



NEVADA
STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



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Office of the Governor

Dear Fellow Nevadans:

I am pleased to present Nevada's 2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan was developed through extensive public input. This plan identifies critical outdoor recreation issues facing our state and recommends actions to address each.

Nevada is blessed with an abundance of natural, cultural and paleontological resources. Scenic mountain ranges abound throughout Nevada. Parks and open spaces are popular tourist destinations for Nevadans and millions of annual visitors. Outdoor recreation is vital to Nevada's economy, quality of life, and to the health of our citizens. I encourage each of you to take time to get out and enjoy the wonderful outdoor recreation resources and facilities we have in Nevada.

The needs of Nevadans and our visitors to participate in outdoor recreation activities can best be met by working together to secure and properly care for our outdoor recreation resources. Together, we can make Nevada a premier destination for tourism and outdoor recreation while conserving our precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Gibbons".

JIM GIBBONS

Governor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) oversees the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) grant program. The Division serves as the liaison to the National Park Service (NPS) which administers the Federal Grant Funding program through the states.

The primary purpose of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is to enhance Nevada's outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes: maintaining existing outdoor recreation resources; expanding outdoor recreation resources whenever feasible; ensuring a high-quality experience for outdoor recreation participants; and encouraging greater participation in outdoor recreation.

The administrative purpose of the SCORP is to provide a mechanism for evaluating disbursement of federal funds under the Land and Water Conservation Funds program (L&WCF). Any state seeking to qualify for L&WCF disbursements must have an updated SCORP document. The goals/strategies set in this document will be used to affirm and rank a set of scoring criteria for determining grant priorities for the L&WCF in Nevada. These criteria then go through an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that results in a final document stating the criteria to be used for the next 5 years. Descriptions of these criteria are contained in the OPSP document available from the Nevada Division of State Parks. These criteria are then used as part of the evaluation process for disbursing grants. Entities applying for L&WCF grants are evaluated based on their promotion of SCORP-identified issues and needs outlined in the OPSP.

Through an examination of available data, strategies designed to promote these goals have been developed. Available data include Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) user surveys (2003, 2005, and 2009), National Survey on Recreation and the Environment conducted by the US Forest Service (2009), and "The Economic Value of

Nevada State Parks", a research paper completed by the University of Nevada Reno (2007).

The following strategies have been developed to guide the selection criteria process. Public meetings and data from surveys and conversations with county and city planners helped to formulate the following strategies.

1. Ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Manage impacts to outdoor recreation sites from increasing usage.
2. Provide an appropriate level of facilities and services at outdoor recreation sites.
3. Ensure sufficient ongoing funding for existing and planned outdoor recreation facilities.
4. Promote conservation of statewide water resources and wildland areas. Strive to work with partners to gain landscape level conservation: river, riparian and natural water bodies and land conservation for wildlife and their habitats.
5. Maintain and improve access to public land.
6. Maximize connectivity of existing and planned public trail systems.
7. Increase public information resources about outdoor recreation and educational facilities and opportunities at outdoor recreation sites.
8. Increase public outreach on outdoor recreation to children, students and currently underserved populations.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, recreation and tourism is the largest industry by dollar amount in the western United States and second largest employer.



INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the State of Nevada provides a review and assessment of the outdoor recreation opportunities present in the State, and provides a framework for both improving and expanding these opportunities. The SCORP is therefore the starting point for enhancing outdoor recreation in Nevada and for promoting increased awareness of outdoor recreation issues.

Completion of the SCORP document is a requirement under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) program administered by the National Park Service. The L&WCF makes periodic disbursements of grant money to be used for enhancing outdoor recreation development

and land acquisition for outdoor recreation. To be eligible for grant money, states must maintain an updated SCORP document describing outdoor recreation facilities and goals for enhancement. The SCORP is then used as part of the evaluation process for disbursing grant money. Entities applying for L&WCF money will be evaluated based on their promotion of SCORP-identified issues and needs.

This document is the ninth edition of the Nevada statewide plan.

Legal Authority

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) Act of 1965 provides for Federal funding assistance to individual states, for the promotion of outdoor recreation. The Fund incorporates specific requirements in order for states to be eligible to receive disbursements. Primary among these requirements is the compilation of SCORP/OPSP documents.

L&WCF guidelines state:

The LWCF State Assistance Program was established by the LWCF Act of 1965 (Section 6, Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended; Public Law 88-578; 16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.) to stimulate a nationwide action program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring to all citizens of the United States of present and future generations such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation. 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. Grant funds are also available, to States only, for fulfilling the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning requirements of the program.

Source: Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Volume 69
Effective Date: October 1, 2008

Authority for the SCORP process is granted to the Nevada Division of State Parks by the Nevada Legislature and is found in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) under 407.205; 407.207; and 407.209.

Funding Acknowledgement Statement

When assistance from the LWCF is provided for a project, the resulting document shall include the following acknowledgement: "The preparation (updating, revision) of this plan (study, analysis, etc.) was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended)." This statement may be expanded at the State's discretion to reflect the manner in which the non-federal share of the total cost was financed.

SCORP Background and Process

Following passage of the L&WCF Act of 1965, Nevada has remained eligible for Federal funding through consistent adherence to the program requirements and a commitment to outdoor recreation. The SCORP document has been repeatedly updated as needed, including the most recent prior version in 2003.

SCORP Overall Purpose

The overall purpose of the SCORP document is to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Nevada. By identifying a set of goals the SCORP document seeks to guide actions that will lead to enhanced outdoor recreation.

Application of the SCORP

The 2010 SCORP will serve as an assessment of available and desired outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in Nevada. It will identify goals and recommended strategies to promote enhanced outdoor recreation; and provide a mechanism for evaluating disbursement of federal L&WCF funds.

This program funds grants for local and state outdoor recreation capital improvement and acquisition projects. This National Park Service program is administered for the State of Nevada by the Division of State Parks. All political subdivisions, including counties, incorporated cities; unincorporated towns, general improvement districts, and Native American tribal governments are potentially eligible for the 50-50 matching grants offered through the program. For further information and instruction on the funding process, consult the current state grant manual.

SCORP Document Process

Public input is essential to developing the SCORP document. This input is provided through extensive data collection on the part of Nevada Division of State Parks



(NDSP) staff. Additional assistance was provided by the Nevada Conservation Corps and the University of Nevada Reno Great Basin Institute. The survey was partially paid for through a LWCF planning grant.

Between 2006 and 2008, NDSP conducted a survey of visitors to the Nevada State Park system. The data collected through this process comprise the most comprehensive and valid information set available for analysis of the Nevada State Park system. Data collected included specific elements such as demographic details, activities pursued, and money spent. It also allowed for unbounded data collection such as comments about park needs and user impressions. The State Trails Plan, completed in 2005, also included a survey.

Additional survey results are provided by National Survey on Recreation and the Environment 1999-2009 (NSRE 1999-2009), conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. According to the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, “The purpose of the NSRE study is to discover and describe participation by Americans in outdoor recreation activities” (vol. 27, no. 2, page 49). The NSRE data is collected through a random nationwide telephone survey. The survey seeks to collect data on both outdoor recreation usage as well as attitudes about the outdoors and the environment. The survey has been conducted (in an earlier format) since 1960. For the purpose of the Nevada SCORP, the cross-tabulated NSRE results specific to Nevada are most useful in supplementing and corroborating the results obtained through the Nevada Division of State Parks survey.

The expertise of NDSP staff also forms a vital component of the SCORP document and process. Staff knowledge of the park system and interaction with county and city planners and park users allowed for effective formulation of the survey. For any data collection effort, the results are only as good as the effort that goes into collecting them. Without precise and informed formulation of the survey questions and format, the results would be weak or possi-

bly invalid. State Park staff was able to apply their knowledge of the park system to collect sound, unbiased data about users’ thoughts and needs.

SCORP Benefits to Nevada Recreation

The value of outdoor recreation, measured either in economic output or societal benefit, is well established. The pursuit of outdoor recreation generates broad benefits across a range of economic sectors and it contributes to the overall health and happiness of the population.

Economic Benefit

Given the great variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in the State of Nevada, it is no surprise that significant positive effects are generated. These include both the pleasure Nevadan's get from outdoor recreation and the positive economic impacts on businesses throughout the State generated by this activity. In other words, outdoor recreation opportunities at all levels, including the private sector, generate widespread economic benefit for all Nevada citizens and is a net money maker for the State.

In order to partially quantify the economic impact to the Nevada economy from outdoor recreation, the Nevada Division of State Parks commissioned a 2007 study by the University of Nevada, Reno titled “The Economic Value of Nevada State Parks.”



This study concluded that the State Park system generated approximately \$500,000,000 (\$0.5 billion) annually of economic activity within Nevada. Equally important, the study concluded this activity generated approximately 4,600 jobs. Note that these jobs are not restricted solely to State Parks themselves but are spread across many industries, including hotels, airlines, gaming, sporting goods manufacture and sales, and many others.

Analyzed on a return-on-investment basis, this economic benefit is an unequivocal success for the State. The Nevada Division of State Parks budget for 2007 (the year of the economic analysis) was approximately \$12,000,000. The half billion dollars in statewide economic growth that results from this \$12 million expenditure amounts to a return of over 4000%. If the economic benefits from other outdoor recreation providers was included in this study, including private facilities and federal lands, this positive impact would be even more significant.

Social Benefit

In addition to the documented economic benefits of the State Park system, there are also health and societal benefits enjoyed by Nevadans due to outdoor recreation. The economic study cited above was specifically focused on dollars generated across the economy by park users. The study returned a valuable benchmark result for analyzing State Parks, but it doesn't capture the full benefit of outdoor recreation.

There are numerous and widespread benefits generated by outdoor recreation that are not captured in a study of dollars. These benefits tend to fall into two broad groups: public health and quality of life.

Quantifying total public health benefits provided by the Nevada State Park system and outdoor recreation in general is beyond the scope of this SCORP document, however, it is easy to see the link between outdoor recreation



and improved public health. This link has long been recognized by recreation providers, including the Bureau of Land Management who are currently promoting the non-profit Children and Nature Network, in an effort to foster a stronger connection between children and the natural world. The investments in support of outdoor recreation also promote the complementary objectives of increasing access to healthy outdoor activities and improving overall health statewide. A commitment to outdoor recreation and exercise could obviously help reduce long-term medical expenditures across the State.

In order for this social benefit to be fully realized, it is important that outdoor recreation be convenient and the facilities appealing. This is supported by survey results, including the 2008 NSRE Youth Module, which found that 25% of respondents indicated their children would spend more time at outdoor recreation if it was more convenient in their neighborhood. At the national level, a significant percentage of people, in this case one-quarter of the population, do not feel that outdoor recreation is convenient enough.

Outdoor recreation also improves the quality of life of Nevadans. Given the large number of Nevada residents that participate in some form of outdoor recreation each year, consistently over 80% of the total population, it's obvious that this form of recreation is integral to the



population's lifestyle. The simplest explanation for this continued attraction of outdoor recreation is that it provides the greatest return on participants' investment of time, effort, and recreation budget. This return can be described in a variety of ways, such as enhanced time with family members, effective educational opportunities, and enjoyable scenery. But, however it is defined, the benefits of outdoor recreation are being broadly and frequently enjoyed by Nevadans. If outdoor recreation facilities fail to keep pace with growing demand, this benefit will not be fully realized and quality of life will be reduced.

Jedediah Smith was the first white person to cross what is now Nevada, while on a beaver hunting expedition in 1826.

Source: Answers.com



OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEVADA

Outdoor recreation is a major feature of life in Nevada. Given the relatively large undeveloped public land area, most residents are not physically distant from outdoor recreation areas. It is potentially easy for most Nevadans to access public open space and park facilities. Many cities promote their proximity to outdoor recreation options as an attractive feature of life there. Almost all publicly owned sites, regardless of whether federal, state or local, and even some privately owned facilities, are designed to meet and enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities of Nevada residents.

Public Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The geographic and demographic realities of Nevada seem at times designed to encourage outdoor recreation. The State's heavily varied topography, much of it situated on uninhabited public land, makes outdoor recreation a natural pursuit.

As countless travelers crossing Nevada have learned, sometimes to their surprise, the State is continuously traversed with daunting mountain ranges. The State contains more than 100 mountain peaks in excess of 10,000' elevation. As you advance upward in one of these mountain ranges, you pass through a variety of climate zones, frequently beginning in the desert and ending in an alpine environment above tree line.

These climate zones allow a diversity of wildlife, scenery, and physical challenges that attract hikers, mountain climbers, hunters, bird watchers, and many other outdoor enthusiasts.

Nevada contains more prominent mountain ranges, over 30, than any other state. Nevada Rivers, with the exception of those feeding into the Colorado River in the southern part of the State, do not reach the ocean. They usually terminate in seasonal lakes that go dry during summer months.

Source: History.com

Water Resources

Given the arid nature of Nevada, water resources attract considerable attention. Water sources such as lakes, streams, and reservoirs are continually sought by outdoor recreation users and also by farmers, ranchers, municipalities, and land developers. Balancing the needs of the environment with recreation and other uses is an ongoing concern across the State. Protecting water resources, as discussed further in the Goals section of this document, is an important component of Nevada's outdoor recreation.

The water supply in Nevada is heavily influenced by winter snowfall, both within the State and within neighboring states. The melting of the winter snowfall throughout the remainder of the year maintains the summer flow for these systems. Major river systems in the State include the Colorado, Humboldt, Truckee, Snake, Carson, and Walker Rivers.

Public Lands in Nevada

Public ownership of land is a central feature of Nevada. Of Nevada's roughly 70 million acres, the Federal Government owns over 59 million acres, or about 84.5% of the total state (US General Services Administration, Federal Real Property Profile 2004). With a few exceptions, primarily areas designated for military use, this public land is open for outdoor recreation. Clearly such a quantity of available space presents opportunities for recreation.

Federal Providers of Outdoor Recreation in Nevada

National Park Service – In Nevada the USDI National Park Service (NPS) manages two national parks, one national recreation area and three national historic trails that cross through the state. National Parks are land areas with numerous unique features deemed valuable to our national heritage and are managed by the NPS.

Nevada is a Spanish term meaning “snow covered”, and was applied by Spanish explorers gazing into the Sierra Nevada Range and the forbidding unexplored territory stretching east.

The national parks in Nevada include: the Great Basin National Park at Baker, NV with 77,100 acres of land. The park features the Lemmon Caves Visitor’s Center with guided cave tours, camping at four developed and two primitive campgrounds and hiking with over 60 miles of developed hiking trails. Nevada’s other national park is the Death Valley National Park located in both Nevada and California with 109,476.8 acres in Nevada. This park features the Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Museum, guided tours of the historic Scotty’s Castle, nine developed campgrounds and three million acres of designated Wilderness area to explore.

The Lake Mead National Recreation Area is located in Arizona and Nevada with 1.5 million acres total and approximately 600,000 in Nevada. The Lake Mead NRA offers lakes catering to boating, swimming and fishing and desert areas featuring opportunities for hiking, biking, wildlife photography and roadside sightseeing. There are numerous facilities for RV’s and car camping.

The three national historic trails crossing Nevada include: the California National Historic Trail, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the Pony Express National Historic Trail. The California National Historic Trail which is over 2000 miles in length passes thru or into eight states from Missouri to California. It is the route that carried gold-seekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California in the 1840’s and 1850’s. Auto Tour Interpretive Guides are being developed for each state that the California National Historic Trail passes through.

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was an overland trade route used between 1829 and the late 1840’s linking Mexican traders, from Santa Fe with markets at Los Angeles. The trail passed through Nevada at Las Vegas.

The Pony Express National Historic Trail links St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California and was the mail route that tied the east to the west in the days before electronic communication. The Pony Express was in opera-

tion for only 18 months between April 1860 and October 1861 but has become synonymous with the Old West. Auto Tour Interpretive Guides are being developed for each state that the Pony Express National Historic Trail passes through.

Bureau of Land Management – The USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages about 67% of Nevada’s land, nearly 47 million acres. The variety of recreational opportunities on these lands is diverse with opportunities for off-road highway vehicles, camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, visiting historical and cultural sites or simply to enjoy the scenic beauty of Nevada’s public lands. The BLM in Nevada manages three National Conservation Areas and twenty-three campgrounds.

More than one million visitors each year enjoy the towering vistas of southern Nevada’s 195,819 acre Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The NCA offers a 13-mile scenic drive, 30 + miles of hiking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, picnic areas, nature observing and a visitor’s center.

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000 protects about 200 miles of emigrant trails from Rye Patch Reservoir, north through the vast Black Rock Desert and then winding through the narrow gorge of the High Rock Canyon. The NCA consists of 800,000 acres including 380,000 acres of Wilderness Area with the Applegate and Nobles emigrant trails as its focal point. The most visible resource, the Black Rock Desert Playa is the site of choice for recreation events that need lots of room. The land speed record was set there in 1997 and the Burning Man Festival attracts nearly 50,000 annual visitors.

The Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area’s 48,438 acres provide peace and solitude for visitors to the unique scenic and culturally rich NCA. The centerpiece of the area, the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site offers one of the most significant cultural resources in Southern Nevada.

Significant Local Outdoor Recreation Resources

Location	City Facility
Boulder City	Veteran's Memorial Park River Mountain Hiking Trail
Caliente	Rose Memorial Park
Carlin	Carlin Recreation Area Carlin Equestrian Park
Elko	Main City Park Mountain View Park
Ely	Ely City Park
Fallon	Millenium Park Fallon Golf Course
Fernley	Out of Town Park In Town Park
Henderson	Arroyo Grande Sports Complex Discovery Park Trail Canyon Park Whitney Mesa Nature Preserve
Las Vegas	Las Vegas Sports Park Lorenzi Adaptive Recreation Center Winding Trails Park Las Vegas Municipal Gold Course Cameron Community Park
Lovelock	Lovelock City Park Lion's Club Park
Mesquite	Recreation Center Park Hunter Sports Park Hafen Trailhead Park Pioneer Complex
North Las Vegas	Cheyenne Sports Complex McCool Regional Park Nature Discovery Park
Reno	Truckee River Whitewater Park Sky Tavern Recreation Area Reno Tennis Center Rosewood Lakes Golf Course Idlewild Park
Sparks	City Recreation Center Sparks Marina Park Shadow Mountain Sports Complex
Wells	Wells City Park

Location	City Facility (Continued)
West Wendover	Toana Vista Golf Course LaCombe Triune Recreation Center West Wendover Equestrian Grounds
Winnemucca	Vesco City Park Highland Park Pioneer Park
Yerington	Mt. View Park Veterans Park Rock Park

Location	County Facility
Carson City	Carson River Park John D. Winters Centennial Park Complex
Churchill County	Churchill County Fairgrounds & Regional Park Churchill County University Research Park
Clark County	Clark County Fairgrounds Moapa Valley Regional Park Sports Complex Silver Bowl Sports Complex Wetlands Park and Information Center
Douglas County	Topaz Lake Recreation Area Lampe Park
Elko County	Lamoille Grove
Eureka County	Eureka County Fairgrounds
Humbolt County	Winnemucca Events Complex
Lander County	Austin Community Park
Lyon County	Dayton Valley Events Center
Washoe County	Bartley Ranch Regional Park Galena Creek Regional Park Gerlach Community Park Sun Valley Regional Park Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
White Pine County	White Pine County Golf Course

Source: Nevada State Library and Archives

According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, outdoor equipment sales and services generated \$1.8 billion in annual economic activity across Nevada in 2006.

The more than 300 rock art panels with 1,700 individual design elements are believed to have been created by native cultures from the Archaic to historic eras.

United States Forest Service – The USDA Forest Service (USFS) land holdings are made up of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Spring Mountains National Recreation area. The Humboldt-Toiyabe covers 5.6 million acres in Nevada, the largest national forest in the lower 48 states with a total of 23 Wilderness Areas. The Spring Mountains National Recreation area is a prime recreation attraction in Clark County. The national forest is managed by ten Ranger District offices throughout the state and in California. The most popular recreational activities in Nevada’s forest lands include: camping, riding motorized vehicles, hiking, hunting, fishing wildlife viewing and various snow sports.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages five national wildlife refuges (NWR) in Nevada: the Ash Meadows NWR, comprises 23,000 acres in the Amargosa Valley in Nye County, Nevada; Desert NWR, is made up of 1.5 million acres of diverse Mojave Desert in southern Nevada; the Moapa Valley NWR, comprised of four separate units totaling 117 acres in the northeastern Clark County, Nevada approximately 60 miles north of Las Vegas; the Pahrangat NWR with 5,380 acres in Lincoln County Nevada, 90 miles north of Las Vegas; and the Sheldon National

Antelope Range, of over half a million acres, in Washoe County. All refuges are considered critical habitat; each is diverse in location and their respective approach to wildlife and habitat management. Each provide outdoor recreation opportunities, although public access is considered secondary to wildlife and habitat management.

Local Recreation Providers

There is an abundance of locally provided outdoor recreation in Nevada, with most cities and counties having facilities designed to serve neighborhood and regional populations. The smallest parks are intended to serve the area within walking distance of the site and usually provide children’s play areas, open space, and picnic sites. Larger facilities usually provide sports fields, bathrooms, and parking areas.

The largest local recreation sites tend to be regional parks that may include trail systems, outdoor theater space, and sports complexes. Notable examples of regional parks include Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, adjacent to Reno in Washoe County, and the Clark County Wetlands Park in Las Vegas. A selected summary of prominent local park facilities is provided in the following chart.



Private Recreation Providers

Given the popularity of outdoor recreation in Nevada, it is to be expected that the private business sector would play an active role in providing services and maintaining facilities. In essentially every city and town within the State there are businesses focused on providing outdoor recreation services, ranging from hunting and fishing guides to jet ski and houseboat rentals.

In effect, for each outdoor activity in Nevada, there is corresponding support and involvement from the private business sector. Public outdoor recreation sites therefore contribute to sales and employment in the private sector, with benefits accruing to retail outlets, tourism facilities, the construction industry, transportation providers, and others. A comprehensive database of LWCF sites has not been developed due to the lack of administrative funds provided to the State for that purpose. A representative sample of private outdoor recreation providers is listed in the following table.



Selected Summary: Outdoor Recreation and the Private Business Sector in Nevada

Activity	Providers
RV Parks	There are at least 61 private RV parks distributed throughout the State.
Ski Areas	Heavenly Valley Ski Resort, Mt Rose Ski Resort, Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Elko Snow Bowl, Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Ruby Mountain Heli-Experience, Spooner Lake Cross Country Ski Area
Hunting and Fishing Guides	At least 36 guides are active across the State in guiding hunting and fishing trips
Hunting License Sales	There are 167 businesses registered to sell Nevada hunting licenses
Sporting Goods Retailers	Nationwide retailers are present in Nevada's major cities. Reno has over 550,000 square feet of retail space devoted to sporting good sales by major retailers and numerous smaller sites occupied by local retailers. Nationwide retailers are also present in Las Vegas, Elko, and Henderson

Sources: www.rv-clubs.us/nevada_rv_campgrounds.html;
<http://www.huntingtripsrus.com/nevada-hunting.html>;
<http://www.ndow.org/about/license/agents.shtm>;
<http://www.fishingworks.com/fishing-guides/nevada/>

The Nevada State Park System

The Nevada State Park system is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010, after being established in 1935 by the State Legislature. The park system opened with four designated sites: Valley of Fire, Cathedral Gorge, Kershaw-Ryan, and Beaver Dam State Parks. Today, the system has grown to 24 total sites and serves over 3.3 million visitors per year. These sites are broadly distributed across the state and encompass a variety of attractions, including lakes and waterways, mountains, and unique attractions such as caves and historical sites.

A brief description of the State Park sites is below.

Northern Region

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, Ione, combines Nevada's natural history, including fossil remains from the ancient seabed geology, with more recent mining and human settlement history. Visitors can view Ichthyosaur remains and explore the remains of the Berlin ghost town.

Cave Lake State Park, Ely, on the border of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, is a popular hiking and camping area. The Park also provides winter attractions including cross country skiing, ice fishing, and ice sculptures.

Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park, Minden, was created from a portion of the 48,000 acre Dangberg ranch. It includes restored farm buildings and artifacts.

Dayton State Park, Dayton, is situated along the Carson River allowing for scenic camping and fishing. Also included is history of Comstock silver mining.

Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, presents multiple elements of Nevada history including pioneer life and the Pony Express. The fort was built and utilized by the US Army in 1860. Access to the Carson River, with hiking and camping, is also provided.

Lahontan State Recreation Area, Fallon, is a camping and water sports center, with both lake and river access.

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Incline Village, includes the world famous Sand Harbor on Lake Tahoe as well as hiking, cultural events, boating, and fishing. The park includes two boat launch sites and beach areas along the shoreline. It also includes the largest park in the area with backcountry terrain that spans three counties and provides mountain biking, camping, hiking, fishing, and cross country skiing on the nearby mountains. *VanSickle Bi-State Park*, located on the Nevada-California boundary near the casino district of South Lake Tahoe, is also part of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. It provides hiking and equestrian trailheads offering access to the Tahoe Rim Trail and local trails. It is jointly managed by CA, NV and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

Mormon Station State Historical Park, Genoa, commemorates the first non-native permanent settlement in Nevada and includes a museum and picnic area.

Rye Patch State Recreation Area, Lovelock, is a water sports and camping area and is well known for outstanding walleye fishing.

South Fork State Recreation Area, Spring Creek, is a popular hunting, camping, and fishing destination. Winter sports, including ice fishing, are also popular.

Walker Lake State Recreation Area, Hawthorne, is a popular fishing and boating site. The lake is a remnant of an ancient inland sea that once covered much of the area.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, Ely, provides camping near the unique ovens used to smelt silver ore mined nearby.

Washoe Lake State Park, Carson City, is a water sports destination as well as a bird watching and hiking site. Equestrian use is increasingly popular. Camping and a wetlands interpretive display are provided.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area, Mountain City, is an active year round fishing destination. Camping and boat launch facilities are provided. Winter temperatures can reach 50 degrees below zero and ice fishing is a common winter activity.

Southern Region

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site, Belmont presents a view of Nevada's 19th century history. The site includes the Courthouse in the historic town of Belmont.

Beaver Dam State Park, Panaca, was one of the first sites designated a State Park in Nevada and is a prime destination for rustic camping and remote hiking in southern Nevada. The park includes camping and fishing.

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area, Laughlin, provides access to the Colorado River, with fishing and water sports being prime attractions. The site includes camping facilities and is popular year-round.

Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, with its distinctive carved cliffs and spires, is a unique and popular attraction. Hiking and camping are popular activities, as is photography, due to the dramatic effects of light and shadow on the spires.

Echo Canyon State Park, Pioche, provides camping in a scenic environment that also includes a boat launch ramp, camping, and hiking trails.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park, Caliente, provides camping and hiking in a dramatic canyon of towering rock faces. Camping and a children's playground are available. This park includes the satellite site *Elgin School House*, a restored one-room school in the nearby town of Elgin. A tour of the site provides a view of life in rural Nevada during the first half of the 20th century.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, is located in downtown Las Vegas and presents an engaging contrast with the sur-

rounding development. It commemorates the first non-native settlers to the area.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, provides a unique mix of historic, natural, and cultural attractions. The site includes a restored ranch, hiking trails, and a summer theater.

Spring Valley State Park, Ursine, combines camping, fishing, and boating resources with the historic attractions of the Stone Cabin Museum.

Valley of Fire State Park, Overton, is Nevada's largest State Park and includes distinctive desert rock formations and striking colors. Native petroglyph sites are also present. The Valley is bisected by a state scenic byway, which provides access to campgrounds, including one with RV hookups, and numerous trailheads.

Native American Recreation Providers

The State of Nevada contains numerous properties owned by Native American groups. Some of these properties are suitable for outdoor recreation and are operated as such by the owners. Prominent facilities are outlined below.

Pyramid Lake: This large lake is contained within the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, northeast of Reno. It is well known for quality fishing and has yielded record-size cutthroat trout. The Reservation provides lake access and RV camping and regulates the sale of fishing permits.

Walker River: The Walker River Paiute Tribe provides access to the Walker River in central Nevada and allows fishing. The river is a popular spot for cutthroat trout. The reservation is centered on the town of Schurz, NV.

Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort: The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe owns and operates this full-service golf operation outside Las Vegas.

Other State of Nevada Recreation Providers

Given the diversity of Nevada’s outdoor recreational resources, management responsibilities are distributed across multiple governmental agencies. Multiple state agencies contribute to outdoor recreation provision, depending on their specific areas of expertise.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) maintains Wildlife Management Areas as part of their mandate to maintain fish and wildlife resources within the State. These areas are popular hunting, camping, and wildlife viewing areas distributed across the State.

Wildlife Management Area	Location
Alkali Lake	Lyon County
Bruneau River	Elko County
Fernley Management Area	Lyon County
Fort Churchill Cooperative Area	Lyon County
Franklin Lake	Elko County
Humboldt Management Area	Pershing and Churchill Counties
Key Pittman Management Area	Lincoln County
Mason Valley	Lyon County
Overton Management Area	Clark County
Scripps Management Area	Washoe County
Steptoe Valley	White Pine County
Wayne E. Kirch Area	Nye County

Source: Nevada Division of Wildlife

NDOW has additional responsibilities that impact outdoor recreation, including maintaining statewide boat registrations, promoting conservation education, and monitoring wildlife populations. The Department is therefore a vital participant in many of Nevada’s most popular outdoor activities.

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has responsibilities for managing natural resources through the Division of Water Resources and the Division of State Lands. The mandate of the Water Resources Division is to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens. The State Lands Division provides planning services related to state-owned lands. The Division is therefore active in outdoor recreation planning on public land.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture promotes the protection of statewide natural resources through its Resource Protection Office and so is an indirect contributor to outdoor recreation in Nevada. The primary function of this office is to resolve conflicts between agricultural activities and sensitive natural resources.

Outdoor Recreation Usage in Nevada

The available data from the Nevada Division of State Parks user survey and the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), allow for insights into usage patterns in state parks, and outdoor recreation resources in general, in Nevada. An analysis of these data provides a clear picture of current usage patterns and user preferences, and allow for the formulation of goals and policies to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in Nevada. An examination and explanation of these data is included here.

One of the most compelling results from the NSRE report is that 98% of all respondents participated in some form of outdoor recreation. Extrapolating to the nationwide population, this means that 208 million Americans, age 16 or older, participate in some type of outdoor recreation. Given that Nevada contains several outdoor recreation sites, such as Valley of Fire, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Lake Tahoe, which draw from an international audience, there is considerable demand for recreation services and facilities. Table 1 compares State Park visitation by out-of-state residents to Nevada residents.

TABLE 1: Nevada State Park Visitation by Place of Residence, Out-of-State Versus In State

Out of State Residents	42 %
Nevada Residents	58 %
Total	100 %

Source: NDSP Survey 2008

Table 1 shows that Nevada State Parks exert a considerable draw on residents outside of Nevada. Of the 3.3 million visitors to Nevada State Parks each year, almost 1.4 million of them are from another state or country.

Note that Table 1 figures are for the State Parks system as a whole. For certain parks, out of state visitation is higher. For Spring Mt. Ranch, 66% of all visitors are from out of state, for Valley of Fire, 71%, for Lake Tahoe Nevada, 57%, for Big Bend, 66%, and for Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, 61%. These parks are near larger metropolitan areas and other tourist attractions and therefore generate visits from tourists seeking to expand their visit to include outdoor attractions.

Outdoor recreation usage in Nevada is spread across a diversity of activities, from simple pursuits like walking to more specialized activities like kayaking. Table 2 summarizes the most popular activities by Nevada residents.

TABLE 2: Most Popular Outdoor Activities for Nevada

Activity	Nevadans Participating
Walk for pleasure	80.2 %
Family gathering	74.2 %
View/photograph natural scenery	64.5 %
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	60.2 %
Picnicking	59.0 %
Sightseeing	53.9 %
Driving for pleasure	53.6 %
Visit nature centers, zoos, etc.	51.2 %
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	49.2 %
Swimming in an outdoor pool	47.7 %

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Table 2, a listing of the top 10 most popular outdoor activities for Nevadans, confirms that the majority of the Nevada population is involved in some sort of outdoor recreation.

Note that the most popular outdoor activities are highly inclusive to participants in that minimal equipment or specialized skills are required. The top three activities, walking, family gatherings, and viewing scenery, are open to essentially everyone. Given these high participation rates, it is clear that outdoor recreation is providing a tangible benefit to a very broad cross-section of the population.



TABLE 3: Most Popular Educational Recreation Activities for Nevadans

Activity	Nevadans Participating
View/photograph natural scenery	64.5 %
Sightseeing	53.9 %
Visit nature centers, zoos, etc.	51.2 %
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	49.2 %
View/photograph other wildlife	43.8 %
Visit historic sites	41.0 %
View/photograph birds	29.0 %
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	26.2 %
View/photograph fish	23.4 %

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

In addition to the largely informal, unstructured recreation that characterizes Table 2, Nevadans have high participation rates in outdoor recreation with an educational component. Table 3 lists the top outdoor recreational activities with an educational component for Nevadans. These activities include visits to historic sites and interpretive centers as well as more specialized pursuits such as bird watching. Some of these activities require specialized equipment and knowledge but the majority can be enjoyed by anyone, including young children.

The participation rates shown in Table 3 are surprisingly high for some activities. For example, nearly half of the total Nevada population enjoys viewing or photographing wildflowers, trees, or other plant life. Almost a quarter of the population has made the effort to view or photograph fish. Based on Table 3 data, it is reasonable to conclude that Nevadans enjoy the natural world and are willing to invest time and energy to view and appreciate it.

Participation Trends

A comparison of the 1995 NSRE survey results with the current 2009 survey results provides a picture of participation trends.

The results of the survey are irrefutably clear: participation in outdoor recreation is up by substantial amounts for many activities. Nevadans clearly are availing themselves of outdoor recreation opportunities and continue to make it an important part of their daily and family life activities.

Participation rates for many established, traditional, activities, such as hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing have increased both on a percentage basis and on a gross number basis. The percentage increases are significant for two reasons: first, the 1995 rates were already high. For example, in 1995, 59% of Nevada’s population, approximately 700,000 people, identified “Walking for Pleasure” as an activity they enjoyed. For 2009, 86% of Nevadans, 1.7 million people, participated in this activity. Second, the percentages increased despite a growing population. In other words, new residents of Nevada are pursuing outdoor recreation with the same or possibly greater enthusiasm as earlier residents. In the case of “Walking for Pleasure”, there are now an additional 1 million Nevadans participating in this activity. It is reasonable to conclude that this has resulted in increased demand for outdoor recreation facilities such as parks, trail systems, and parking/camping facilities.

Table 4 highlights the fastest growing activities for Nevadans.

TABLE 4 Nevada Participation Trends 1995-2009

Nature-Based Activities

Activity	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2009	Millions of participants 2009	Percent change in number of participants 1995-2009
Day hiking	27.7	0.327	42.4	0.850	159.9
Developed camping	19.7	0.233	28.1	0.563	141.6
Primitive camping	18.1	0.214	24.5	0.492	129.9
Backpacking	10.0	0.118	12.0	0.240	103.4
Mountain climbing	9.7	0.115	10.6	0.212	84.3
Rock climbing	6.5	0.077	6.9	0.139	80.5

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Viewing/Learning Activities

Activity	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2009	Millions of participants 2009	Percent change in number of participants 1995-2009
View wildlife (besides birds)	28.4	0.336	45.8	0.919	173.5
View or photograph fish	12.1	0.143	17.0	0.341	138.5
Sightseeing	46.9	0.554	64.8	1.300	134.7
Visit archeological sites	18.8	0.222	23.5	0.471	112.2
Visit nature centers, etc	44.4	0.525	49.9	0.999	90.3
Visit historic sites	35.8	0.423	37.1	0.743	75.7
View birds	23.6	0.279	23.2	0.464	66.3

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Activities in a Developed Setting

Activity	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2009	Millions of participants 2009	Percent change in number of participants 1995-2009
Yard games, e.g., croquet	29.1	0.343	77.3	1.548	351.3
Walk for pleasure	59.1	0.699	85.7	1.717	145.6
Family gathering outdoors	56.2	0.664	79.7	1.598	140.7
Bicycling	24.8	0.293	31.0	0.621	111.9
Picnicking	48.1	0.569	53.6	1.074	88.8

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USF

Water-Based Activities

Activity	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2009	Millions of participants 2009	Percent change in number of participants 1995-2009
Canoeing	2.2	0.026	3.5	0.069	165.4
Kayaking	1.7	0.020	2.3	0.045	125.0
Coldwater fishing	15.7	0.186	17.9	0.358	92.5
Pool swimming	45.3	0.535	51.2	1.027	92.0
Jet skiing	7.5	0.089	8.3	0.167	87.6
Anadromous fishing	5.5	0.065	5.5	0.111	70.8
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	33.2	0.393	33.3	0.668	70.0
Motorboating	22.7	0.268	22.6	0.453	69.0
Warmwater fishing	12.3	0.146	11.0	0.221	51.4

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Snow and Ice-Based Activities

Activity	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2009	Millions of participants 2009	Percent change in number of participants 1995-2009
Snowboarding	2.2	0.027	8.4	0.168	522.2
Sledding	8.0	0.095	18.6	0.373	292.6
Ice skating outdoors	2.1	0.025	3.0	0.059	136.0

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

The percentage increases for many activities is startling in some cases. Even an activity such as primitive camping (camping at an undeveloped site) which requires specialized equipment and planning, has attracted 25% of the Nevada population, or approximately half a million people.

Hunting

Hunting has a long history in Nevada and remains a particular interest to many residents. The State is well known for producing trophy-quality Elk and other big game, along with healthy populations of game birds. Although not among the fastest growing sports as contained in Table 4, hunting is indeed growing and continues to be an important element of recreation, and life in general for many Nevadans. Big game hunting among Nevada residents had 67,000 participants in the 1995 NSRE survey and 94,000 participants in the 2009 survey, for an increase of 40%. Migratory bird hunting increased 57% during this time period, growing from 23,000 participants to 36,000. This hunting activity generates economic benefits and generates revenue for the State in the form of hunting license fees.

Popularity of Major Public Recreation Sites

Nevada is home to several outdoor recreation sites that attract a national, and even an international, audience, primarily Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Red Rock National Conservation Area, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, Great Basin National Park, Valley of Fire State Park, and Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. This presents unique challenges to these parks in terms of meeting user demand, maintaining a quality experience for visitors, ensuring safety, and protecting the attractive environment that makes these parks so successful.

Three of these large parks are near Las Vegas and are a popular attraction for both residents of Las Vegas and visitors to the area. These parks are therefore a vacation destination for people from all over the country and the world as it is common for travelers to Las Vegas to also include them as part of their itinerary. Ensuring that the parks continue to meet the needs of users, while not succumbing to overuse or a lack of sufficient maintenance is a major concern.

Demographic Insights

The NSRE data show that outdoor recreation is strongly correlated to certain demographic characteristics. Specifically, families and individuals with higher incomes and higher levels of education are more frequent participants in outdoor recreation activities.

Table 5 summarizes this link between education level and participation in outdoor recreation through an examination of one of the most popular activities, hiking.

TABLE 5: Nevada Participants in Hiking by Education Level

Hikers' Education Level	Percent Participating
Less than high school	33.7
High school graduate	37.7
Some college	43.1
College degree	59.2
Post-graduate degree	52.9
All Residents, age 16 and older	41.4

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Hiking was chosen as a representative activity because: a) it is a well-established, traditional activity, b) it has a high participation rate, and c) it does not require specialized knowledge or equipment.

The data indicate that participation in hiking tends to increase as education level increases. Equally significant is that the participation rates for the bottom two tiers of education level fall below the statewide average of 41.4% participation while the top three tiers are above the average. Table 6 provides a similar comparison but substi-

tutes family income in place of education. The data indicate a similar trend: participation rates tend to increase as family income increases.

TABLE 6: Nevada Participants in Hiking by Family Income Level

Hikers' Family Income Level	Percent Participating
<\$15,000	37.5
\$15,000-\$24,999	21.0
\$25,000-\$49,999	42.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	54.9
\$75,000-\$99,999	58.0
\$100,000-\$149,999	49.9
\$150,000+	51.5
All Residents, age 16 and older	41.4

Source: NSRE 1999-2009; USFS

Table 6 shows that again the lowest income tiers have participation rates below the statewide average, while the highest groups are above the average.

A conclusion based on this data is that Nevadans with the least education and the lowest incomes are not accessing outdoor recreation at the same rates as the rest of society. If the benefits of outdoor recreation are to be fully realized by these groups, it is necessary to increase public outreach in an effort to encourage greater participation. An avenue for addressing this issue is the Great Urban Parks project as presented by the NPS. The goals promoted by this project assist in providing recreation opportunities that are close to populated areas and have convenient, free access.

STRATEGIES FOR NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION

Given the observed increase in outdoor recreation activity throughout Nevada, it is to be expected that facilities are under pressure to expand their services and to properly maintain existing services. This chapter highlights and examines the most pressing issues facing outdoor recreation in Nevada and identifies strategies to address these issues and to protect outdoor recreation resources into the future. .

The formulation of these strategies was based on extensive outdoor recreation user feedback, including public workshop sessions and park-user survey data. Public input was sought from the widest possible audience of recreation users, including interested citizens, recreation groups, recreation providers, and government officials.

Strategy 1: Ensure Proper Maintenance and Upkeep of Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities. Manage impacts to outdoor recreation sites from increasing usage.

"Take care of what you already have before building more facilities" has been voiced time and again to recreation providers and park managers. *The lack of other funding sources for outdoor recreation development in Nevada has resulted in many facilities which are outdated and / or obsolete.* The NDSP Visitor Survey data supports this conclusion that park users expect and require clean, well-kept facilities. This is to be expected since a substantial number of park visits are related to family-oriented activities where a clean, safe, appealing atmosphere is central to a rewarding visit.

Many respondents in the survey made comments such as "fix bathrooms", "clean fire pits", etc. Equally, when facilities were clean and properly maintained, users noticed and provided positive comments about the facility.

Additionally, proper maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, campgrounds, boat launch ramps, and buildings is essential for basic safety. Recreation providers assume a level of responsibility for ensuring that visitors are safe when using facilities. Maintenance that is deferred or eliminated can result in loss of safety or usability. A commitment to maintenance is inherent in providing outdoor recreation facilities.

This issue gains increased importance in light of the results outlined in Table 4, showing the large increases in participation for many activities. Participation is growing, in many cases at a rate higher than the population growth.

Therefore, this strategy is addresses through LWCF as a criteria that gives weight to projects which identify obsolete facilities in areas with demonstrated need.

Strategy 2: Provide an Appropriate Level of Facilities and Services at Outdoor Recreation Sites.

Outdoor recreation sites in Nevada provide a diversity of activities and services to users, based on the physical capabilities of the site and on recognized demand. For example, Beaver Dam State Park provides relatively few services and includes unimproved tent campsites. Many visitors to Beaver Dam go there for exactly that reason – they are seeking a site with limited improvements. Other parks, such as Valley of Fire, provide RV hookups and multiple amenities.

Many outdoor recreation sites seek to highlight the natural features of an area and provide an appropriate connection between wildlands and developed areas. Each site therefore needs a plan and approach that is appropriate and based on the physical realities of the site. In order to keep a site appealing and functional, facilities should be appropriately scaled to the demand whenever possible. At some sites this may mean providing bathroom facilities that are sized to handle substantial summer and weekend

crowds. In others, it may mean installing a paved parking lot where there is currently gravel. Such decisions must take into account the visual and aesthetic impacts of new construction, and the desire to keep some areas unimproved. However, public outdoor recreation sites as a whole need to manage the balance between providing adequate services demanded by visitors and maintaining a suitable outdoor environment.

NDSP Survey results provide feedback on this issue. When asked which facilities visitors would like to see expanded, the top three responses were: Showers (85% of visitors), restrooms (85%), and campsites (83%). Clearly the demand is present for expanded facilities at some locations. Where appropriate, in terms of available space and environmental considerations, the demands of the public would be better served with expanded camping and sanitation facilities. This is particularly important when considering bathrooms. While the availability of showers and other amenities may be a matter of personal preference at a park or campsite, nearly every park visitor will need a bathroom at some point during a visit. This is borne out in the NDSP data, where 96% of visitors reported using the bathroom. It is easy to imagine that if facilities are not available or are not well maintained, and demand is high, people will make other arrangements.

A similar argument can be made for popular trailheads and parking areas. Where facilities do not meet demand, there is a likelihood of unregulated parking to develop, for litter to gather, or for trails to erode. In such cases, it makes sense to acknowledge what is happening and attempt to accommodate the demand, within the geographic and environmental confines presented by the site.

This goal is particularly important at destination parks. Destination parks, such as Valley of Fire, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Lake Tahoe, are parks that generate visits based solely on the existence of the park and its attractions. For example, many families take extended vacations to Valley of Fire State Park. The park is

their sole destination for the vacation and they may not leave the park for the entire length of their stay. For a destination park, visitors have the realistic expectation that the park will provide basic amenities such as showers and bathrooms that are sufficient for the duration of their vacation.

Some recreation facilities, particularly city and county parks, lend themselves to evaluation based on standards contained within zoning and development codes, or national standards on park sizing and design. Whenever possible, outdoor recreation facilities should be encouraged to meet or exceed applicable design standards.

Actions to promote this strategy are: promote proper long-range planning of facilities; request that grantee entities review, and update if necessary, existing master plan documents and show how they can help to meet the goals of providing for the needed infrastructure levels. For other public outdoor recreation sites, master plan documents should be completed for facilities that do not already have them. Recommended improvements should then be implemented for these sites. Any master planning efforts should, of course, involve significant public input. Where applicable, relevant local or national design standards should be implemented or exceeded.



Strategy 3: Ensure Sufficient Ongoing Funding for Existing and Planned Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

Nevada enjoys a strong commitment to outdoor recreation, through the existence of federal public lands, private recreation providers, and state-owned facilities. The existence of these public facilities guarantees the need for ongoing funding to develop and maintain these parks and other outdoor recreation sites. Without this funding, facilities can not be managed in a manner consistent with safety and cleanliness and new facilities can not be added in response to user demand. A secure funding stream is therefore necessary to maintain the appeal and success of public outdoor recreation sites.

Existing funding is frequently subject to shortage during times of economic slowdown. However, it is possible for some recreation sites to experience an increase in user demand during slow economic times, due to people seeking local, low-cost vacation activities. This places a constraint on the ability to perform required maintenance during times when it may be most necessary.

Recreation providers should work to ensure secure sources of funding, not subject to temporary budget shortfalls. An action to advance this strategy is to promote recognition among State lawmakers that outdoor recreation is a substantial economic benefit to the State. L&WCF State allocations should not be curtailed during periods of economic slowdown. A trust fund, or other means of funding outside of the State general fund, should be established for the maintenance and expansion of outdoor recreation facilities. This is obviously a grassroots driven effort that will also require legislative action. This issue does not affect the criteria for L&WCF, but it does apply to all users and providers of outdoor recreation in the State.

Strategy 4: Promote conservation of state-wide water resources and wildland areas. Strive to work with partners to gain landscape level conservation: river, riparian and natural water bodies and land conservation for wildlife and their habitats.

Landscape level conservation is a goal that has been developed by the NPS. They ask that States strive to achieve goals and fund projects on a landscape or ecosystem level, with particular emphasis on: river, riparian and natural water bodies and land conservation for wildlife and their habitats.

Water-based recreation is consistently rated by recreation users as a prime attraction. This preference is clearly seen in the use rates of existing water facilities. Fishing sites, boat launching areas, swimming areas, and waterside family recreation areas have high use rates across the State. If these water resources are not maintained in a condition that allows for reliable and enjoyable access, outdoor recreation in the State will lose one of the most enjoyable and popular features currently available. The duty to provide and maintain water resources is recognized in state law, under Nevada Revised Statute 534.080, that requires recreational water use to receive equal recognition and protection as other uses.

In addition to outdoor recreation, water resources also form a vital environmental element of wildland areas. Numerous wildlife species, including migratory birds and fish, require these water resources as a central part of their habitat.

Action to address this strategy is: to identify possible wetland acquisition sites, to continue to identify water-based recreation sites and wildland water sources for funding to renovate, rebuild or enhance them to meet the future needs of Nevadans. To work through partnerships and use the Nevada Wetlands Plan which was required, authorized and funded with a L&WCF grant. Wetland areas

identified in the plan should receive a closer look when applying for grants under the L&WCF. Threats to water sources can then be brought to the attention of lawmakers and the public as needed.

Strategy 5: Maintain and Improve Access to Public Land.

Public lands frequently experience development pressure from new housing, transportation routes, and commercial development. This development pressure can, if proper planning is not pursued, reduce the ability of the public to access the public land. For example, a new freeway on the edge of an undeveloped public land area can effectively act as a fence or barrier to the public land unless proper access is included during the design phase. In order for the maximum benefit to be realized from State Parks and public lands, access needs to be maintained and enhanced.

Fortunately, city and county planners have the ability to compel property developers to include public access easements across their sites, to adjoining public land. County and city personnel and elected officials need to promote access to public land and require it be included in the design of new developments. If this access is designed into a project from the earliest phases, access can usually be maintained. If access is not included in the early design work, it can be very difficult or impossible to add later.



Actions to address this strategy include: provide grants to local political jurisdictions (cities, counties, regional planning agencies) that clearly show how they are providing access to public lands, but also how they are NOT cutting off access to public lands. Work with city and county planning departments, to ensure that any land development projects include public access to adjoining public land.

Strategy 6: Maximize Connectivity of Existing and Planned Public Trail Systems.

Trails systems are most valuable when they connect to region-wide trail systems. A small trail system, with no link to the larger area, will not provide the same benefit as one that has regional connectivity. In order to maximize the utility and enjoyment of public trails, connections to surrounding trail systems should be sought and implemented whenever possible. As with Strategy 5, county and city planners have the ability to compel connectivity of trails and outdoor recreation facilities in the design of new land development projects. In fact, this strategy lends itself to the forming of public-private partnerships where land developers work with outdoor recreation groups and local governments to develop a trail network that benefits both the area as a whole and enhances the value of the developer's project. Additional benefits can be obtained through communication and cooperation between governmental jurisdictions, for example trail connectivity should be studied between adjoining state and federal public lands.

Actions to promote this include: provide grants to entities that clearly show how they are providing for connectivity between trails, communities and parks; encouraging city and county lawmakers to include trail provisions (and outdoor recreation amenities in general) as a component of the land development code; promote discussions between land developers and local governments to explore partnership opportunities for the provision of outdoor recreation facilities.

Strategy 7: Increase Educational Facilities and Opportunities at Outdoor Recreation Sites.

Many visitors to Nevada's parks, and outdoor recreation participants in general, are interested in the historical or environmental elements that make the area significant. An educational component of an outdoor recreation site can provide lasting value to visitors and, at some sites, constitute the primary major attraction.

Despite this importance, some sites have minimal or undeveloped educational components. Visitors are more likely to value and remember a site that provides a comprehensive and engaging educational component.

Actions to address this strategy include: provide grants to entities that clearly show how their projects address the importance of education and have made this an integral part of the project and recreational experience. Strive to have projects include educational exhibits in the design of outdoor recreation facilities and upgrade educational exhibits at existing sites.

Nevada residents need easily obtainable and up-to-date information on their outdoor recreation options, including camping reservations, fee information, topographical maps, activity guides, detailed descriptions of attractions, high-resolution trail maps, wildlife descriptions, geologic information, and appealing site photos. Additionally, some sites, such as Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, would benefit from web-based real-time information on parking and boat launch capacity.

Over 90% of State Park visitors got information about Nevada State Parks from the Internet (NDSP Survey 2009). Maintaining an outdoor recreation website is therefore an effective and relatively low cost method of reaching a substantial audience. Actions to address this include enhancement of the NDSP, BLM, USFS, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and local park system websites.



Educating the public and State staff on current L&WCF sites is also needed. NDSP does not currently have the technological infrastructure to create an electronic database to administer and track projects, grants, and inspections. Upgrading this administrative need through planning grants from L&WCF is necessary. This will also aid in reducing costs of the administration as well as the grantee costs of inspections and contract administration.

Strategy 8: Increase Public Outreach on Outdoor Recreation to Children, Students and Currently Underserved Populations.

As discussed under Table 6 above, the data indicate that lower income families participate in outdoor recreation at rates below the population average. This group is, in effect, not seeking the lifestyle and health benefits of outdoor recreation to the same degree as other members of the population. This problem is self-perpetuating in that if lower income parents do not have the resources or the interest in promoting outdoor recreation to their children,

Studies of the social benefits of outdoor recreation frequently find synergistic benefits in other social indicators, beyond the obvious health improvements from activity. For example, reductions in obesity can generate increases in self-esteem with a corresponding improvement in school performance and emotional health.

Actions to promote this strategy include: If the benefits of outdoor recreation are to be fully realized by these groups, it is necessary to increase public outreach and to encourage greater participation. Placing an emphasis on Great Urban Parks, as presented by the NPS, can assist in providing recreation opportunities that are close to population center and have convenient and free access. Projects that target low income areas and children/families are important to reaching the goals of the L&WCF.

this younger generation will not have the interest either. The benefits of outdoor recreation will continue to be lost on this group unless outside action is initiated.



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