many visitors come to Nevada for gaming, dining, and live performances, the state’s public lands and natural amenities are also important draws for visitors. Survey results show that outdoor amenities and public lands play an important role in visitors’ experiences. Between 5.6 million and 12.9 million (10 to 23 percent) of visitors participate in scenic driving, while 7.3 million to 8.5 million (13 to 15 percent) visit a lake or reservoir during their trip. The state’s mountains are also an important part of visitor’s experiences, with 7.3 million to 11.3 million (13 to 20 percent) survey respondents stating that mountains were one of the top experiences during their stay. Additionally, 4.5 to 7.3 million (8 to 13 percent) visitors to the Reno and Las Vegas areas said that visiting parks and recreation areas was a top experience, while 3.4 million to 5.1 million (6 to 9 percent) of respondents said outdoor recreation was their top experience.¹⁴

¹⁴ Nevada’s Outdoor Recreation Economy and COVID-19 (etc.) pages II-4-5.

Demand During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Overall demand for outdoor recreation increased across all jurisdictions in the state during the pandemic.

NDSP experienced a 34% increase in visitation to state parks, recreation areas, and historic parks from December 2019 to December 2020. This increase was realized differently across the geographic regions of the state. For example, the Eastern Region (South Fork, Spring Valley, Wildhorse, Echo Canyon, etc.) saw an amazing 207% increase from December 2019 to December 2020, and the Northern Region (Washoe Lake, Rye Patch, Lahontan, etc.) saw a 217% increase. The Southern Region (Big Bend, Valley of Fire, etc.) saw a 34% decrease during the same period, due in part to a combination of closures and reduced tourism travel to Nevada.¹⁵

In Nevada, the rebound in visitation to some areas was so extreme that access had to be limited to reduce crowding. Red Rock National Conservation Area, outside of Las Vegas, closed several times during 2020 to reduce crowding along its scenic loop drive and hiking trails and now requires reservations to access its scenic loop drive (Red Rock Canyon, 2020). The Lake Mead National Recreation Area also saw unprecedented increases in demand for access once public health and safety restrictions were eased (Boulder City Review, 2020).¹⁶



Camping in Nevada increased by 40% during COVID-19.¹⁷

These examples highlight the demand for outdoor recreation access and why greater coordination and increased infrastructure is needed. Demand for outdoor recreation is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels.

¹⁵ Nevada Division of State Parks, Summary of Visitation, Calendar Year January 2010 through December 2019 (with 2020 data added).

¹⁶ Nevada's Outdoor Recreation Economy and COVID-19 (etc.) pages III-1-2.

¹⁷ [Dcnr.nv.gov/blogs/Nevada_a_state-of-happy-campers](https://dcnr.nv.gov/blogs/Nevada_a_state-of-happy-campers), June 4, 2021.

“The COVID-19 pandemic created a confusing paradox for Nevada’s outdoor industry. While people appeared to be spending more time outside during lockdown, the state’s outdoor industry took a substantial hit during the pandemic, according to a recently released report from the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition. That’s because far fewer people traveled to and around Nevada, and those who did spent a lot less money while doing it. In 2020, April saw less than half a million visitors to the state, compared to nearly 5 million people during April of 2019 – a 92% decrease.”

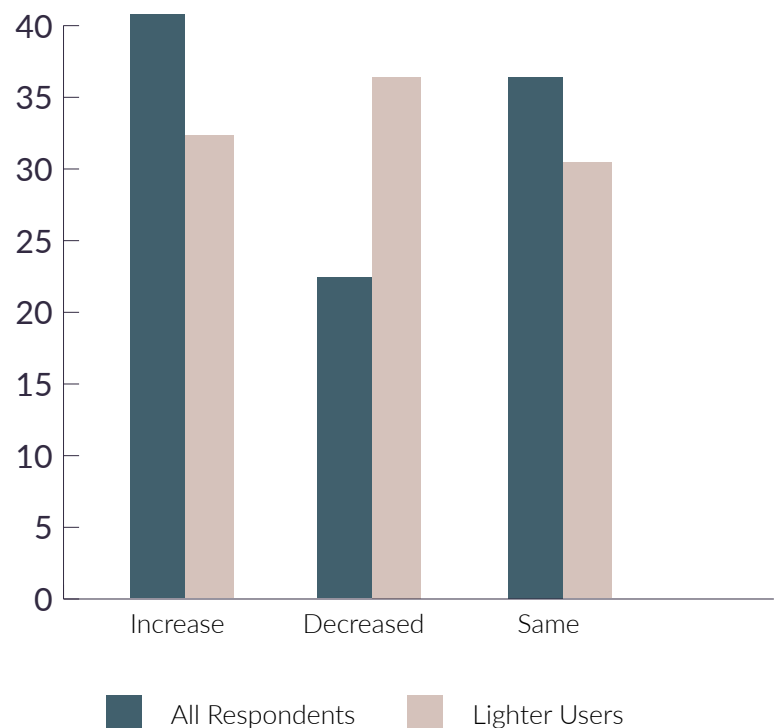
— Amy Alonzo, Reno Gazette-Journal, March 3, 2021

The SCORP public survey responses provided additional insight about outdoor activity during the pandemic. When asked if respondent’s or their family’s outdoor recreation activity level increased or decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 40% of all respondents indicated an increase during the pandemic.

See the chart for activity levels during COVID-19 by survey respondent type: all respondents versus those who identify as participating in outdoor recreation less than 3 hours/week, which we refer to as “lighter users”. There was a greater decrease in participation in outdoor activities for lighter users (37% as compared to 23% for all respondents).

Since all SCORP public survey data was collected during the pandemic, no doubt the responses are influenced by this unprecedented event. Many survey respondents commented that their answers to many of the survey questions would have been different in a non-pandemic year.

Outdoor Recreation Activity Levels During COVID-19



OUTDOOR RECREATION PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

To gauge the public’s usage, barriers, priorities and preferences for various types of outdoor recreation, the Outdoor Recreation Public Survey was launched online in February 2021. In total, 6,086 individuals responded to the survey with a 92% completion rate (those who completed 100% of the questions). The initial public survey contained 42 questions divided into six categories:

- Participation in outdoor recreation (13 questions)
- Geographic information of respondent (5 questions)
- Barriers to participation in outdoor recreation (5 questions)
- Priorities for outdoor recreation (7 questions)
- Demographic information of respondent (9 questions)
- Comments and additional information (3 questions)

Analysis

The 6,086 initial public survey responses have been aggregated as “All Respondents”. Answers to survey questions are summarized as percentages, reporting responses to each question by the percentage of answers to multiple-choice options. No questions were required on the public survey, therefore, the total number of responses for each question varied, particularly in the latter sections of the survey (questions 26 - 40).

Complete survey results can be found in Appendix J. A spreadsheet with all public survey comments can be found in Appendix K.

Who took the public survey?

The typical SCORP survey respondent self-identified as:


53% Moderately active.


70% Engages in outdoor recreation more than once a week, and of that 70%, almost one third cite recreating outdoors as much as once a day.


87% Predominately white.

64% Graduated from college.

59% Over 45 years old.

 **82%** Lives in one of Nevada’s urban counties.

 **47%** Has resided in Nevada for more than 21 years.

 **52%** Has an annual household income less than \$100,000.

72% Does **not** have children under 18.

55% Does **not** have chronic health issues.

Due to the nature of convenience sampling, where survey respondents are drawn from the population close at hand (in this case, those most likely to have a connection to or are interested in outdoor recreation), the Nevada Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation and the SCORP Core Team raised a question regarding the majority (79%) of public survey respondents who indicated they were moderate to heavy outdoor recreation users or enthusiasts (those who recreate outdoors 3+ hours per week).

How could we analyze the data that might be more representative of the general population of Nevada?

To address this concern, analysis was conducted to better examine the responses of “lighter users”, which represent the 21% of survey respondents who participate in outdoor recreation anywhere from zero minutes to 3 hours per week. The lighter user respondents (n=1,256) are included in all the aggregate results as well.

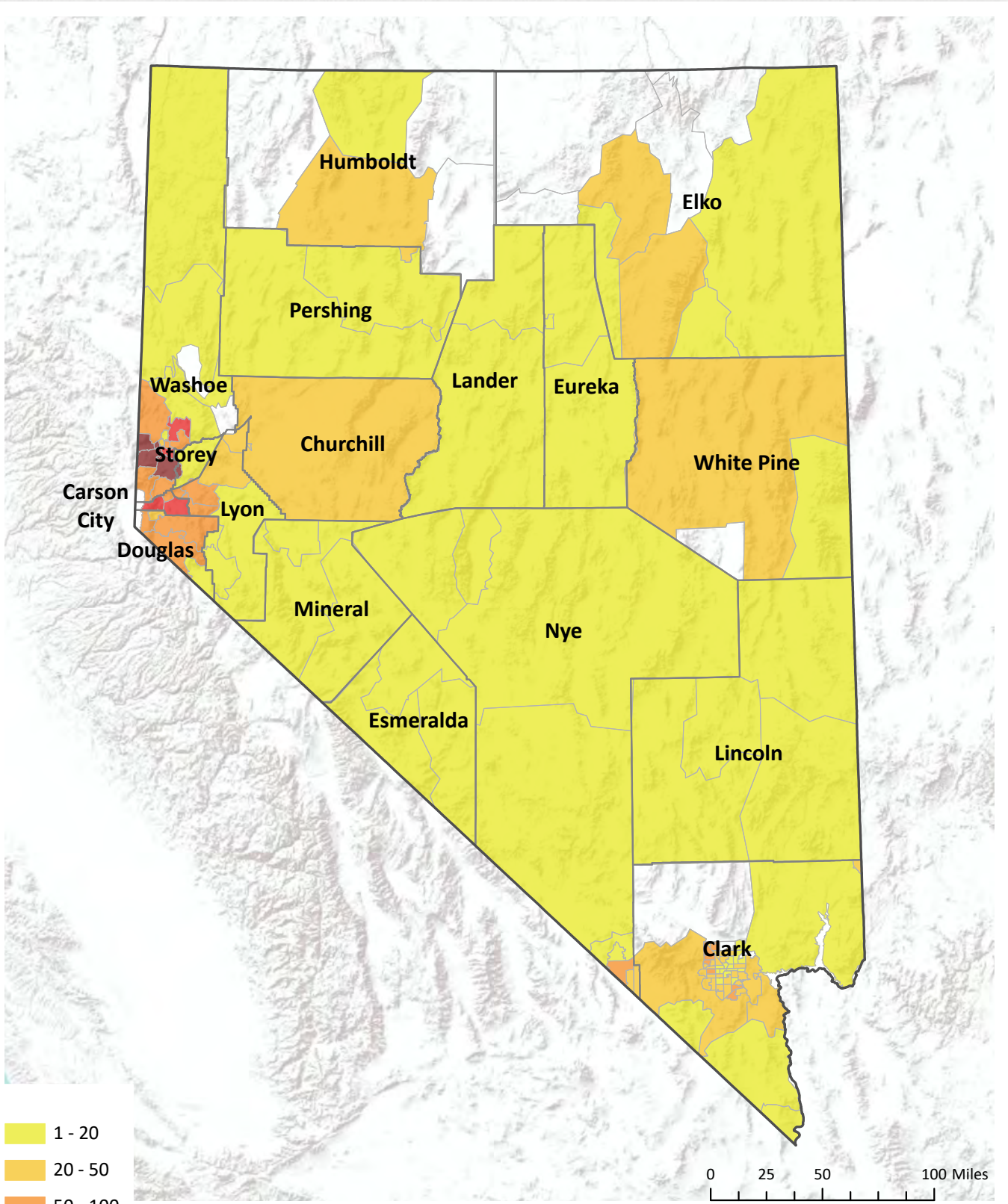
Analysis of data for the lighter users as compared to all respondents revealed that in 18 of 25 questions regarding activities, barriers, and priorities, the rankings remained consistent even when the percentages varied slightly inside the rankings. Meaning, the first, second, and third choices or priorities were consistent across both groups even if the percentages were not equal. There are notable response differences to seven questions between all respondents and the lighter users. These differences are called out in the narrative and/or charts.

In 18 of 25 questions regarding activities, barriers, and priorities, all respondents, including lighter users, share similar responses.

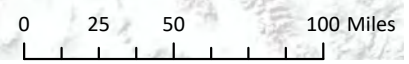


Demographics change slightly when we analyze the data from the lighter users. For this group, the majority of respondents were female (56%), slightly younger (41% ages 25-44), and a larger percentage report living in Clark County (41%).

Although public surveys were submitted from all 17 counties in the state, 82% were submitted from the three urban counties (Washoe, Clark, and Carson City). The aggregated results are heavily weighted by Washoe County respondents (41%), despite Washoe County making up only 15% of Nevada’s overall population. In contrast, only 35% of the surveys submitted were from Clark County yet it makes up 73% of Nevada’s population.



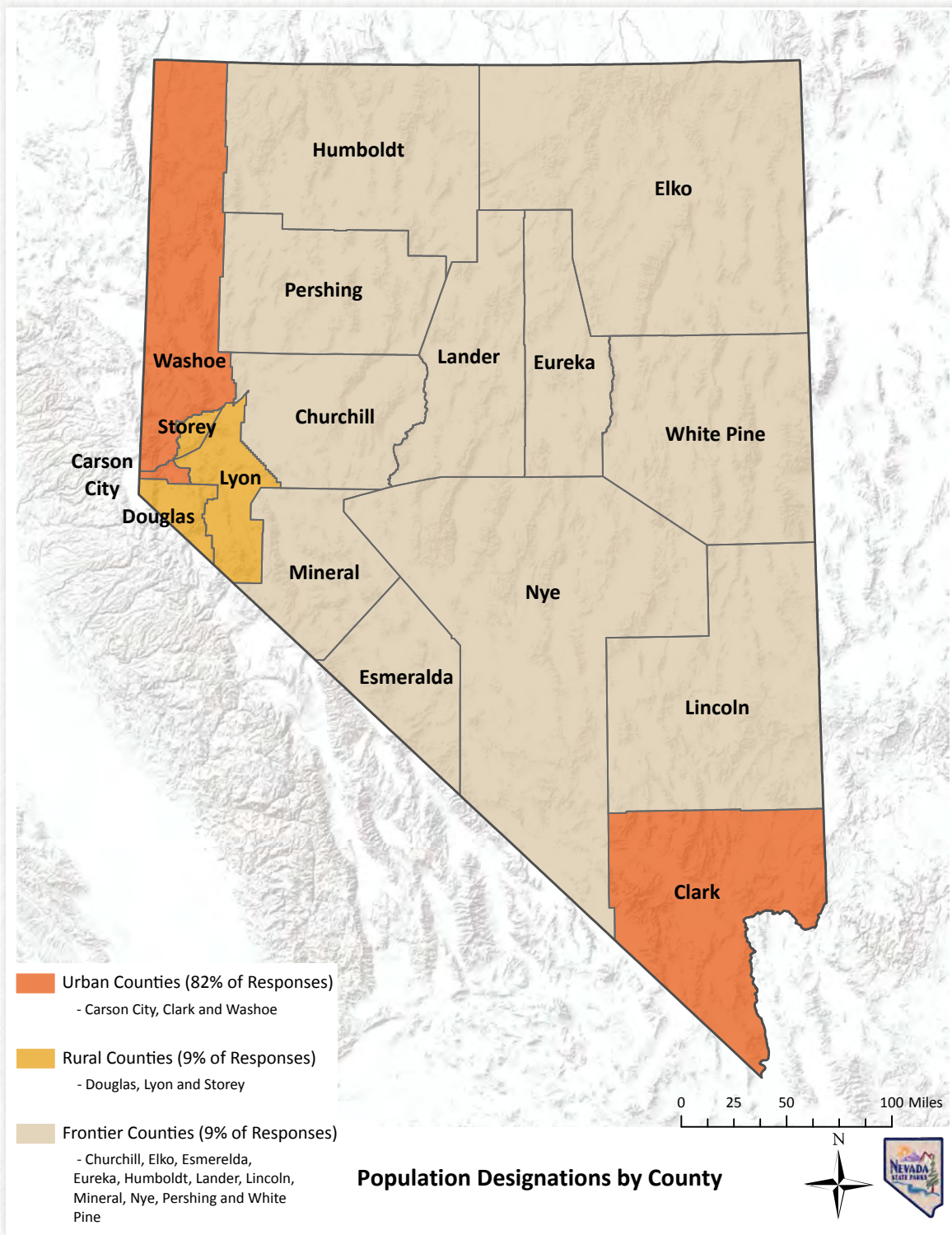
- 1 - 20
- 20 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 175
- 175+



SCORP
Public Survey Responses by ZIP Code



Additional analysis was conducted by comparing all survey responses to those from counties with different population concentrations.¹⁸ Survey responses were segmented according to designation as urban (population centers), rural (outside of population centers), and frontier (<6 people per square mile).¹⁹



¹⁸ Urban Counties = 82% survey respondents - Carson City, Clark, Washoe

Rural Counties = 9% survey respondents - Douglas, Lyon, Storey

Frontier Counties = 9% survey respondents - Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, White Pine

¹⁹ Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book

Due to the high participation rate of urban counties represented in the aggregate responses, we do not call out “urban” data any differently than all respondents when rural and frontier data is highlighted.

Similar to the analysis between all respondents and the lighter users, 84% of survey questions show consistent responses between all respondents and rural counties. However, frontier county responses differ from urban and rural counties in 28% of the questions. For example, 54% frontier respondents feel they do not live within a comfortable walking distance from home to outdoor recreation, and a large majority of children of frontier respondents (78%) cite fishing as an outdoor activity compared to other survey respondent categories. These, and a few notable distinctions for frontier respondents, are outlined below.

Lastly, public survey results were also analyzed by county for county-specific data reports (Appendix L). These results are available to land management agencies to assist with applications for LWCF funds through the OPSP (see Implementation Plan). The SCORP authors intend that the profiles will also be utilized by legislators, county commissioners, planning commissions, city councils, travel and tourism offices, non-profits, and parks and recreation departments.

Activity Level/Participation – What do survey respondents do for outdoor recreation and how often?

When considering frequency of participation in outdoor recreation, a high level of use was indicated. 91% of all respondents and 72% of lighter users report participating in outdoor recreation at least once a week over the past 12 months.

The majority of survey respondents across all groups (56-60%) report that there are usually two people in their group when they recreate outdoors. “I am by myself when recreating outdoors” is the second highest rating for all respondents (36-43%).



To understand participation in different types of outdoor recreation, the survey asked which outdoor recreation activities respondents had participated in over the past 12 months across six categories of activities:

- Trail/road activities
- Water-based activities
- Winter outdoor activities
- Wildlife related activities
- Outdoor sports (individual and team)
- Other outdoor activities

Findings from the initial public survey indicate the most popular outdoor recreation activities overall during the previous 12-month period (regardless of category) were trail/road activities, which exceeded all other categories of outdoor recreation activities with hiking and walking ranking significantly higher than any other activity at 81%.

Top 10 Outdoor Recreation Activities

All Respondents	Lighter Users	Rural Counties	Frontier Counties
1. Walking (81%)	1. Walking (82%)	1. Walking (81%)	1. Walking (81%)
2. Hiking (81%)	2. Hiking (70%)	2. Hiking (81%)	2. Hiking (75%)
3. Swimming (53%)	3. Picnicking (49%)	3. RV Camping (54%)	3. Wildlife viewing (64%)
4. Tent Camping (51%)	4. Swimming (46%)	4. Picnicking (52%)	4. Picnicking (58%)
5. Picnicking (51%)	5. Wildlife Viewing (38%)	5. Wildlife viewing (51%)	5. OHV (57%)
6. Wildlife Viewing (46%)	6. Tent Camping (37%)	6. Swimming (48%)	6. RV Camping (56%)
7. RV Camping/Cabins (42%)	7. RV Camping/Cabins (35%)	7. Tent camping (46%)	7. Tent Camping (53%)
8. Bird Watching (37%)	8. Bird Watching (31%)	8. Kayaking (40%)	8. Fishing (51%)
9. Mountain Biking (34%)	9. OHV (27%)	9. Bird Watching (40%)	9. Bird Watching (47%)
10. OHV (34%)	10. Playground Activity (25%)	10. OHV (38%)	10. Swimming (46%)

Top 5 Outdoor Recreation Activities by Type (All Respondents)

	1	2	3	4	5
Trail/Road	Walking 81%	Hiking 81%	Mountain Biking 34%	OHV 34%	Jog/Running 31%
Water-Based	Swimming 53%	Kayaking 33%	None of above 29%	Stand up paddle 22%	Power boating 17%
Winter	None of above 36%	Resort skiing 31%	Snowshoeing 27%	Sled/tubing 20%	Sled/tubing 20%
Wildlife	Wildlife viewing 46%	Bird watching 37%	Fishing 31%	None of above 30%	Hunting 16%
Team/Indiv	None of above 47%	Swimming 20%	Golf 16%	Disc/Frisbee golf 14%	Tennis/pickleball 11%
"Other"	Tent camping 51%	Picnicking 51%	RV Camping/cabins 42%	Target shooting 22%	Playground activities 22%

“None of the above” was the #1 response for winter outdoor activities and outdoor sports (team or individual). This lack of participation may be attributed to such factors as the COVID-19 shut-down/pause of schools, lack of interest in certain activities, etc., but further investigation would be necessary to determine causality.



What is the household proximity to outdoor recreation?

How close one lives to an outdoor recreation facility or opportunity (trail/trailhead, body of water, etc.) is a quality-of-life indicator for many researchers and planners. Findings across all respondents indicated that over 83% live within five miles of an outdoor recreation facility or opportunity. Over 64% say they live within a comfortable walking distance of an outdoor recreation facility or opportunity, and 40% to 46% live less than 1 mile from an outdoor recreation facility or opportunity.

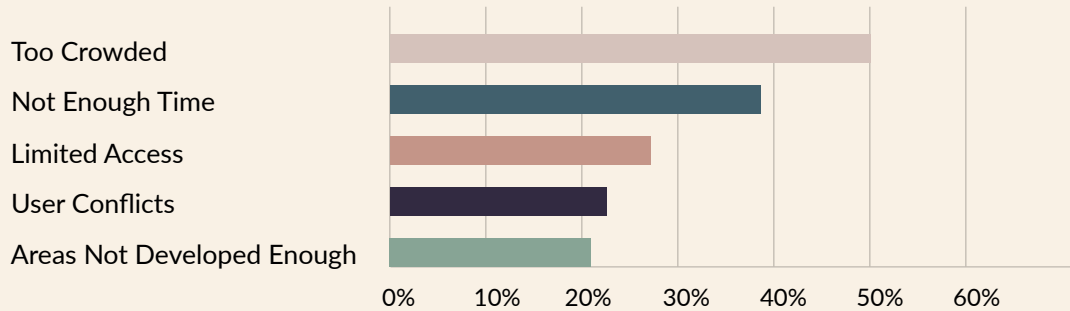
When you compare the answers to this question for the rural and frontier counties, 54% of the frontier respondents said “no,” they do not live within a comfortable walking distance of an outdoor recreation facility or opportunity. County-by-county analysis provides a closer examination of this question (see Appendix L: County Data Reports).

What are the barriers to recreating outdoors?

Some of the most telling and important sets of data gathered in the public survey came from two of the five questions regarding barriers:

- What are the barriers that prevent you from **participating** in outdoor recreation?
- What are the barriers that prevent you from **enjoying** outdoor recreation?

Top 5 Barriers to Participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities % of All Respondents



The #1 barrier to **participating**, or actually getting outdoors to recreate, was different for all respondents compared to the lighter users. For all respondents, the #1 barrier to participating in outdoor recreation is that areas are too crowded (50%). Coming in a distant second for all respondents is “do not have enough time due to work/family/other commitments” at 37%. For lighter users, 50% state they “do not have enough time due to work/family/other commitments” to participate in outdoor recreation. As a very close second response, 49% of lighter users cite over-crowdedness. One distinction between user groups regarding barriers to participating in outdoor recreation: 22% of lighter users and 20% of frontier county respondents cited the high costs associated with entrance, parking or other user fees as a barrier. Transportation came in as #5 for 17% of rural county respondents, which may reflect the greater distances rural residents may need to travel to access recreation locations.

The #1 barrier to **enjoying** outdoor recreation for all respondents was “areas too crowded” (47%). Twenty-nine percent cited “recreation areas damaged or overused”.

Top 5 Barriers to Enjoying Outdoor Recreation Activities



Outdoor Recreation and Children

The survey data also provides information about families with children, children's top outdoor activities, and barriers to children participating in outdoor recreation. Survey responses that include "Playground activities" or "Playgrounds/Play Areas" also point to interesting perspectives specific to children and families with children. Parents represent a significant portion of survey responses. 28% of all respondents (30% lighter and frontier users, 21% rural) indicate having children under 18 years of age.

Lighter users are the only group that includes "playground activities" in their top 10 outdoor recreation activities. However, "playground activities" is in all groups' top 5 "other" outdoor activities. And, in the Priorities section, findings will show that "Playgrounds/Play Areas" ranked in the top 3 for all respondents and lighter users for ranking desired "outdoor recreation investments where I live."

Camping and hiking were the most highly ranked children's outdoor activities.

Top 10 Children's Outdoor Activities

All Respondents	Lighter Users	Rural Counties	Frontier Counties
1. Camping 80%	1. Hiking 72%	1. Camping 89%	1. Camping 87%
2. Hiking 78%	2. Camping 70%	2. Hiking 83%	2. Hiking 81%
3. Bicycling (all) 66%	3. Swimming 58%	3. Bicycling (all) 67%	3. Fishing 78%
4. Swimming 63%	4. Bicycling (all) 55%	4. Rafting/kayaking 61%	4. Swimming 63%
5. Fishing 56%	5. Fishing 49%	5. Fishing 60%	5. Wildlife viewing 61%
6. Team or indiv. sports 53%	6. Team or indiv. sports 49%	6. Skiing/snowboard 59%	6. Bicycling (all) 59%
7. Running (all) 52%	7. Running (all) 44%	7. Swimming 58%	7. OHV 56%
8. Skiing/snowboard 52%	8. Wildlife viewing 39%	8. Running (all) 55%	8. Running (all) 55%
9. Rafting/kayaking 48%	9. Rafting/kayaking 39%	9. Team or indiv. sports 53%	9. Target shooting 55%
10. Wildlife viewing 46%	10. Skiing/snowboard 38%	10. Wildlife viewing 50%	10. Team or indiv sports 54%

When asked about factors that **limit children's engagement** with the outdoors, all groups cite "busy schedule" as almost twice the #2 response ("other entertainment options"), with one exception. Frontier respondents cite "busy schedule" as twice their second choice, which was "money/finances".

Top 5 Factors that Limit Children's Outdoor Recreation Activities

All Respondents	Lighter Users	Rural Counties	Frontier Counties
1. Busy schedule 62%	1. Busy schedule 65%	1. Busy schedule 67%	1. Busy schedule 64%
2. Other entertainment 31%	2. Other entertainment 33%	2. Other entertainment 38%	2. Money/finances 29%
3. Money/finances 18%	3. Lack of interest 21%	3. Money/finances 18%	3. Other entertainment 25%
4. Lack of interest 18%	4. Money/finances 18%	4. Lack of interest 15%	4. Lack of accessibility 19%
5. No spaces nearby 13%	5. No spaces nearby 15%	5. Lack of accessibility 14%	5. Lack of interest 16%

Outdoor Recreation and People with Disabilities

Of the 14% (all respondents) to 20% (lighter users) who identify as having a disability or someone in their household having a disability, 80+% report physical disabilities, 12+% cite hearing as a disability, 7+% have a learning/cognitive disability, and 16+% self-identify "other" types of disabilities such as allergies, pregnancy, and oxygen dependency.

For individuals and family members who have a disability, 74% report that the outdoor recreation facilities and/or public lands they use to recreate outdoors meet the needs of the disability. This high level of satisfaction does vary somewhat by county and is highlighted in the county-specific data reports (Appendix L).

In summary, the data survey findings highlighted above illuminate the demand for outdoor recreation, the barriers to participation and enjoyment of recreating outdoors, and provide solid insight that informs how the SCORP goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations might address both public and land management needs and priorities.

Preferences and Priorities

A primary purpose of this SCORP is to outline the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies that will guide the distribution of LWCF funding across Nevada for public outdoor recreation, along with informing outdoor recreation planning and development, health and wellness efforts, and economic development initiatives over the next five years. Input from survey respondents regarding their outdoor recreation priorities, preferences, and barriers has helped shape the goals and implementation plan for this SCORP.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), U.S. adults want their local governments to invest in community infrastructure, such as parks, community centers, recreation facilities, and senior centers. These investments allow for increased access to green space and nature, help bring vital services and programs to the community, and improve the physical and mental health of all residents.

Key NRPA Findings

- More than 9 in 10 U.S. adults say it is important for local governments to invest in community infrastructure ²⁰
- Seventy percent of U.S. adults say investing in community infrastructure by local governments is extremely or very important

Responses to the Nevada Outdoor Recreation public surveys are consistent with the NRPA findings.

A large majority (over 90%) of all respondents place a medium to high priority on allocating funding for parks, trails, open space, and outdoor recreation facilities in Nevada.

All respondents and lighter users had very similar top-five responses to “Where would you like to see the biggest focus of recreation resources in Nevada?”, with one notable difference. For the lighter users, responses indicate support for State/National Parks in a tie with smaller neighborhood-based parks.

Note: larger multi-purpose regional parks ranked last in all groups.



Top 5 Focus Areas for Outdoor Recreation Resources in Nevada All Respondents

34% Acquire land to preserve open space

29% Develop or improve trails/trailheads

16% State or National Parks

11% Smaller neighborhood-based parks

7% Larger multi-use regional parks

²⁰ <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/investing-in-parks-and-recreation/>

When asked to prioritize local outdoor recreation investments, the top five types of recreation areas that all groups would like to see “where they live” (ranked as essential + high priority) are as follows:

Ranking of Top-5 Priorities for Outdoor Recreation Investments “Where You Live”			
All Respondents	Lighter Users	Rural Counties	Frontier Counties
1. Unpaved walking paths 67%	1. Unpaved walking paths 65%	1. Unpaved walking paths 68%	1. Nature/wildlife viewing areas 60%
2. Nature/wildlife viewing areas 56%	2. Nature/wildlife viewing areas 59%	2. Nature/wildlife viewing areas 55%	2. Unpaved walking paths 56%
3. Playgrounds/play areas 41%	3. Playgrounds/play areas 44%	3. Off-leash dog areas 38%	3. OHV trails/areas 45%
4. Off-leash dog areas 39%	4. Picnic areas/shelters 40%	4. OHV trails/areas 36%	4. Picnic areas/shelters 43%
5. Singletrack mt bike trails 39%	5. Paved trails/paths 40%	5. Singletrack mt bike trails 32%	5. Playgrounds/play areas 41%

All Respondents



88%

Open Space



74%

Trailhead



72%

Park



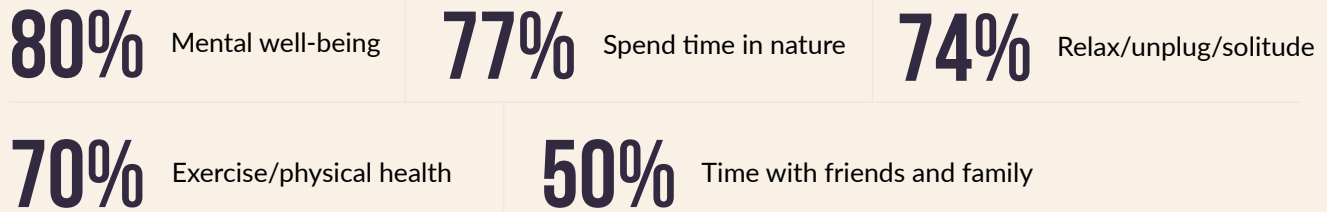
50%

Recreational Facility

The #1 type of outdoor facility or opportunity that is “moderately important to very important” to survey respondents to have “within walking distance of home” is open space at 88%, with parks and trailheads vying for 2nd and 3rd across all user groups. Recreational facility is the #4 choice for all user groups to have within walking distance of home.

Top 5 Reasons to Recreate Outdoors

All Respondents



When asked “How important to you are the following reasons to recreate outdoors?”, 94% of light users, 80% of all respondents, and 76% of rural respondents indicated “for mental well-being/to feel restored” as “very important.” The top reason (76%) to recreate outdoors for frontier respondents was to “enjoy or spend time in nature.”

The chart below shows the results when survey respondents were asked to “provide your top three priorities from the following elements of outdoor recreation facilities in Nevada”. “Safety” was the #1 response for lighter users (45%). “Well-maintained” was #1 or #2 for all groups, and frontier respondents cited “wildlife viewing” as their top element (43%).



Priorities for Outdoor Recreation Facilities

All Respondents	Lighter Users	Rural Counties	Frontier Counties
1. Well-maintained 41%	1. Safety 45%	1. Well-maintained 42%	1. Wildlife viewing 43%
2. Wildlife viewing 38%	2. Well-maintained 38%	2. Safety 40%	2. Well-maintained 38%
3. Safety 37%	3. Wildlife viewing 36%	3. Ease of use 39%	3. Safety 35%
4. Ease of use 37%	4. Ease of use 36%	4. Wildlife viewing 33%	4. Ease of use 32%
5. Accessible 22%	5. Accessible 24%	5. Accessible 23%	5. Cleanliness 32%

When asked how outdoor recreation areas or facilities could assist respondents in achieving their health and wellness/fitness goals or priorities, a majority of respondents across all groups indicated “protect and encourage more natural settings at outdoor recreation areas/facilities” and “provide more long-distance trails/pathways.” “Support health and fitness community events” came in #3 across all user groups for this question.



PUBLIC SURVEY PART 2

Photo Credit: Travel Nevada

How and Where We Recreate

At the conclusion of the public survey, we asked all respondents if they would be willing to provide additional information and input. The initial survey respondents who said “yes” (1,479/24%) were emailed a second survey, “Part 2: How and Where We Recreate.” There were 721 survey responses (49% response rate) to the Part 2 survey, and the following analysis is derived from those responses.

The purpose of the Part 2 survey was to gather more specific information about respondents' outdoor recreation activities over the past year, and where they participated in those activities. To determine location, we utilized the five geographic regions designated by Travel Nevada, the state's tourism marketing portal (travelnevada.com), and correlated responses by survey respondent's county of residence.

The findings will be useful in many ways – particularly as regions seek to increase participation and thus economic vitality by attracting outdoor recreation visitors from other regions across the state. This data demonstrates what activities are most likely to be conducted in someone's own backyard versus a willingness to travel to recreate in a region outside of their local

environment. Understanding this data is a crucial step in planning for and implementing sustainable recreation opportunities and infrastructure.

To provide a glimpse into Part 2 survey results, below are the maps for one of the five regions. These maps represent the mobilization patterns for outdoor recreation across the state. The first shows the pattern of travel of Region 1 respondents who go outside of their region for outdoor activities. The second map shows travel of survey respondents from the other regions into Region 1 for specific activities. These maps are included as Appendix M and are available for each region (and the counties that make up each region) to use in their outreach and planning to cultivate community vibrancy and economic vitality through outdoor recreation.

Region 1: Where We Go to Recreate

Where do the 24 survey respondents from Region 1 recreate, and in what top activities do they participate in each Region?

42% Region 1 Respondents go to Region 2 to:

- Walk/Hike 8
- Ski/Snowmobile 4
- View Wildlife 4
- Swim 3
- Sled/tube 3
- Fish 3
- Tent Camp 3

21% Region 1 Respondents go to Region 4 to:

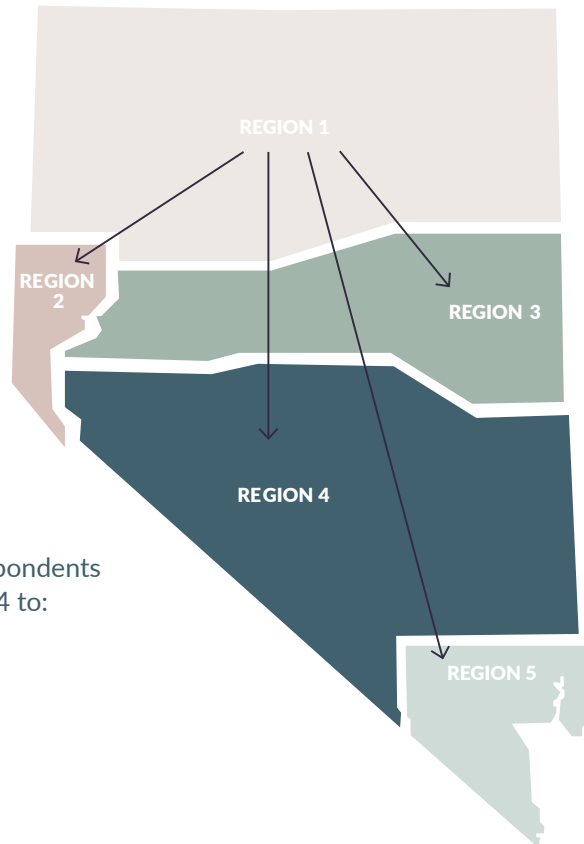
- Walk/Hike 3
- View Wildlife 3

38% Region 1 Respondents go to Region 3 to:

- Walk/Hike 7
- View Wildlife 5
- Tent camp 4
- Fish 3
- Backpack 3

8% Region 1 Respondents go to Region 5 to:

- Walk/Hike 2
- View Wildlife 2



Who Comes to Region 1 to Recreate?

What % of survey respondents from other regions come to Region 1 to recreate, and in what top activities do they participate in Region 1?

45% Region 2 respondents go to Region 1 to:

Walk/Hike 116	OHV 46
Tent Camp 68	Picnic 39
View Wildlife 65	Hunt 34
RV Camp/Cabins 62	Backpack 31
Bird watch 51	Fish 28

100% Region 1 respondents stay in Region 1 to:

Hike/walk 23	Picnic 14
Fish 18	Snowshoe 12
View wildlife 17	Jog/run 11
Tent camp 17	OHV 10
Swim 14	Backpack 10

65% Region 3 respondents go to Region 1 to:

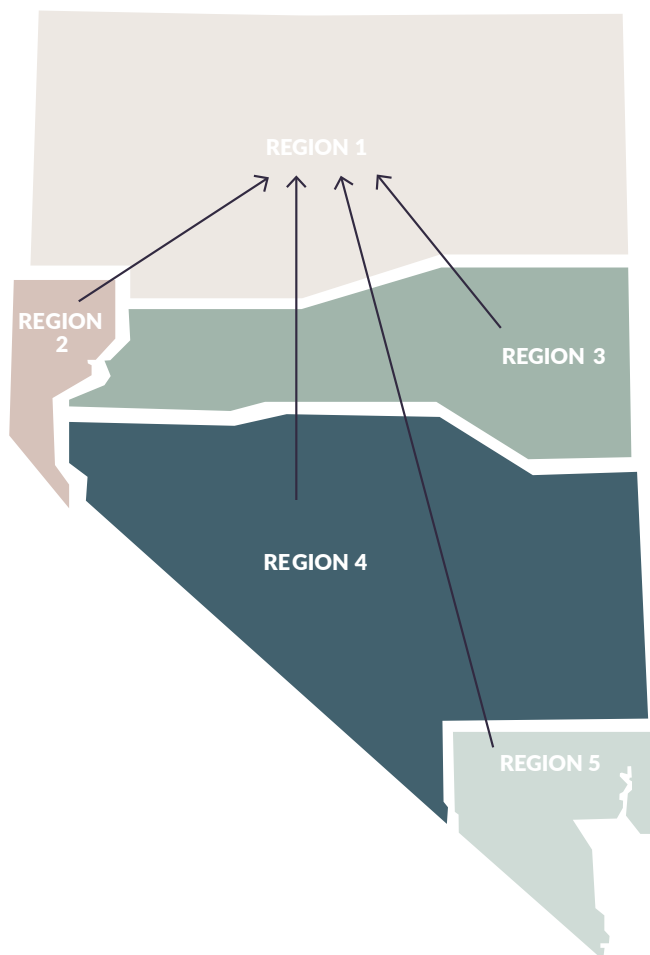
RV Camp/Cabins 7	Tent camp 4
Walk/Hike 6	Motorcycle 4
OHV 6	Hunt 2
View wildlife 4	Geocache 2

44% Region 4 respondents go to Region 1 to:

Walk/Hike 7	Picnic 5
OHV 6	Hunt 3
RV Camp/Cabins 5	Fish 3
Tent camp 5	Bird watch 3
	View wildlife 3

18% Region 5 respondents go to Region 1 to:

Walk/Hike 28	RV camp/cabins 9
Tent camp 16	Picnic 9
Bird watch 15	Backpack 7
OHV 13	Fish 5
View wildlife 13	Rock Climb 4



Overall, survey responses indicate a willingness among outdoor recreation enthusiasts to travel to engage in recreation. Over 50% of all respondents and the lighter users are willing to travel more than 50 miles to recreate outdoors. 67% of all respondents reported taking more than 12 daytrips, compared to lighter users where 51% reported taking 6-11 daytrips, and 0% reported taking more than 12 daytrips. Both groups took 2-5 overnight trips last year (36+%).



Information and Technology

Several questions in both the initial “Public Survey” and the follow-up survey, “Part 2: How and Where We Recreate” were asked to gain insight into how respondents access information about outdoor recreation, and how they use technology to support their activities.

Findings indicated that 84% of respondents learn about outdoor recreation opportunities online. 73% get information through word of mouth, and 37% from print sources (newspaper, magazine, brochures).

To gauge the utility of using technology when planning or recreating outdoors, the Part 2 survey, “How and Where You Recreate,” asked four questions:

- What technology **do you use to do research on where to go/visit?**
- What technology do you use to **track your activities** (speed, distance, route elevation, etc.)?
- What technology do you use **to assist in the activity** (navigation, payment of fees, etc.)?
- What technology do you use **to share your adventures** (photos, blogs, etc.)?

The top two answers to “What technology do you use” in each category are highlighted below:



What technology do you use to:



Do Research

All Trails 53%
Facebook 41%



Track Activities

Garmin 27%
Strava 20%



Assist in Activities

All Trails 21%
Garmin 16%



Share Adventures

Facebook 52%
Instagram 39%

Responses to these questions indicate a comfort level with the use of technology when planning and recreating outdoors. This information will be helpful as NDSP, NDOR and land managers look to engage with users, share information, and identify opportunities to address the priorities and barriers identified in this document.



LAND MANAGER SURVEY RESULTS

In addition to the two public surveys, land managers across Nevada, representing federal, state, city/county, and tribal jurisdictions, were surveyed to provide input to the SCORP discovery process. Land managers are in a unique position to bring key insight about the delivery system of outdoor recreation since they are responsible for administering, developing, and maintaining natural sites for conservation and/or resource development.

Land managers were invited through multiple channels to participate in the 2021 Nevada Land Manager Survey. There were 139 responses to the survey. Of the respondents who identified their type of agency, 64% affiliate with a federal agency, 26% state, 7% city/municipality, and 3% county. Fifty-seven percent of the survey respondents have been professionally involved in outdoor recreation for 10 years or more. The land manager survey was divided into four categories of questions:

- Accomplishments of the last five years (see “2016-2020 SCORP Accomplishments and Insight”)
- Issues and barriers
- Priorities
- Agency information (planning, staffing, budget, and demographics)

From the four categories of questions, perhaps most influential to this SCORP’s goals and implementation plan are the field-based perspectives gained from land managers regarding issues, barriers, and priorities.

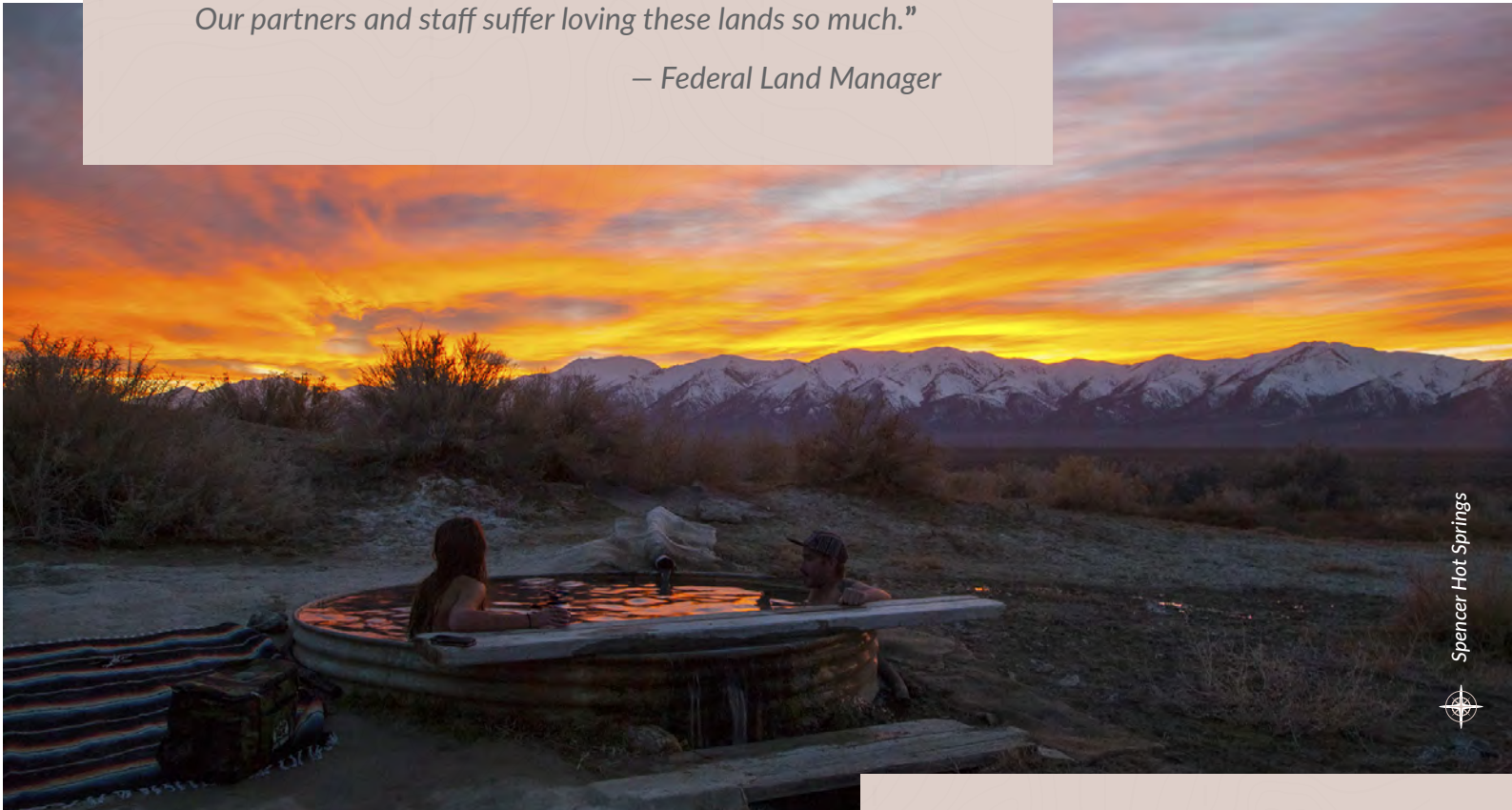
Issues and Barriers

Survey findings indicate that insufficient resources (staff and budget) are the #1 barrier for land managers and their agencies to be able to fulfill obligations. In fact, when asked specifically if staffing levels are adequate to meet their agency needs for outdoor recreation, 90% of federal respondents, 83% of state respondents, 80% of city/municipality, and 75% of county respondents answered “no.”

Issues and Barriers: In Their Words

“We have an extremely dedicated staff, but they are always digging under rocks (partnerships, collection agreements, Interpretive associations, etc.) for funding/support of interpretive programs and site maintenance. It’s hard work. Our partners and staff suffer loving these lands so much.”

– Federal Land Manager



Spencer Hot Springs



“There has not been significant progress to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past 5 years. The county I work in was only just beginning to crawl back from the impacts of the 2008 - 2012 Recession when COVID-19 shut down the nation’s, state’s and local economies. The tax structure in Nevada severely restricted the county’s abilities to return to pre-Recession budgets and service levels. The resulting cuts to personnel and budgets took an additional hit with the COVID-19 closing of the economy just as things were looking up.”

– County Land Manager

“Dedicated funding sources, resilient to the effects of economic downturns, are sorely needed.”

– State Land Manager

Land managers were asked “How significant are the following funding issues related to outdoor recreation, parks, open space, waterways, etc., for your agency?” While the ranking of significance varied between land management agency types, all groups indicated that insufficient/unstable budget resources, inadequate staffing, and the lack of dedicated funding sources are “very significant” funding issues frequently faced by land managers. Without sufficient and sustainable funding resources, land managers are limited in their abilities to build and maintain agency and program capacity, leverage funding for partnerships and grants, and hire/retain adequate staffing levels.

Sustainable funding is a fundamental core issue that must be addressed to foster expansion of Nevada’s outdoor recreation system.

In times of financial shortfall, land manager survey respondents provided the top-five ranked solutions:

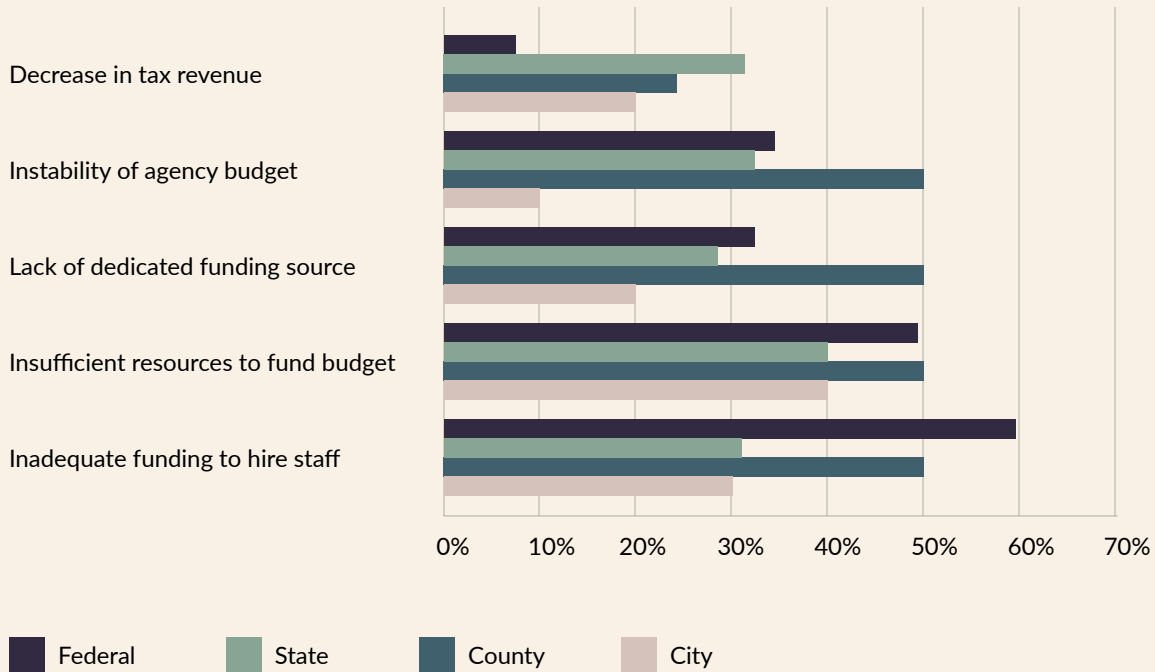
- Reduce services or staff
- Rely on additional volunteer services
- Seek sponsorship or donations
- Apply for grants
- Increase user fees



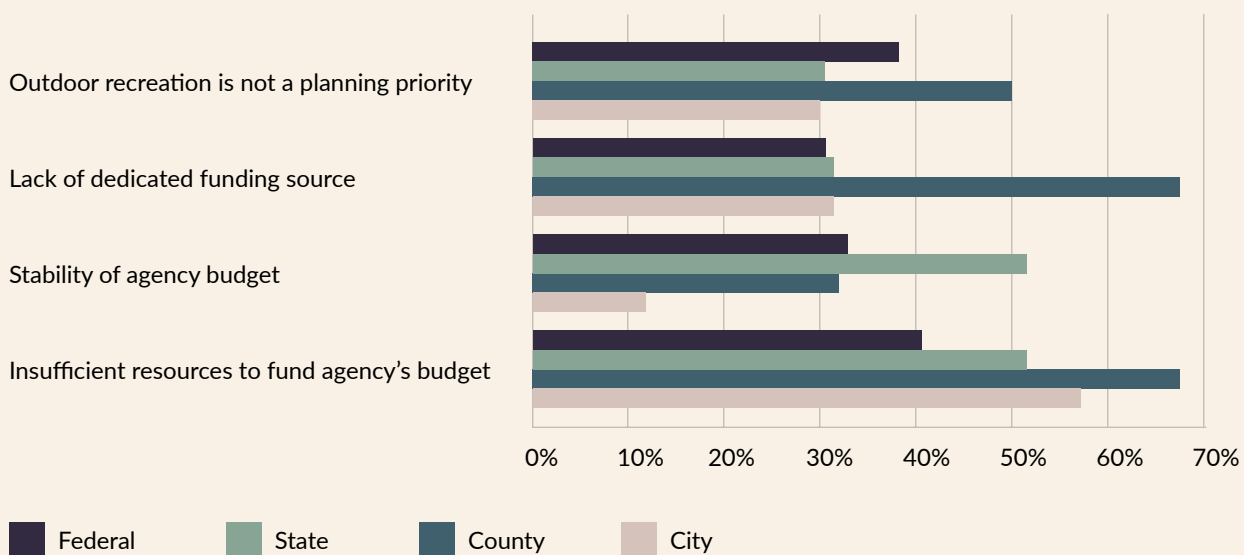
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Spooner Lake



Answered “very significant” when asked about different **funding** issues related to outdoor recreation (by type of agency).



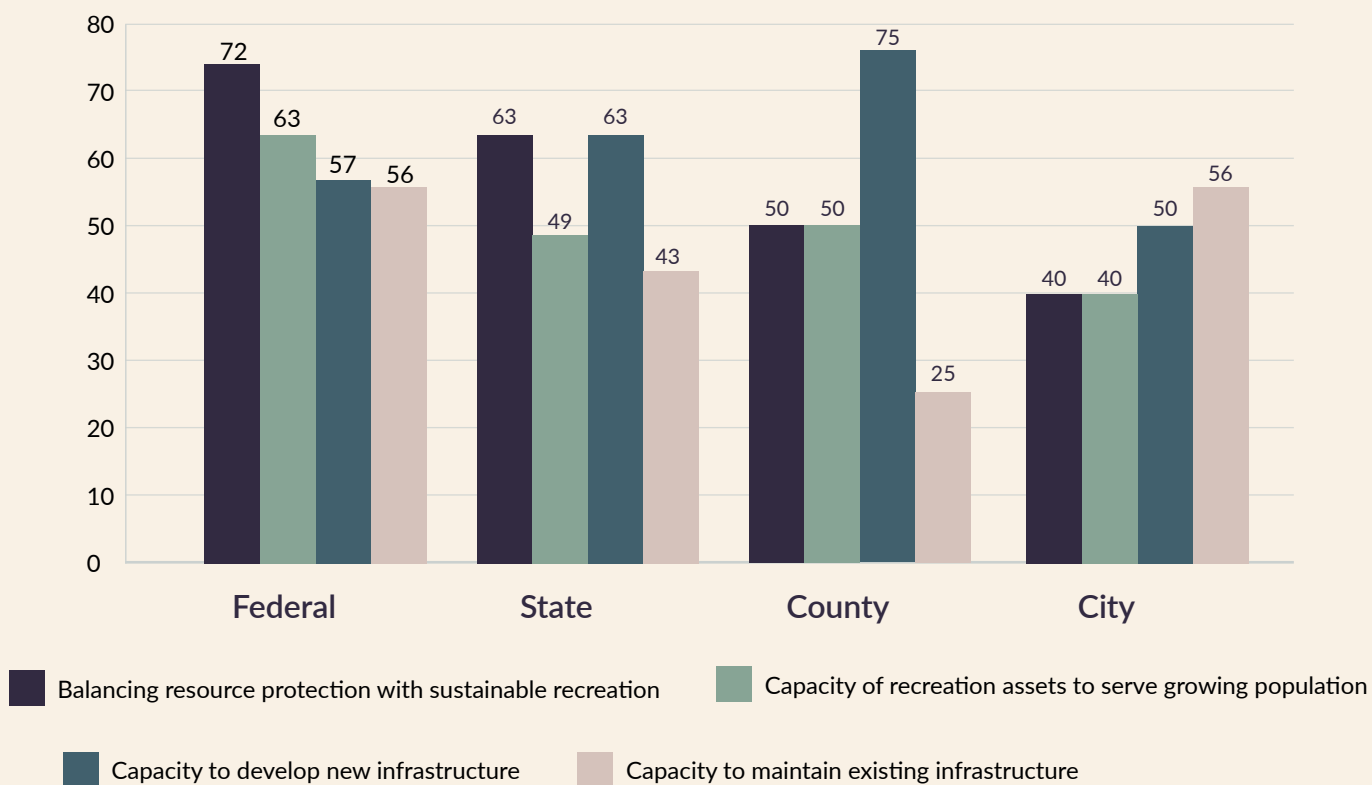
Answered “very significant” when asked about different **funding** issues related to outdoor recreation (by type of agency).



Comprehensive, up-to-date planning that is used for decision making and project implementation allows for optimal leverage of funding and other resources. Conversations with land managers across all jurisdictions indicate that planning services or staff are often the first to be cut during times of financial shortfall. These limited resources result in

planning gaps, including plans that are significantly out-of-date or planning efforts that are not undertaken at all. To support sustainable recreation that considers the wide spectrum of resource and user needs, current and relevant planning must be established as a baseline requirement in developing and implementing Nevada’s recreation system.

How significant are the following outdoor recreation **management and visitor services issues** for your agency?



When asked if their agency has planning documents that guide decisions related to the use and management of parks, trails, open space or other land or water managed for outdoor recreation, 93% responded “yes.”

Respondents indicate using many different types of recreation plans (trails plans, master plans, resource or forest management plans, travel management plans, etc.).

However, feedback from land managers indicates several key barriers to planning:

- Plans are not up-to-date
- Plans are not being utilized
- Planning by agency type is done in isolation, not coordinated
- Plans/agencies are not speaking the same language when it comes to planning

Barriers identified by the responding land managers were also captured in comments provided in multiple survey questions and in the comment section at the end of the survey. A sampling of these cited barriers, frustrations, and comments (segmented by agency type) include the following:

Needs and Challenges: In Their Words

“Funding needs to be a higher priority for National Parks, and the Forest Service to properly staff and care for the land. Employee burn out, due to under-staffing, is going to eventually be detrimental to shortfalls in the system of taking care of the land and serving the people. Without proper funding and proper staffing of personnel, the overcrowding on public land is going to start a snowball effect of reducing adequate care of the lands.”

— Federal Land Manager



Nevada suffers from significant planning gaps. There is an opportunity in front of us to leverage this SCORP and other current initiatives to commit to, develop, and better utilize a more robust and thorough planning strategy. We often have the development cart far in front of the horse - and that is a direct result of insufficient capacity (staff) and resources (dollars) that are committed to planning.

— State Land Manager

“Work with BLM to complete Resource Management Plans, then work with BLM to complete step down activity and area specific plans for trails and recreation facilities. Work with BLM to find creative funding sources to get projects completed AND maintained into the future. This process has worked in other places, BLM needs help to complete the planning and then needs local groups or governments to commit to maintenance of these valuable community assets.”

— Federal Land Manager

Priorities

The land manager survey findings regarding priorities bring to light a sweet spot at the intersection of supply and demand – when supply (and upkeep) can thrive with a robust demand (increased/expanded participation in outdoor recreation). Well-documented increases in demand can justify increases in funding to accommodate additional sustainable development.

The #1 trail-related priority for all agency types is “maintaining existing trails.” The second-ranked trail-related priority is “creating opportunities for non-motorized trail users,” and coming in third is “connecting existing trails.”

When asked to identify the top outdoor recreation priorities for their agencies for the next five years, “maintenance of existing facilities” was the #1 response cited by the majority of all agency type respondents, followed by “balancing visitation with natural resource protection” and “developing or expanding trail systems.”

Priorities: In Their Words

“Primary challenge is maintaining the trail systems and recreation facilities with limited staff and funding. Partners and grants have become a necessity! Always looking for partnerships that provide mutual benefits!”

— Federal Land Manager

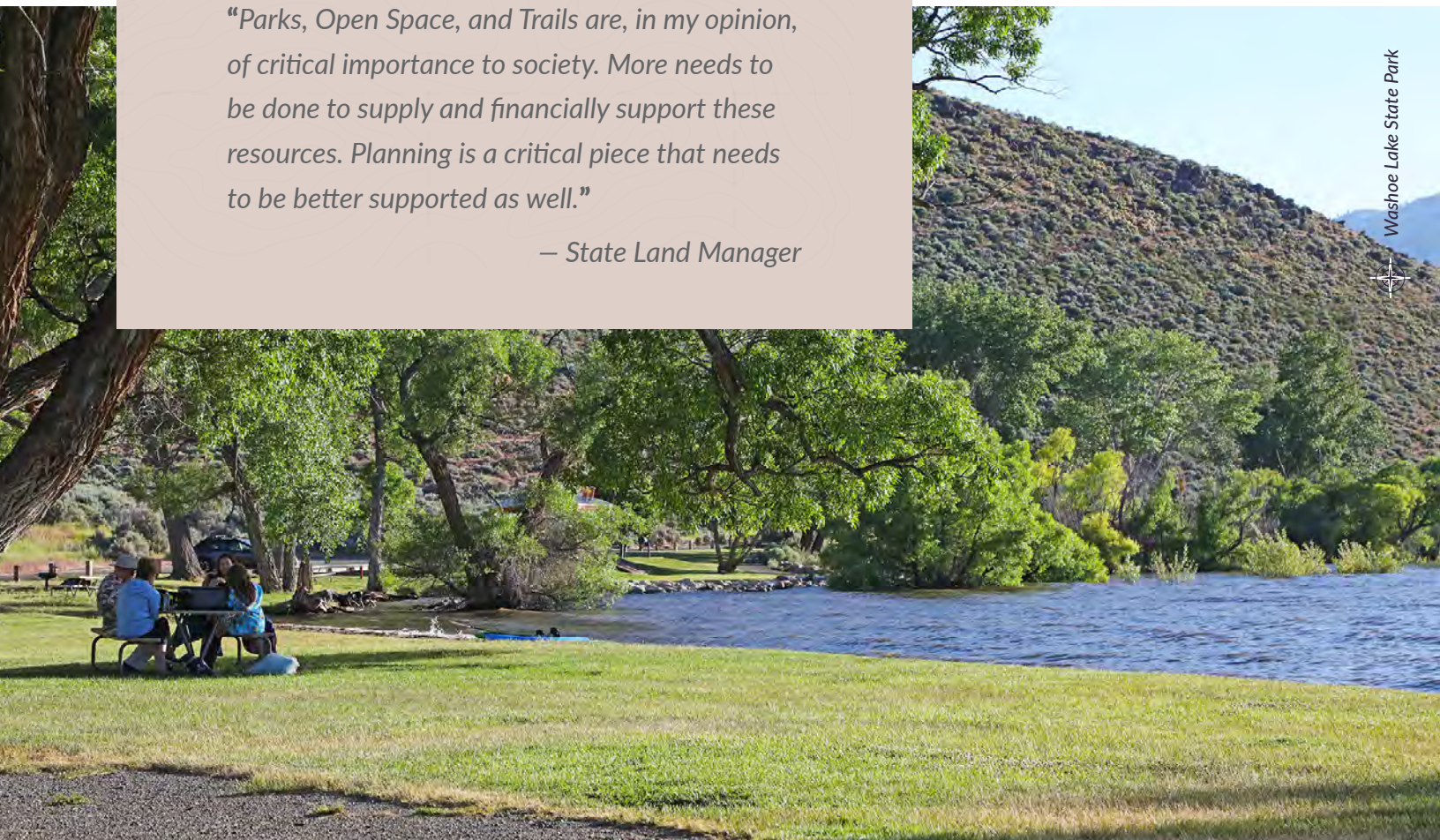
“It is critically important that existing parks, facilities, and infrastructure be maintained and improved. This is especially important when/as user fees increase. If visitors don’t see improvements over time they begin to question where their money goes, as well as, agency/organization management.”

— State Land Manager



“Parks, Open Space, and Trails are, in my opinion, of critical importance to society. More needs to be done to supply and financially support these resources. Planning is a critical piece that needs to be better supported as well.”

– State Land Manager



Both the 5-year and trail-related priorities from the land managers dovetail nicely with the public survey responses. Findings from the public surveys place highest value on well-maintained and safe facilities (#1 priority from all types of land managers is the “maintenance of existing facilities”). The #1 barrier to public survey respondents’ enjoyment of outdoor recreation was overcrowding, while land managers place high priority on balancing visitation with natural resource protection and expanding/developing/connecting trail systems.

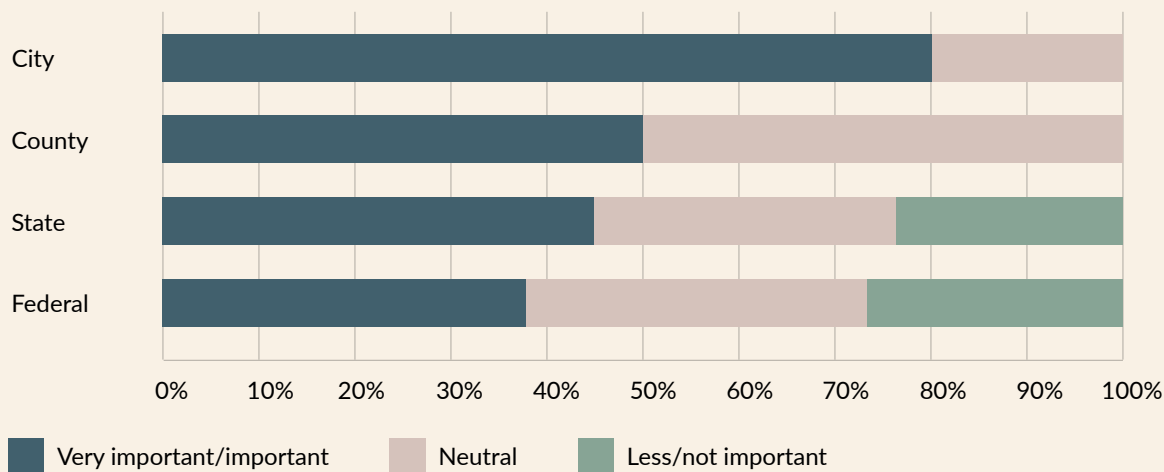
However, as pointed out in the land manager “Barriers” narrative above, to be able to address and/or carry out these priorities, land managers identified adequate human and financial resources as significant barriers to having the capacity to meet demand and agency needs.

Land Manager Issues and the Intersection with Issues Provided by the Public Survey Respondents

When asked what types of programs are offered by respondents’ agencies, a majority of land managers indicated they offer “Environmental/Conservation Education” and “Recreation” programs (with the exception of federal land managers, where only 32% report offering “Recreation” programs).

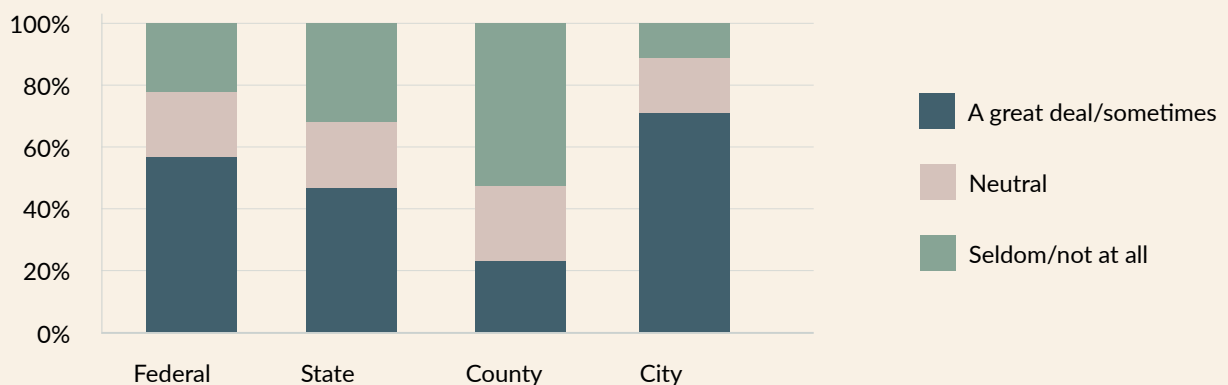
Public survey respondents indicate “mental well-being/to feel restored” and “to exercise/improve physical health” as two of the top five reasons to recreate outdoors, and over 60% of all public survey respondents prioritized specific ways outdoor recreation facilities/areas could assist them in achieving their health and fitness goals or priorities. However, only 33% of city/municipality, 25% of county, 21% of federal, and 20% of state land managers indicated that they offer health programs. Based on focus group input, public health and wellness outcomes are being recognized by land managers as important connections with outdoor recreation and are being increasingly incorporated into their land management strategies.

To what extent does health & wellness of recreational visitors figure into your land management strategy?



Issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are now recognized as integral components to planning and development of outdoor recreation opportunities for all. While land manager survey responses indicate that this does not currently rank as high as other priorities, land managers will be called on to consider these elements moving forward toward more sustainable opportunities.

How much do issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion factor into your decisions about managing the land and recreational resources in your jurisdiction, particularly as it relates to access?



2022-2026 NEVADA SCORP FRAMEWORK



In this section:

- Outdoor Recreation Issues of Statewide Importance
- 2022-2026 SCORP Themes
- Goals, Strategic Objectives, and Recommendations



OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

Nevada is a special place, with unlimited options for outdoor recreation in all reaches of the state. The diversity of terrain and climate, along with access to over 70 million acres of public lands, makes our state an unparalleled outdoor recreation destination. The demand for outdoor recreation amenities in Nevada has always been high, but we learned during our survey process that the state's facilities could not fulfill the public's expectations. There is more demand than our available outdoor recreation assets can provide, resulting in diminished outdoor recreation experiences and damage to our natural and cultural resources.

Overcrowding and lack of access were two of the biggest challenges, which brought to the forefront the need to identify areas for improvement. Yet, to maintain a healthy environment and outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, it is our obligation to conserve our natural landscapes and resources to ensure Nevada's beauty and recreational opportunities are available for current and future generations. It is critical to balance the interests of both recreation and conservation. We need to create a sustainable way forward. The 2022-2026 SCORP offers a guideline for all Nevadans to actively engage in the future of sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation. The challenges cannot be tackled alone. Successful implementation of the SCORP will require the continued active involvement of many individuals and organizations.

Building on the 2016-2021 SCORP, the themes and goals for the next five years respond to identified issues, current trends, user preferences, and opportunities for outdoor recreation in Nevada. They also reflect the finicky supply-and-demand matrix necessary to balance high-quality outdoor experiences with conserving and stewarding natural and cultural resources. These priorities are interconnected and critical components to achieving a vision for the future where Nevada's great outdoors continue to provide rich recreation experiences and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.

2022-2026

SCORP THEMES



Working together, NDSP and NDOR identified three overarching themes based on valuable input from the SCORP Advisory Team, public and land manager surveys, workshops, and public comments. The resulting themes are:

- Sustainable Outdoor Recreation
- Community and Economic Vitality
- Pathways to Health and Wellness

Van Sickle Bf-State Park





Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Special outdoor experiences, healthy and resilient environments and ecosystems, and the economic and community benefits of outdoor recreation, are only possible through the careful conservation and stewardship of Nevada’s natural and cultural resources, and public lands and waters. Without both the responsible use and appropriate management of the lands and waters on which Nevadans recreate outdoors, the numerous well-documented social, cultural, economic, and even spiritual benefits of outdoor recreation cannot be realized.

This plan identifies sustainable recreation as an overarching theme, defined as high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities that meet identified needs without compromising the benefits to future generations. Sustainable recreation can be fostered by leveraging the unique strengths, missions, authorities, and capacities of local, state, and federal land management agencies, parks and recreation divisions, and other relevant agencies and organizations to plan and manage for outdoor recreation opportunities that consider the environmental, economic, and social impacts and benefits of outdoor recreation. Achieving this goal means prioritizing projects that:

- Optimize and leverage funding to plan, develop, maintain, and staff outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect natural and cultural resources while ensuring the broad benefits of outdoor recreation can be enjoyed by everyone
- Foster sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities through conservation, stewardship, and recreation management



Community and Economic Vitality

According to research conducted by Headwaters Economics, communities with strong outdoor recreation economies are more likely to attract new residents with greater wealth and offer faster-growing wages than their non-recreation counterparts. This is particularly true in rural communities.²¹ In Nevada, rural communities are often gateways to our state’s most beloved outdoor recreation opportunities.

Abundant natural amenities, including public lands and waters, can help support outdoor recreation economies that contribute to strengthening and solidifying communities. Following community-based visioning processes and guided by appropriate planning, outdoor recreation can be an important contributor to an overall economic development strategy for many communities, helping contribute to vibrancy indicators and economic vitality.

For more information on Nevada’s outdoor recreation economy, see Appendix A. BEA ORSA 2020 Numbers.



Pathways to Health and Wellness

Access to the outdoors and participation in outdoor recreation is broadly linked to improved public health outcomes. Simultaneously, outdoor recreation positively impacts numerous social determinants of health by engaging participants in modestly physical activity. State, federal, local, and non-governmental agencies can collaborate to improve public health outcomes by increasing access to the outdoors for people of all backgrounds and abilities. Additionally, by partnering with health and wellness stakeholders, agencies can establish common values and goals, build relationships, and generate innovative mechanisms to fulfill shared visions.

²¹ <https://headwaterseconomics.org/economic-development/trends-performance/outdoor-recreation/>

GOALS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations presented in this plan offer a direction for collective action over the next five years and are the building blocks to developing the SCORP Implementation Plan. Through implementation, these goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations will support opportunities for meaningful outdoor experiences while protecting our natural and cultural resources. The SCORP addresses the supply and demand of outdoor recreation in Nevada, identifies gaps, and builds on the existing initiatives occurring across the state. Success will come from working across sectors and interests to enact statewide and local solutions.

The goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations of this SCORP also reflect Nevada’s commitment to The Confluence Accords,²² a set of principles guiding the creation and work conducted by state offices of outdoor recreation across the U.S. (including NDOR). Adoption of The Confluence Accords commits Nevada to promoting, developing, maintaining, planning, and implementing outdoor recreation opportunities sustainably and responsibly, based on four key pillars:

- Conservation and Stewardship
- Education and Workforce Training
- Economic Development
- Public Health and Wellness

²² To achieve the goals within each thematic area, goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations are defined as:

Goal: A broad, thematic area of emphasis with a desirable outcome

Strategic Objective: A planned action or desirable outcome needed to achieve a goal or make substantial process toward a goal's achievement

Recommendations: Specific examples of actions or projects that would substantially contribute to a goal's achievement

Additionally, Nevada is a leader in fostering interagency communication and collaboration to achieve shared visions and goals associated with the well-documented benefits of outdoor recreation. Nevada is the first state in the nation to have engaged state and federal agency partners to develop an agreement for outdoor recreation shared stewardship. Leveraging the strengths, missions, authorities, and capacities of state and federal agencies with substantial influence on land management and outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences, the Outdoor Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement (Appendix N) commits partners to collaboratively plan and manage ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that:

- Provide for an array of appropriate, high quality outdoor recreation experiences
- Protect and conserve the natural environment
- Preserve the culture and enhance the economies of Nevada communities

With considerable overlap of goals and themes, the SCORP, The Confluence Accords, and the Outdoor Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement offer co-related frameworks for engaging Nevadans, visitors, outdoor businesses, and a host of non-profit, government, and other organizations and agency partners in achieving this SCORP's success and impact over the next five years.

The themes, goals, strategic objectives ²³, and recommendations of this plan are for everyone. Any successes it creates will be because of the input from the public and stakeholders, and because of broad participation and engagement in the plan's implementation. Thank you for engaging in the future of conservation and recreation in Nevada.



Echo Lake State Park



²³ To achieve the goals within each thematic area, goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations are defined as:

Goal: A broad, thematic area of emphasis with a desirable outcome

Strategic Objective: A planned action or desirable outcome needed to achieve a goal or make substantial process toward a goal's achievement

Recommendations: Specific examples of actions or projects that would substantially contribute to a goal's achievement

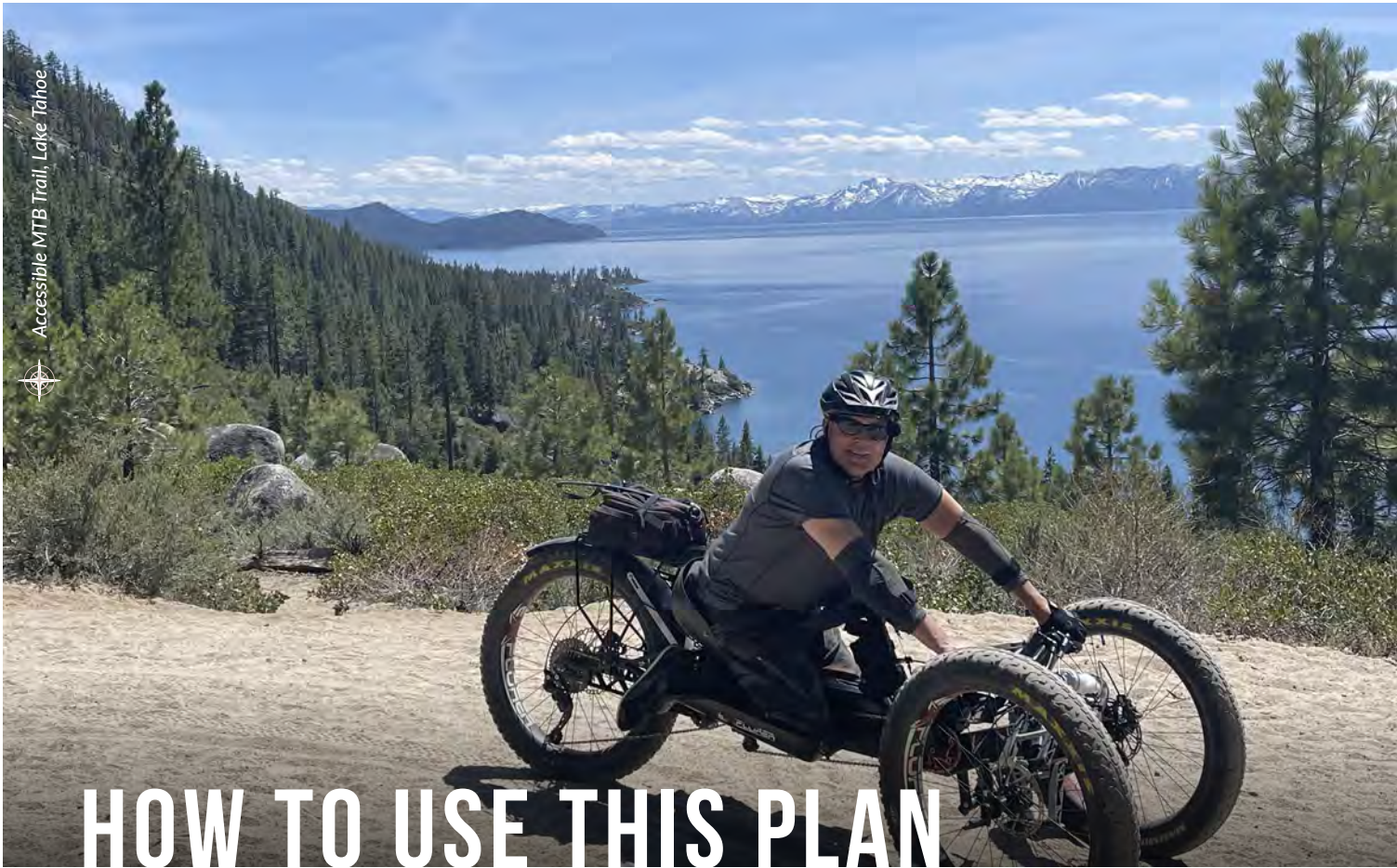


IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



In this section:

- How to Use this Plan
- Implementation Matrix
- Ongoing and Future Engagement



HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The 2022-2026 SCORP Implementation Plan identifies the goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations that will advance sustainable outdoor recreation in Nevada.

LWCF Project Selection and Allocation

Project applicants to the LWCF program are an integral part of implementing the SCORP.

The themes, goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations outlined in this document will be used to guide the selection of projects through the OPSP. Applicants are required to consider potential project partners, and will be asked to explain how a proposed project will support implementation of Nevada’s 2022-2026 SCORP. The OPSP is found in Appendix O.



Guide and Coordinate Planning

The 2022-2026 SCORP represents a next level effort for Nevada. Recreation planners, land managers, individuals, and communities will find survey results, inventory data, and findings that will lead the way towards a more sustainable outdoor recreation system over the next five years. From the local to the federal level, this plan will help guide, coordinate, and elevate outdoor recreation planning — and subsequently, development — across all sectors.

This SCORP focuses on three thematic areas: Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, Community and Economic Vitality, and Pathways to Health and Wellness.

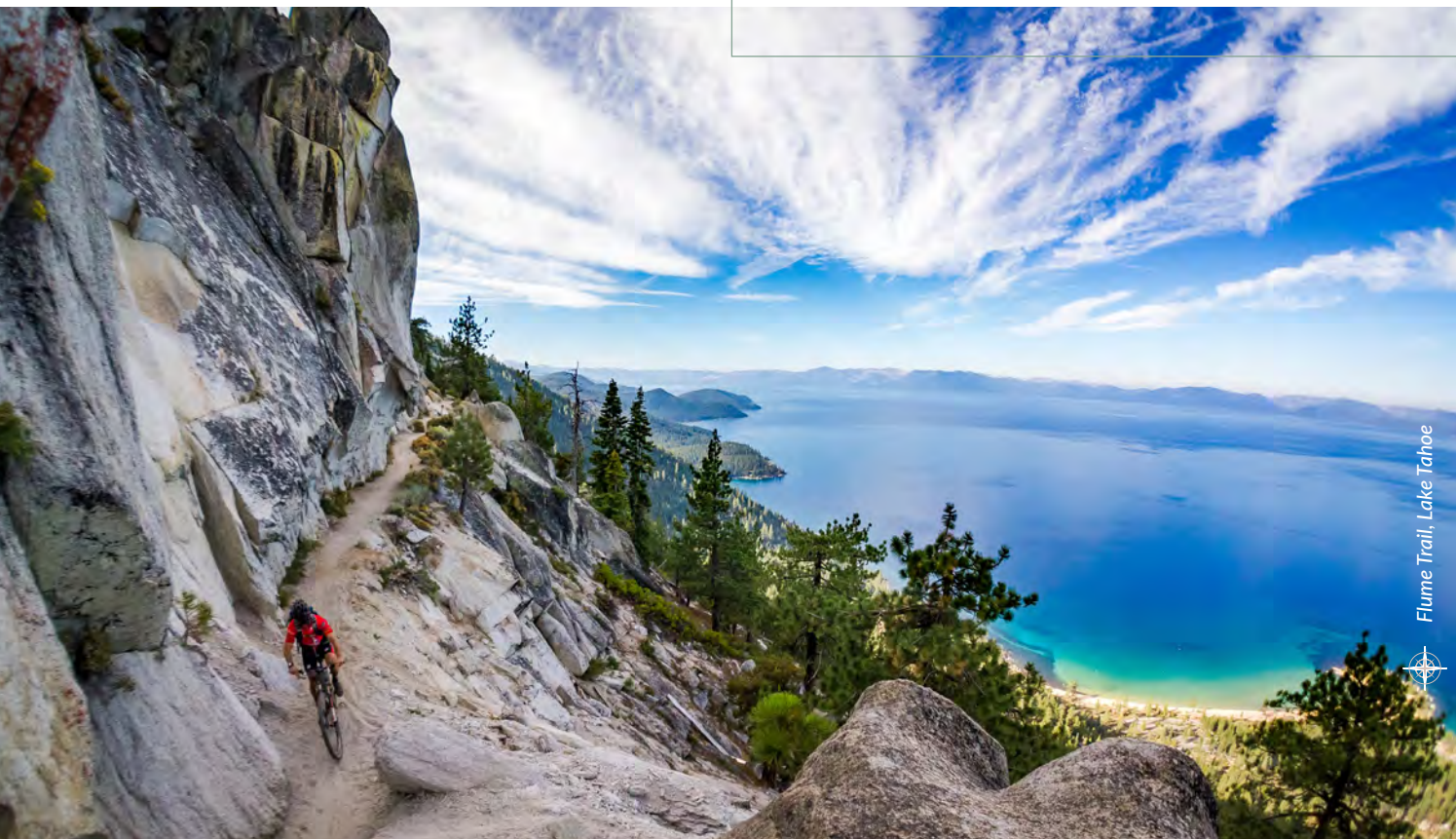
These three themes are foundational — and are woven throughout the goals, objectives, and strategies laid out in the implementation plan with the intention of strengthening the base upon which Nevada’s sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities are built.

Leverage Funding and Resources

Over the past decade, outdoor recreation providers have come to understand the importance of collaboration in project planning and delivery. Nevada’s 2022-2026 SCORP calls on all with an interest in sustainable recreation to strengthen their efforts to plan and develop projects that leverage multiple funding sources and creatively and efficiently make use of resources. Sustainability includes financial and human resources, as well as natural and cultural resources.

The implementation plan offers recommendations for how project partners can work with each other towards creating sustainable offerings in Nevada’s diverse and expansive outdoors.

It is essential to proactively plan for sustainable outdoor recreation in Nevada, to ensure the natural beauty and diverse environments that make Nevada unique are stewarded for future generations.





IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX



Theme: Sustainable Outdoor Recreation



Goal: Create and expand upon a sustainable outdoor recreation system.

Strategic Objectives and Recommendations

1. Optimize and leverage funding to plan, develop, maintain, and staff outdoor recreation needs while balancing conservation and resource protection.

- a. Build capacity for long-term investments in outdoor recreation infrastructure by identifying potential sustainable funding sources and methods.
- b. Build capacity for new outdoor recreation infrastructure by prioritizing planning that bridges the gap between user need and existing infrastructure.
- c. Leverage cross-sector funding opportunities.
- d. Foster public/private partnerships that enhance the development and maintenance of sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure.

2. Plan and develop projects that support a sustainable outdoor recreation system which protects natural and cultural resources.

- a. Identify recreation sites and systems where over-use and overcrowding are currently damaging resources and develop plans and strategies to reduce outdoor recreation over-use and overcrowding.
- b. Rehabilitate and maintain existing outdoor recreation infrastructure where necessary.
- c. Develop, coordinate, and implement a statewide Resource Conservation Plan.
- d. Develop, coordinate, and implement a statewide Trails Plan (cross-jurisdictional).
- e. Develop, coordinate and implement a State Park System Plan.
- f. Develop and maintain a comprehensive library of outdoor recreation-related plans for the purposes of interagency cooperation.
- g. Develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory and gap analysis.
- h. Coordinate across outdoor recreation providers to optimize resources to support SCORP implementation.

3. Foster sustainable outdoor recreation through conservation and stewardship.

- a. Educate users and influence behavior on sustainable recreation best practices.
- b. Educate users about why protection and conservation of natural resources supports sustainable outdoor recreation.
- c. Target education/outreach to those who may not currently utilize outdoor recreation.
- d. Educate users in order to mitigate conflicts between people using the same trails, parks, etc.
- e. Develop partnerships with civic sector and community-based organizations to optimize resources and stewardship opportunities.



Strategic Objectives and Recommendations

1. Cultivate community vibrancy and economic vitality through healthy lands and waters that support sustainable outdoor recreation.

- a. Collaborate with communities to identify local and regional outdoor recreation opportunities that provide community and economic benefit.
- b. Develop partnerships with civic sector and community-based organizations to optimize resources and stewardship opportunities.
- c. Identify opportunities for multiple funding streams to support and enhance outdoor recreation.
- d. Optimize staff and volunteer capacity to develop and implement outdoor recreation projects and initiatives.
- e. Coordinate across jurisdictional boundaries to ensure that planning efforts result in complementary rather than duplicative recreational experiences.

2. Promote and increase awareness of diverse outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting Nevada's natural and cultural resources.

- a. Educate current, new, and potential visitors about sustainable recreation and resource conservation.
- b. Design and implement programs that will attract and retain responsible outdoor recreation users.
- c. Target education/outreach to promote underutilized recreation areas.
- d. Develop educational tools designed to mitigate user conflicts.

3. Expand opportunities for people with diverse backgrounds to interact with natural and cultural resources and to equitably share benefits of outdoor recreation.

- a. Prioritize projects that support different types of recreational use.
- b. Target education/outreach to those who may not currently utilize outdoor recreation.
- c. Develop and promote programs that encourage recreational use by diverse groups.
- d. Partner with existing community-based organizations to promote outdoor recreation and its importance, while building capacity for public engagement in recreation planning.
- e. Develop programs that promote safe and welcoming outdoor recreation experiences for users of all types and abilities.



Strategic Objectives and Recommendations

1. Leverage investment in outdoor recreation projects that advance the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

- a. Leverage cross-sector funding opportunities.
- b. Foster public/private partnerships that seek to improve community health and wellness.
- c. Develop agreements among multi-sector partnerships.

2. Enhance the awareness of health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation through education and outreach.

- a. Leverage cross-sector partnerships to maximize education and outreach.
- b. Promote health benefit awareness through education and/or outreach.
- c. Target education/outreach to those who may not currently utilize outdoor recreation.
- d. Develop a dashboard of the health benefits and health-related cost savings of outdoor recreation.

3. Create a safe and welcoming environment that will enhance participation in and enjoyment of the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

- a. Develop and implement strategies to reduce overcrowding of recreation areas where this issue impacts the safety and user experience of visitors.
- b. Rehabilitate natural resources that are damaged or overused and conserve healthy lands and waters.
- c. Prioritize projects that seek to mitigate user conflicts as recreational goals.
- d. Advance accessibility by evaluating needs and prioritizing universal design principles.
- e. Improve equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all communities.

4. Improve access to outdoor recreation for its health and wellness benefits.

- a. Improve and enhance existing outdoor recreation facilities that positively affect health outcomes.
- b. Increase the number of developed park spaces to address community need, including local parks, community gardens, and green spaces.
- c. Improve community connectivity to and between recreation facilities.
- d. Prioritize projects that address availability of recreational facilities.
- e. Improve existing and develop new safe and reliable transportation options to outdoor recreation areas.



ONGOING AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

SCORP planning and implementation does not end with the publication of this document.

Themes and Issues to Consider for the Next SCORP

While this document meets the requirements of a SCORP, there were areas where additional data collection and discussion would have been of benefit based on feedback received. To include these topics in the next SCORP, questions specific to each issue will be developed and included in both the public and land manager surveys. The data collected will be assessed and discussed comprehensively in the document. Topics that were addressed in this SCORP but not discussed in detail will be developed further.

Ultimately, a SCORP is an ongoing, iterative tool that supports Nevada in making optimal decisions, and providing exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Silver State. Synergistic efforts are at the heart of successful and sustainable outcomes. The implementation plan offers various recommendations that will promote ongoing and future engagement including increased coordination between sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation partners, education and outreach, and opportunities to leverage resources.

- Improving facilities and access for OHV users
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in outdoor recreation
- Private sector perspective of outdoor recreation
- Transportation barriers
- Sensitivity to species/habitat impact of recreation areas
- The importance of data for decision making
- Improving facilities and access for equestrians

Once the 2022-2026 SCORP is published, outdoor recreation participants and partners can expect continuation or commencement of the following initiatives:

Ongoing user surveys

Nevada Outdoor Recreation Asset Inventory, Version 2

Nevada Division of State Parks System Plan update

Federal/State Shared Stewardship Agreement



As the SCORP runs on a five-year cycle, engagement opportunities will also come in the form of shaping the next SCORP. A statewide, comprehensive plan must be cross-sectoral, and will take time and the commitment to the best thinking on the part of many. Beginning in 2023, NDSP, and NDOR will identify stakeholders, draft the scope of work, and schedule for the 2027 SCORP update with the intention of taking yet another step toward ensuring that Nevada’s outdoor recreation legacy is sustainable.



Call to Action

More than ever before, the 2022-2026 SCORP highlights Nevadans' need for—and interest in—outdoor recreation, and provides a framework of goals, strategic objectives, and recommendations for how to meet those needs over the next five years. The plan reflects the shared vision and commitment of outdoor recreation and conservation partners to advance opportunities for all people to enjoy Nevada's natural beauty, unique environments, and the benefits of outdoor recreation.

The three overarching themes of this SCORP offer a framework and strategies for collective action on sustainable and responsible outdoor recreation in Nevada. The SCORP provides a roadmap, based on extensive public and land management agency input, that can help guide Nevadans to actively engage in and support the growth of outdoor recreation in our state. No single entity can address all the challenges and opportunities outdoor recreation faces in Nevada. Successful achievement of the goals outlined in this plan will come from working collaboratively across interests, sectors, agencies, and organizations to implement projects supporting meaningful outdoor experiences statewide.



Acronyms

ASLO	Alternate State Liaison Officer
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
FAST	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NDCNR	Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
NDOR	Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDSP	Nevada Division of State Parks
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
NPS	National Park Service
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
OPSP	Open Project Selection Process
ORSA	Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SLO	State Liaison Officer
SOA	Somerset Owners Association
TBC	The Blueprint Collaborative
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

Appendices

Appendix A:	BEA ORSA 2020 Numbers
Appendix B:	BEA Nevada 2020
Appendix C:	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside Assistance Program Funding Overview
Appendix D:	Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, Technical Review Draft, January 2006
Appendix E:	Nevada Priority Wetlands Inventory 2007
Appendix F:	Land Manager Survey Summary Data
Appendix G:	Land Manager Survey Comments
Appendix H:	2021 SCORP Stakeholder Engagement and Targeted Outreach
Appendix I:	2021 Nevada Outdoor Recreation System Asset Inventory
Appendix J:	Public Surveys Summary Data
Appendix K:	Public Surveys Comments
Appendix L:	County Data Reports
Appendix M:	Part 2 Survey Regional Maps
Appendix N:	Outdoor Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement, Nevada 2022
Appendix O:	2022-2026 Nevada Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)