

# APPENDIX G

## Land Manager Survey Significant Progress & General Comments

### Q15: Federal answers “significant progress has been made in your agency to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past five years”

1. Expanded opportunities for hunting and fish on National Wildlife Refuges. Used websites and social media to help people learn about outdoor recreation opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges and how to recreate responsibly and build an inclusive outdoors.
2. We are bringing an increased level of programming to under-represented communities in Clark County through SNPLMA funding including recreation skills training, environmental education programs and stewardship activities.
3. GAOA has been so important!
4. Before COVID, started having clean-up days at the campgrounds
5. The Forest Service is constantly striving to make progress in the State of Nevada on a very small budget. New trails, markers, campgrounds and Kiosks are constantly being planned even if there is no budget to complete them
6. Partnerships, GAOA and grant funding
7. Working with partners, GAOA and RAC grant funding
8. I don't think we have in the past 5 years. I'm not even sure who our rec staff is or if we even have any of those people.
9. 1. Grant funding for improved recreation facilities. 2. Competitive Prospectus to offer Outfitter/Guide/ Recreation Permit opportunities. 3. Automated Fee Machines on order for some sites.
10. I can't say that any significant progress has been made. The agency has hired a few really good people in different locations in the state over the past few years who have either laid the groundwork for some progress to be made or who have the potential to drive some progress.
11. Increase staff that has lead to more trail, signage development and patrol presence.
12. By updating different NEPA categories, and different Forest Plans, it allows for more flexibility for recreation and other land use activities that may not have had a category before. Better management of land means better tracking of different types of uses which can allow for better communication with outdoor recreation opportunities.
13. We have used SNPLMA funds to improve our visitor center, and create new trails.
14. Not much progress. Our appropriated budgets continue to shrink. We have little resources to leverage into grant opportunities. Our dependence on partner organizations and/or interest groups increases by the year.
15. Our field office has initiated three large-scale non-motorized trail projects in the last five years. The plan may result in 70-80 miles of new non-motorized trails.
16. We have built multipurpose mountain biking trails and hiking trails.
17. Streamline permitting process/NEPA to reduce staff time user costs (seldom do cost recovery). Pre-approve existing routes and make known to users applying for permits. Engage users to educate on self-policing, documenting resource conditions, mediate conflicts, improve public communication.
18. Not been in the organization long enough to have an opinion
19. Partnerships with other state, local, and federal agencies. New bike trail system.

20. Through the dedication of the very small Rec Staff organizing volunteers and youth programs such as Generation Green to encourage the next generation of Resource Managers to experience FS work. For Trails, we have a single powerhouse Trail Manager who does all the Grant Writing and partnership work to develop and maintain trails for all uses.
21. Moving from concession operations to Forest Service operations in the Fall of 2016.
22. We have gone backwards due to budget not being assigned to recreation
23. We published a prospectus soliciting new outfitter/guide companies to offer a wide range of recreation services and selected 23 applicants
24. SECRETORIAL ORDER NO. 3366
25. Applying for SNPLMA grants, increased partnering and collaboration, passage by Congress of GAOA
26. Upgrading campgrounds, trails, grazing and wildlife habitat. Extreme focus on wildfire and fuels management.
27. Developing core volunteer organizations and partners to help channel volunteer interest into on the ground action.
28. It's declined because there is NO budget to hire employees in order to maintain what we have.
29. District wide review of campground update/maintenance needs and seeking partnerships/grants to support upgrades. Continued support from Friends of NV Wilderness for ongoing grants/trail maintenance. Improved road signage/numbering on approved routes.
30. Biggest progress has been in developing and strengthening relationship with our partners, who have seen great success in applying for grants (e.g., RTP, NV OHV) and helping to implement on the ground trail maintenance, planning, and construction, and wilderness stewardship activities. Without the partners and grant funding, we would be left with little in the way of staff or funds to work toward reducing our maintenance backlogs and providing additional/new opportunities to the growing outdoor users.
31. New non-motorized trail system and various kiosks.
32. Working on three Resource Area Management Plans
33. Less funding and less staffing to a growing outdoor focused population. In the last 20 years we downsized from six recreation planners to just two.
34. Finalizing several Travel Management Plans
35. Our greatest progress has been to partner with other Federal, State, and Local agencies to work towards common goals and pool limited resources.
36. Developing Recreation Area Management Plans and projects such as the Legacy trail to bring more opportunity to the growing demand for recreation
37. More outreach in school has been completed, including expanding awareness of the every kid in a park program.
38. We have hired two more outdoor recreation planners, but the office is still hugely understaffed. Most of them will still be dealing only with motorized recreation permits.
39. Established a formal Education program. Providing more programs that serve greatest demand rather than enabling resources.
40. More information such as maps and interpretive information. Application to grants also.
41. Our one recreation manager has done fantastic to manage all recreation areas for the district with help from other resources and supervisor stepping in to support
42. Reservations required at the risk of making the community upset.
43. Added new trails, extended trails, put up kiosks,
44. The agency has attempted to get their 'Outdoor Recreation Planners' to apply more on-site monitoring of its permit holders, having permittees monitored annually.
45. Volunteerism working with organizations and events

46. None.
47. Permitting programs to minimize resource damage and user conflicts
48. Moon Rocks: EA recently completed to use OHV grant monies from State of Nevada to provide a minimum level of sanitation services and public. Health and safety measures at Moon Rocks (5,000+ OHV users on a busy weekend). Sand Mountain OHV Area: Area has been improved through OHV grants and user fees to make it a safer and more enjoyable area
49. Maps, brochures, interpretive signs/kiosks, wide open space for the public to socially distance during pandemic. Do more with less. Find a way to get to yes. That is the messaging from leadership. In order to meet these goals we rely heavily on collaboration and partnerships. Working with NGO's etc. Simply put, we NEVER have the appropriate budget or staffing to effectively manage recreation, or the multiple use mandate set forth by congress.
50. Created RAPTOR Permitting system to mainstream the process.
51. None, every year, staff has been cut to a point where it is unreasonable
52. Creation of Bridgeport Avalanche Center
53. Our agency has worked to provide recreation opportunities for underserved communities.
54. Partnership with Public lands Managers to promote safe and responsible motorized outdoor recreation, adopting stewardship roles in natural and cultural heritage site. promoting tourism opportunities within Nevada for motorized outdoor recreation
55. Adding hunting for migratory and upland game birds to a new area. Improving ADA walking trail stability.
56. We continue to work to keep up with the pace of growth in outdoor recreation. Our two largest holdups are lack of staffing/budget and a lack of updated resource management plans.
57. As a newer national monument, there has been slow progress made over the last five years due to budget constraints and funding shortages to develop a General Management Plan. The monument has improved the boundary fence and regulatory signage to assist in reducing vandalism, illegal dumping, and target shooting. The monument is collaborating with both City of LV and NLV to establish better access to the monument via informational kiosk and parking areas. The installation of two temporary trails will allow the park to begin collecting visitor use data that will assist in making better decisions and the development of a Mobile Exhibit Trailer will allow for outreach opportunities. The monument is collaborating with the Ice Age Fossils State Park - State Parks Nevada, in putting together a Cooperative Management Plan to allow National Park Service staff to assist and work out of the State Park Visitor Center.

# General Comments

## Federal

More collaboration and project integration with BLM and USFS. Those agencies have the lands taken for granted as always available and open.

As an engineer for a land manager, I'm focused on existing infrastructure. We do not have nearly enough money to maintain what we already have. So it was difficult to answer questions in this survey about new infrastructure or improvements. We at the Forest Service need to focus what little resources we have on our EXISTING infrastructure.

We need increased collaboration with state and local gov. We need support from private sector to set up stewardship funds to address recreation infrastructure operations and maintenance. Place some of that cost on the consumer...we have an avenue in motorized recreation through registration...we need to develop an avenue to support land stewardship for non-motorized items (guns, angling equipment, bikes, skis, backpacks, ammo, etc.). All of those items support some recreational activity on public lands that wear on rec infrastructure. Need to figure out a way to tap into the consumer to pay for some of the O&M outside of federal taxes.

Encourage Nevada representatives to push the DOI to increase funding for hiring recreation maintenance staff (seasonal, permanent seasonal, planners, etc.) at the BLM field offices in NV.

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. Are partners and staff suffer loving these lands so much.

By adding a 1-2 mile trail connector (on either side of the Wilderness boundary) to connect the Upper Bristlecone Trail and the North Loop Trail, hikers could reach Mt Charleston from the ski area rather than Kyle Canyon and save 4 miles and 1,000' of elevation gain. Instead of a 16-mile round trip with 4,000' of gain, it would be 10-12 mile round trip with 3,000' of gain. I think this is the most important thing we could do to improve recreation on the SMNRA, because hiking is our #1 draw and Mt Charleston is harder than it needs to be.

Manage visitor expectations, improve cohesive responsible recreation messaging, support conversations about carrying capacity where necessary, spread out use.

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!

Most of the land available for recreational activities in the State of Nevada is managed by the Federal Government. Developing Partnerships and strategies to pool the resources of the State and Federal Agencies will provide some great opportunities for outdoor recreation in this state. It also helps to develop relationships with local governments and non-profit groups to help manage the day to day needs for areas that are in high demand.

There should be two cross country (one N-S, one E-W) trails that cover the state with small campgrounds along the trail- like the Appalachian Trail- for both hiking and biking

Have oversight on Outdoor Recreation Planners to ensure they are not 'pencil-whipping the stipulations, using the same template for a variety of uses. Each use is unique.

More safety messages for the public about remote areas

Many of the questions are geared to outdoor recreation to those in an urban environment and do not necessarily apply to the more rural outdoor recreators. Understanding that the vast majority of Nevadans are in an urban environment it is understandable. However, it does miss the opportunity to be inclusive to those who recreate outdoors who are in the less densely populated smaller communities statewide. This is problematic.

Continued collaboration amongst all the recreation and tourism providers will be the key to our success. We really need to work together to emphasize responsible user ethics and safety all around the State. Thank you!

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.

Better trail signage in wilderness areas.

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.

Agency is currently trying to do the work of professionals with volunteers and no funding. we don't even have the budget to pump the outhouses we have on the forest

The biggest problem for our area is private landowners blocking access to Federal lands

Group use and long-term camping rates along the East Walker River; river trail on the Walker; cooperative OHV management and enforcement in the Bodie Hills and Pine Grove Hills.

For people who look for them, outdoor recreation opportunities abound in Lincoln County for people of all backgrounds. In fact, being so rural, outdoor rec is one of the main activities in the County!

Priority for land management agencies should be obtaining public Rights of Way on existing roads crossing private property and enforcing laws preventing private landowners from blocking access to public roads.

I am not involved in Outdoor Recreation, however I do know that we are not able to maintain our Recreation Sites or do improvements with the limited resources we have.

More coordination among state and federal agencies to improve opportunities.

As an interpretive park ranger we are kept out of any planning on recreation for trails, etc., other than Interpretive Signage

Promote and enhance non-motorized trail systems and users (specifically in Northern NV), improve the prioritization of recreation maintenance and development

Access is huge. There is a ton of public lands blocked by small parcels of private. Enforce the current laws (NRS's as example) and stop creating new laws. Currently, the largest economic impact Eastern Nevada sees as far as recreation goes in the spring is antler hunting. Now we cannot do it until May 1st, which is 100% arbitrary and has no supporting science. Worst off, many still do it with little to no punishment. So, the good guys loose. Funding, Nevada is beautiful and there are many opportunities that could harness destination locations. As an example, there are multiple really cool natural hot springs in Elko County. Make something cool with them!

Provide more outside funding to assets that the organization "thinks" they already have access too.

## Q15: State answers “significant progress has been made in your agency to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past five years”

1. NDSP has created two new parks. WE are currently working on increasing our capacity to assess user needs and satisfaction and wrap that into planning and management strategies.
2. We have constructed more trails in our Parks.
3. Including more park interpreters, and non-commissioned staff.
4. Additional facilities to accommodate growing visitation levels has occurred
5. The most significant or noticeable growth has been the recent expansion of the state park system. In 2018 two new parks were added, increasing outdoor recreational opportunities within the state. I am less familiar with improvements made within the individual state park units, but I am aware of some projects the agency has been involved with including the East Shore Trail at Lake Tahoe, a mountain bike trail system near Kershaw-Ryan State Park, and upgrades (i.e. the addition of utility hook-ups) at a number of campgrounds throughout the state park system.
6. We stayed open through budget cuts and COVID closures. Kept cleaning bathrooms and opened the gate.
7. We received monies from our Governor to install Power into many of our Parks and also received monies to do campground upgrades, such as improving roads and making pull-through sites to accommodate larger RV's.
8. Having more funding.
9. We stopped catering to family style camping and recreating. We have made it all about the revenue collection.
10. Primarily through the hiring of quality and driven individuals.
11. Improved fee booth operations and equipment
12. Tahoe bike path, discussions for new projects, trails training
13. Permanent ranger positions, and positions in the planning department, have been increased over the last 5 years...but more needs to be done. Operating budgets have been good as well in the last five years but are currently taking cuts. Dedicated funding sources, resilient to the effects of economic downturns are sorely needed. Interpretation priorities and interpreter positions are needed. General facility development always seems to inch forward, but reliance on grants is far too pervasive.
14. Different types interpretive programs to cater to new visitor demographics
15. More access to grant funding
16. Better planning
17. NDSP has constructed new cabins, improved campground by providing power / water hook-ups to many more locations. A new visitors center is nearing completion and another one is due to break ground in the spring. Several trail projects have been completed as well as a new park was opened to the public.
18. Grant funding to user groups to expand and maintain ohv trails. Pressuring federal land managers to update their RMPs to include more outdoor recreation and ohv opportunities.
19. Partnership with Public lands Managers to promote safe and responsible motorized outdoor recreation, adopting stewardship roles in natural and cultural heritage site. promoting tourism opportunities within Nevada for motorized outdoor recreation
20. Enforcing carrying capacity on busy days to ensure a quality recreational experience to those who are in the park
21. Opening new parks, expanding facilities and services, new trail construction, stabilization and protection of historic structures
22. Development of a new park, the construction of new trail networks.
23. Improving trail systems and visitor facilities

24. Funding increases have allowed for more planning and development staff. 2 new parks have been added and proper staffing for those parks. By 2017 we were up to staffing levels and recovering from 2009 crash.
25. Important new positions created and filled; Opening of several new parks; Very good agency culture.
26. Outdoor education grants created, construction of east shore trail at Tahoe, improved campgrounds and facilities and construction of new campgrounds. Opening new parks at Walker and Ice Age Fossils
27. Offering increased amenities including cabin rentals.
28. In the three years I've worked here we have improved many trails and created many more visitor access points for the public

## State General Comments

From a state parks perspective, I feel that 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.

I think 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.

At least for the park I work in, trails that are accessible to people with mobility issues would be greatly appreciated. Most of our parking areas are also gravel, which has drawn some complaints from motorcyclists.

We need to ensure that we maintain our existing parks before expanding.

Increasing budgets to maintain buildings and grounds on a more frequent basis.

Take care and create useful beautiful access to water and land for recreation. If \$ is spent to make things nice they are generally treated better by the public. If as an agency we offer a subpar "product" it will be treated as such by the visitors

Much has been covered. But to specify, 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.

One of the biggest hurdles we have on the OHV commission in accomplishing our goals and projects is working with outdated federal Travel and Resource Management Plans.

Facilitate under-served community access to the outdoors - and generate funding (for staffing, etc.) to support that goal.

### **Q15: County answers “significant progress has been made in your agency to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past five years”**

1. 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 counties 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.
2. Partnership with Public lands Managers to promote safe and responsible motorized outdoor recreation, adopting stewardship roles in natural and cultural heritage site. promoting tourism opportunities within Nevada for motorized outdoor recreation
3. In the past 5 years we have enhanced trail connectivity in some of our open space parcels to federal lands. We have worked with TMRPA on a regional trail map/plan. We have worked with other local agencies, non-profits and private organizations to reduce wildfire risk on open space parcels adjacent to housing subdivisions. We have planted native plants in previous fire scars to promote native vegetation and discourage noxious weeds.

### **County General Comments:**

Thank you for conducting this survey. I hope you will be able to share the results with our team. Thank you.

Utilize State Lands to full extent for recreation where possible and practical.

### **Q15: City, Town, Municipality answers “significant progress has been made in your agency to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past five years”**

1. Leveraging sales tax initiative funds with grants; hiring a trails coordinator funded through multiple funding sources; reorganized the department and have a cooperative agreement with the culture and tourism authority
2. Grant funded trail and trailhead projects have added parking, trailhead infrastructure, and several miles of new trail. We are currently adding a FT Park Ranger to help with enforcement and interpretation.
3. Increased financial support from city leaders.
4. Multiple new parks have been built that offer a variety of recreation amenities including flat fields, hard courts, mountain bike and walking trails, fitness stations, etc... Multi-use paths and bike lanes have been incorporated into most roadway construction projects.
5. We have adopted both a Parks and Open Space Master Plan and a Public Arts Plan.
6. Partnership with Public lands Managers to promote safe and responsible motorized outdoor recreation, adopting stewardship roles in natural and cultural heritage site. promoting tourism opportunities within Nevada for motorized outdoor recreation
7. Breaking ground on Pahrump's Fairgrounds OHV Park
8. Updated: outdoor pool, all playground equipment, baseball fields; built stargazing park; restorations at mining park; OHV-friendly ordinance; free or low fees

## **City, Town, Municipality General Comments:**

Thank you for conducting this survey. I hope you will be able to share the results with our team. Thank you.

Utilize State Lands to full extent for recreation where possible and practical.

- Expand the Silver State Trail System statewide.
- Continue to allow dispersed parking and camping on public land.
- OHV riding is a mainstream sport. Provide local, county, and state facilities same golf courses, ball fields, etc.
- Instead of closing areas as the remedy over-use, repair damage and provide more areas. Dispersed use is the best sustainable use.

## **Q15: Tribal answers “significant progress has been made in your agency to improve outdoor recreation opportunities over the past five years”**

1. There has been no improvement due to lack of funding

## **Tribal General Comments:**

Additional coordination with Tribes.