



CONFLUENCE OF STATES

A BIPARTISAN MOVEMENT TO BRING OUTDOOR
RECREATION TO THE POLICY TABLE.

Stateline, Nevada

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

September 1, 2022

Presented by Colin Robertson, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation



About Us

We are an alliance of states developing a national platform to grow the outdoor recreation industry, protect our nation's wild places and transform conservation into a driver for economic prosperity. We are proving the great outdoors are our greatest resource.



Confluence Pillars



**Conservation
and
Stewardship**



**Education and
Workforce
Training**



**Economic
Development**



**Public Health
and Wellness**

📍 Members

📍 Future Members 😊



- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Maryland
- Maine
- Michigan
- Montana
- North Carolina
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Utah
- Virginia
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming

The U.S. Outdoor Recreation Economy

\$689 Billion

The Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates the economic output of outdoor recreation to be \$689 billion



4.3 Million Jobs

Outdoor recreation generates millions of quality, high-paying jobs in the United States across a wide variety of industries.



3% of Employees

Three percent of all U.S. employees work in outdoor recreation.



Economic Impact of National Forests

- **2020 Visitation: 168 million** (*international visitors)
- **\$13.5 billion:** direct spending in gateway communities
- **\$25%:** growth in dispersed recreation
- **161,000:** jobs supported in communities near national forests and grasslands



Economic Impact of U.S. National Parks

- **2020 Visitation: 237 million** (no international visitors)
- **\$28.6 billion: value added to national GDP**
- **\$14.5 billion: direct spending in local communities**
- **234,000: jobs supported in communities near national parks**



Economic Impact of Local Parks in the U.S.

- **\$107 billion:** value added to national GDP
- **\$217.76 billion:** direct spending in local communities
- **1,280,724:** jobs supported by local parks
- **\$68.44 billion:** labor income (salaries, wages, benefits)



State Outdoor Recreation Office Partners

- Local, state, and federal government agencies—especially USFS
- Business and Industry leaders
- Nonprofit organizations
- National Governors Association
- State and local tourism offices
- Governors' Offices of Economic Development
- Main Street Communities
- Regional Development Authorities



What do State Outdoor Recreation Offices Do?

- Advocate for outdoor recreation
- Provide whole-of-government approach to addressing recreation challenges
- Coordinate natural resource management, tourism, and economic development
- Develop outdoor recreation policy
- Manage federal funds and grants
- Promote equitable access in the outdoors
- Provide planning and technical assistance
- Support economic development strategies and placemaking, workforce retention



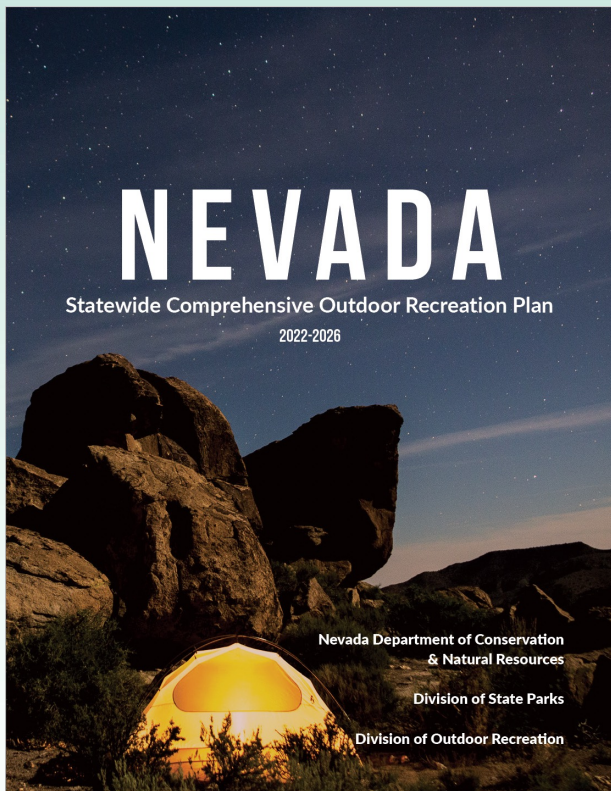


NEVADA
DIVISION OF
OUTDOOR RECREATION

Priorities

- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Nevada Agreement for Recreation Shared Stewardship
- Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Planning
- Enhance Nevada's Outdoor Recreation Profile
- Advocate for Federal Funding: GAOA/LWCF/EDA*/ARPA*
- Leverage Economic Impact: \$4B/year (~\$9B, w/Lake Tahoe)
- Sustainable Rural Community & Economic Development

SCORP and Shared Stewardship



Important to have within walking distance of home

All Respondents



88%

Open Space



74%

Trailhead



72%

Park



50%

Recreational Facility

How You Can Support This Work

Advise

Advise OREC offices and industry partners on needs, opportunities + challenges at district, forest, regional levels.



Prioritize

Encourage and support district, forest and region leadership in engaging OREC offices.



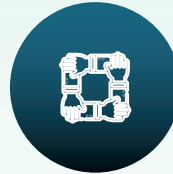
Integrate

Integrate OREC offices into forest planning and problem solving. Work together to advance health and DEI goals.



Engage

Conservation and recreation alliances, economic development agencies, nonprofits, business leaders.





THANKS!

Colin Robertson

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Chair, Confluence of States (2022)

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