

# Protecting the Places We Love

**How the Land and Water Conservation Fund  
Supports Outdoor Recreation in Nevada**



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## How the Land and Water Conservation Fund Supports Outdoor Recreation in Nevada



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January 2020

# Acknowledgments

The authors thank Mauricia Baca, Executive Director, Get Outdoors Nevada, and Andy Maggi, Executive Director, Nevada Conservation League Education Fund, for their review of drafts of this document, as well as their insights and suggestions. The authors also thank Amy Lindholm, Robert Mergell, Janice Keillor, Shevawn Von Tobel, Kurt Kuznicki, Caleb Abbott, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Sophia Kirschenman, Rich Mueller, Sally Grate and Olivia Holmes for the invaluable assistance they have provided. Thanks also to Tony Dutzik, Susan Rakov, Gideon Weissman, Elizabeth Ridlington and Adrian Pforzheimer of Frontier Group for editorial support.

The authors bear responsibility for any factual errors. The recommendations are those of Environment Nevada Research and Policy Center. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders or those who provided review.

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# Executive summary

**N**evada is a place of spectacular natural landscapes: from stark, ethereal deserts to rugged mountain peaks, forests, rivers, lakes, valleys and canyons. Every year, millions of Nevadans and visitors from around the world enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities these lands provide.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – a federal program that uses revenues from offshore drilling royalties to fund conservation projects to protect natural lands and ensure public access to outdoor recreation – has helped to protect many of the lands Nevadans treasure and provide access to trails, nature centers, visitor centers and other facilities that enhance our experience of the outdoors.

**Nevada parks and natural lands that have benefited from LWCF funding receive at least 15 million visitors annually, and local and regional parks and recreation areas receive millions more.<sup>1</sup> To further protect natural lands in Nevada and around the country, the federal government should guarantee full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.**

**Funds provided by the LWCF have expanded Nevadans' access to outdoor recreation and protected critical natural lands.**

Since its founding in 1965, the LWCF has provided more than \$100 million in funding to parks projects and land preservation in Nevada.<sup>2</sup> This funding – which includes money for land acquisition as well as park development, renovation and maintenance – has included:

- **\$45 million** in State and Local Assistance (“State Side”) grants for Nevada’s state parks, national parks, and local and regional parks and recreation areas;<sup>3</sup>
- **\$60 million** in “Federal Side” grants to help protect national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and conservation areas;<sup>4</sup>
- **\$3.9 million** for habitat conservation;<sup>5</sup>
- **\$438,000** through the LWCF’s Forest Legacy Program to help protect forested areas through land purchases and conservation easements.<sup>6</sup>

LWCF funding has helped to protect and enhance lands that are enjoyed by Nevadans in every county in the state.<sup>7</sup>

**National parks and conservation areas:** approximately 11 million visitors per year in Nevada.<sup>8</sup> The LWCF has provided funds for land purchases as well as development grants to improve and maintain facilities. For example:

- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area has received more than \$3 million in LWCF funding, including funds for land acquisitions to ensure the protection of this exceptional landscape and continued public access to the outdoor recreation opportunities it provides.<sup>9</sup>
- A \$33,000 grant to Great Basin National Park enabled the development of an interpretive trail in the park.<sup>10</sup>

**National forests:** 4 million visitors per year in Nevada.<sup>11</sup> The LWCF has provided millions of dollars to help protect Nevada's forested areas.

- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has received more than \$26 million to fund land purchases and ensure continued public access to outdoor recreation opportunities in the forest.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2009 the LWCF contributed \$438,000 for the conservation of Ash Canyon Gateway, allowing increased public access to Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park and the Hobart and Marlette Reservoirs and protecting an area popular with hikers and mountain bikers.<sup>13</sup>

**State parks:** 500,570 visitors per year (based on vehicle count only).<sup>14</sup> Nevada's state parks have received approximately \$24 million in LWCF funding, including funds for land purchases and the construction, renovation and development of facilities.<sup>15</sup>

- Washoe Lake State Park has benefited from almost \$2.8 million from the LWCF, including funds for the initial purchase of land and the development of boating facilities, campgrounds and other amenities used by the thousands of visitors who enjoy the park every year.<sup>16</sup>
- The LWCF recently awarded \$320,000 for the development of an Interpretive Center at Ice Age Fossils State Park to enhance visitors' experience of this unique archaeological site.<sup>17</sup>

**Local parks:** millions of visitors per year. LWCF funding for local recreational projects, from parks to public swimming pools, sports fields and playgrounds, has enabled the creation, development and maintenance of outdoor recreation sites across Nevada, including:

- \$500,000 to finance the initial land acquisition for Sunset Regional Park, now Clark County's most popular regional park, with playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas, baseball fields and other recreational facilities.<sup>18</sup>
- More than \$650,000 awarded to Washoe County's Galena Creek Park has paid for a number of

improvements, including construction of two outdoor amphitheaters, as well as improved access to the park.<sup>19</sup>

**The federal government has repeatedly failed to fully fund the LWCF, resulting in missed opportunities to further protect and enhance outdoor recreation in Nevada.**

The LWCF is entitled to accrue \$900 million per year.<sup>20</sup> However, these revenues cannot be spent unless appropriated by Congress, which means that the actual level of funding available from the LWCF is determined through the annual appropriations process.<sup>21</sup> Only twice in the LWCF's history has Congress chosen to appropriate the full \$900 million for conservation purposes, instead diverting funding from the program to fill budget holes elsewhere and fund other, non-conservation projects.<sup>22</sup>

**Less than half of the \$40.9 billion in total revenues that have accrued in the LWCF over the course of its lifetime have been appropriated and used for the purposes for which the fund was intended, leaving critical lands unprotected and contributing to a growing park maintenance and conservation funding shortfall at the federal and state levels.<sup>23</sup>**

Congress' repeated failure to properly fund the LWCF has left state governments in Nevada and across the country needing a total of \$27 billion for parks and recreation projects that would qualify for LWCF grants, as well as a backlog of unmet federal conservation needs estimated at more than \$30 billion.<sup>24</sup> **In 2018, Nevada's national park units alone needed \$160.9 million to address deferred maintenance, and its state parks millions more.<sup>25</sup>**

In 2019, Congress passed and President Trump signed legislation permanently reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund.<sup>26</sup> To further protect pristine lands and enhance outdoor recreation, Congress should build on this progress by guaranteeing the permanent funding of the LWCF at its authorized level of \$900 million each year.

# Introduction

Photo: National Park Service / Andrew Cattoir



*Lake Mead National Recreation Area.*

When John Muir first visited Nevada in the late 1800s, he was underwhelmed. “To the farmer who comes to this thirsty land from beneath rainy skies,” he wrote, the place seems little more than “one vast desert, all sage and sand.”<sup>27</sup> He quickly discovered that Nevada was much, much more.

In a series of editorials in the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin* reporting on his travels throughout the state, Muir described with affection a land of intense natural beauty and abundance, sprawling forests rich in plant and animal life, soaring mountain ranges and ancient glacial valleys sweeping out into wide-open low desert plains.

“[W]heresoever we may venture to go in all this good world,” he wrote, “nature is ever found richer and more beautiful than she seems, and nowhere may you meet with more varied and delightful surprises than in the byways and recesses of this sublime wilderness.”<sup>28</sup>

The landscapes of the Silver State are some of the finest in the country. From the great natural sculptures of red Navajo sandstone in the southern desert to alpine forests, pristine lakes and snowy mountain peaks in the north, the sheer diversity of Nevada’s natural environment is staggering. Every year, millions of people visit these places to hike, ski, rock climb, ride horses, watch

birds, kayak, fish, sail, and marvel at the region's spectacular vistas.

Nevada's natural beauty is so overwhelming that it's easy to take it for granted. But across the state, many of the landscapes and adventure opportunities Nevadans enjoy would likely not be accessible were it not for a little-known federal program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Since its inception in 1965, the LWCF has used revenue from a range of sources – primarily royalties paid by energy firms engaged in offshore oil and gas drilling – to help protect millions of acres of natural land and ensure public access to outdoor recreation opportunities in every state in the country.

In Nevada, the LWCF has delivered more than \$100 million to support hundreds of projects to expand access to the outdoors.<sup>29</sup> Historic sites such as Fort Churchill State Historic Park, beautiful outdoor areas such as Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and Valley of Fire State Park, and numerous local and regional parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities have benefited from LWCF grants.

The program could have done much more to safeguard and provide access to Nevada's natural wonders, however, if it had been fully funded.

Under the federal law that created the LWCF, the program is entitled to accrue \$900 million per year. These revenues, however, have to be appropriated by Congress before they can be used, and only twice in the LWCF's history has the full \$900 million been appropriated and made available for the purposes for which the fund was intended.<sup>30</sup> Instead, every year Congress diverts millions of dollars owed to the LWCF to fill budget holes elsewhere. This leaves critical natural lands unprotected and has contributed to a nationwide park maintenance and conservation funding shortfall now totaling more than \$10 billion.<sup>31</sup>

In Nevada, officials estimate that the state parks system alone currently needs a total of \$8.7 million to pay for a backlog of priority projects. These include renovations and maintenance at popular outdoor destinations

such as Echo Canyon, Spring Mountain Ranch, Fort Churchill, and Dayton State Park, and the upkeep of historic sites such as Buckland Station and the Red House – a 19th century landmark well known to the hikers and mountain bikers who enjoy the sprawling network of trails in the mountains above Lake Tahoe.<sup>32</sup> In addition, the state's political subdivisions (counties, cities, general improvement districts and others) apply for around \$1.6 million in LWCF grants every year, bringing the total shortfall closer to \$10.3 million.<sup>33</sup> The maintenance backlog for Nevada's national park units currently stands at more than \$160 million.<sup>34</sup>

Early in 2019, Congress passed and President Trump signed legislation permanently reauthorizing the LWCF.<sup>35</sup> The next step is to ensure the passage of legislation guaranteeing permanent and dedicated funding for the program, making the full \$900 million available each year without it having to be appropriated.

As we show in this report, in Nevada, and across the country as a whole, funding provided by the LWCF enables millions of people every year to take advantage of the recreational opportunities its natural landscapes provide. With full funding, the program would be able to accomplish even more, protecting and conserving Nevada's public lands for generations to come.



# The Land and Water Conservation Fund protects critical lands in Nevada and around the country

Created by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the LWCF was the product of bipartisan commitment to protect America's natural lands and ensure that all Americans have access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Over the course of its 55-year existence, the fund has protected more than 5 million acres of land across the country, including in national parks, forests and wildlife refuges, and has supported more than 41,000 state and local park projects, sports fields and other outdoor recreational sites.<sup>36</sup>

The LWCF provides funds for the acquisition of land by the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management for conservation and outdoor recreation purposes.<sup>37</sup> This “**Federal Side**” of the program has helped pay for the acquisition and protection of millions of acres of land across the country.

The LWCF also authorizes a “**State Side**” or State Grants matching grant program to help states and local governments with recreational planning, acquisition of land for outdoor recreation, and the development of recreational facilities.<sup>38</sup> To date, the State Side program has contributed a total of around \$4 billion to more than

41,000 projects nationwide. These funds have supported the acquisition and protection of 3 million acres of recreation lands and the development of recreation facilities in every state in the country.<sup>39</sup>

Since 1998, the LWCF has also funded several other federal programs relating to natural resources. Through the **Forest Legacy Program** of the Forest Service, which protects forested areas through land purchases and conservation easements, it has conserved more than 2.6 million acres of forest land in 53 states and territories across the country.<sup>40</sup> Grants given under the **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** of the Fish and Wildlife Service provide funding to states to work with private landowners, conservation groups and others to protect the habitats of threatened and endangered species. Those grants have totaled \$394 million.<sup>41</sup>

The LWCF was designed to take money earned through the depletion of one natural resource and use it for the protection of others.<sup>42</sup> Under the LWCF Act, the fund is authorized to accrue \$900 million each year, the majority of that revenue coming from royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.<sup>43</sup> Since 2006, the LWCF has received additional funds under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Secu-

rity Act (GOMESA).<sup>44</sup> In total, over the course of its existence, the fund has accrued \$40.9 billion under the LWCF Act and GOMESA.<sup>45</sup>

However, these revenues cannot be spent unless appropriated by Congress, which means that the actual level of funding available from the LWCF for the purposes for which it was created is determined through the annual appropriations process. In practice, these appropriations vary dramatically from year to year. Only twice in the LWCF's history has the full \$900 million been appropriated for conservation purposes.<sup>46</sup> Instead, nearly every year, Congress opts to siphon off much of the revenue owed to the fund to fill budget holes elsewhere. In total, less than half (\$18.9 billion) of the \$40.9 billion that has accrued in the LWCF has been appropriated and used for the purposes for which the fund was intended, leaving an unappropriated balance of approximately \$22 billion.<sup>47</sup> In FY2019 the total appropriation was \$506.6 million (\$435 million in discretionary funds and \$71.6 million in mandatory funds) – a little over half of the full amount that Congress is entitled to appropriate for the LWCF to make available to its intended recipients.<sup>48</sup>

In other words, over the last five and a half decades, had Congress appropriated the full \$900 million each year to put toward conservation projects, as originally intended under the terms of the LWCF's creation, twice as much money could have flowed toward protecting natural lands and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities in Nevada and around the country.

## **The LWCF in Nevada**

Over the last 55 years, the LWCF has provided a total of more than \$100 million to projects in Nevada.<sup>49</sup> Under the State Side program, the fund has awarded more than \$45 million for the conservation of the state's wild places and the creation and maintenance of trails, parks and recreation areas.<sup>50</sup> A further \$60 million from the Federal Side program has helped protect national forests (Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests), wildlife refuges (Ash Meadows NWR, Desert

NWR, Moapa Valley NWR and Stillwater NWR), recreation areas (Lake Mead) and national conservation areas (Red Rock Canyon).<sup>51</sup> The state has also received a total of \$3.9 million for habitat conservation and \$438,000 through the LWCF's Forest Legacy Program.<sup>52</sup>

To date, under the State Side Program, the Nevada State Parks system has received more than \$24 million from the LWCF. Of this, \$6.5 million has been used to purchase land and \$17.7 million for the construction, renovation and development of park facilities. National parks, wildlife refuges and conservation areas in the state have benefited from a total of around \$1.2 million in State Side funding – including \$224,500 for land acquisitions and \$965,000 in development grants – and approximately \$32 million from the LWCF's Federal program.<sup>53</sup> Local and regional parks and outdoor recreation sites in urban areas have received a total of just under \$18 million, of which \$1.4 million has been used for land purchases and \$16.2 million for park development, maintenance and renovations.<sup>54</sup>

LWCF grants have helped fund projects in every county in Nevada. But the success of the LWCF cannot be judged through dollar figures alone, or even by reviewing the impressive list of projects that have been funded through the program or the total number of acres protected. The best gauge of the LWCF's importance is the experience of the millions of Nevadans who enjoy the lands protected and enhanced by the revenues it provides. A review of LWCF funding shows that the program has enriched the lives of millions of residents and visitors each year, while protecting these lands for future generations.

# Lands benefiting from LWCF funding in Nevada are enjoyed by millions

Every year, millions of people visit Nevada's natural landscapes to take advantage of the many opportunities for hiking, climbing, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities these lands provide.

Grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund have helped to protect and preserve some of the state's most cherished outdoor destinations. Approximately 11 million people every year visit national parks and conservation areas in Nevada that have benefited from LWCF funding.<sup>55</sup> Its national forests attract around 4 million visitors,<sup>56</sup> its state parks more than 500,000 (based on vehicle count only),<sup>57</sup> and local and regional parks millions more.

Photo: National Park Service / Christie Vanover, via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0



*Kayaking through Black Canyon, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.*

## National Parks and Conservation Areas

**LWCF funding in Nevada: at least \$9 million<sup>58</sup>**

**Annual visitors to lands benefiting from LWCF funding: at least 11 million<sup>59</sup>**

Funding from the LWCF has helped to protect and enhance the experience of visitors to the state's national parks.

There are four National Park Service sites in Nevada: Great Basin to the east, the harsh desert of Death Valley straddling the border with California, Lake Mead National Recreation Area in the southeast, and the recently-created Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument protecting the delicate desert ecosystem and important archaeological sites in Clark County.<sup>60</sup> In total, National Park Service lands in Nevada have received more than \$380,000 in LWCF State Side grants (Lake Mead National Recreation Area \$350,405 and Great Basin \$33,000) and millions more in Federal Side funding.

- Sprawling across 1.5 million acres of mountains, canyons, valleys and lakes at the convergence of the Mojave, Great Basin and Sonoran Deserts, **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** in Clark County was America's first national recreation area, and is now one of the most visited parks in the national parks system.<sup>61</sup> In 2018, 7.6 million visitors came here to take advantage of the variety of outdoor activities the park provides, including





*Wheeler Peak – the highest mountain in the Snake Range – towers over the forests of Great Basin National Park.*

boating, fishing and watersports on Lake Mead and Lake Mohave, canoeing and rafting on the crystal-clear waters of Black Canyon, and hiking on the miles of trails that crisscross the desert wilderness.<sup>62</sup> LWCF funding has helped make this possible, with grants from the State Side and Federal Side programs totaling more than \$5.2 million.

- **Great Basin National Park** sits in the shadow of Wheeler Peak in the high country of the Snake Range in White Pine County. Known for its epic mountain scenery and ancient bristlecone pines, Great Basin attracts thousands of visitors every year (153,094 in 2018) who come here to enjoy miles of hiking trails and the opportunities for

skiing and snowboarding its snowy mountain slopes provide.<sup>63</sup> A \$33,000 grant from the LWCF enabled the park to develop an interpretive trail to enhance visitors' experience of the area.

Nevada also has three national conservation areas: protected lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of its National Landscape Conservation System.<sup>64</sup> Among the national conservation areas benefiting from LWCF funding are:

- **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.** Covering 196,000 acres in the Mojave Desert, a few miles west of Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon is one of Nevada's most popular outdoor destinations. Its magnificent canyons and peaks are home





*Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.*

to a maze of hiking, running and mountain biking trails, and the dramatic rock formations from which it takes its name make it one of the world's premier rock-climbing destinations, with several thousand climbing routes snaking up its giant slabs and gullies.<sup>65</sup> The area provides crucial habitat for more than 100 species of birds, 45 species of mammals and a rich diversity of other wildlife, including the desert tortoise, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Threatened species.<sup>66</sup> Recent years have seen a surge in visitor numbers, with a record-breaking 3 million people visiting the area in 2018.<sup>67</sup> Since the first 10,000-acre parcel of land was set aside by the BLM in 1964, Red Rock Canyon has benefited from at least \$3 million in LWCF Federal Side funding, including funds for land purchases to enable this exceptional landscape to be preserved for generations to come.<sup>68</sup>

Photo: Stan Shebs, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0



*On the trail into Pine Creek Canyon.*



## Forests

LWCF funding in Nevada: \$27 million<sup>69</sup>

Annual visitors to forest lands benefiting from LWCF funding: at least 4 million<sup>70</sup>

Nevada's forests are some of the largest and most beautiful in the country. These lands attract millions of visitors every year and provide crucial habitats for hundreds of wildlife species.<sup>71</sup>

Under the LWCF's Federal Side program, Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests – combined administratively into the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in 1995 – have received a total of almost \$27 million.<sup>72</sup>

Photo: USDA Forest Service



*Austin-Tonopah Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.*

- At 6.3 million acres, the **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest** is the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Spread out across various different locations throughout Nevada and a small part of eastern California, this vast area contains a multitude of landscapes, from sagebrush steppe to snowy mountain peaks and sprawling woodlands of ponderosa and lodgepole pine, spruce, aspen and alpine tundra. The forest contains 24 wilderness areas, 40 campgrounds, 46 trailheads and almost 2,000 miles of hiking trails.<sup>73</sup> Every year, more than

4 million people come here to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including mountain biking, camping, fishing, hiking, horse-riding and winter sports.<sup>74</sup> LWCF grants totaling \$1.4 million to Humboldt National Forest and more than \$25 million to Toiyabe have funded land purchases and conservation efforts to ensure that these forests will be protected and conserved for future generations.<sup>75</sup>

Administered by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with state agencies, the LWCF's Forest Legacy Program (FLP) provides grants to states to protect forested areas through land purchases and conservation easements. These funds are put toward initiatives that promote sustainable forest management, ensuring that the country's woodlands can continue to deliver the invaluable benefits they provide, such as clean drinking water, fish and wildlife habitats, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1990, the FLP has helped protect more than 2.6 million acres of forested land across 53 U.S. states and territories.<sup>76</sup>

Photo: Susan Elliot / U.S. Department of Agriculture



*Reflections on a beaver pond in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.*

In Nevada, the program has leveraged around \$438,000 in federal funds to invest in the Ash Canyon Gateway in Carson City.<sup>77</sup>

- **Ash Canyon Gateway** is a cooperative initiative between Carson City and the Nevada Division of Forestry to protect a 111-acre area of land on the Carson Front in the High Sierra Nevada Mountains west of Carson City. The kind of woodland found here only exists in Nevada along a 100-mile strip of land between northwestern Washoe County and northwestern Douglas County.<sup>78</sup> The LWCF's Forest Legacy Program contributed \$438,000 of a total investment of \$585,000 that enabled the conservation of the land in 2009, allowing increased public access to Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park and the Hobart and Marlette Reservoirs, and protecting an area popular with hikers and mountain bikers.<sup>79</sup>

## State Parks

**LWCF funding in Nevada: \$24 million+**<sup>80</sup>

**Annual visitors to state park lands benefiting from LWCF funding: at least 500,000 (based on vehicle count only)**<sup>81</sup>

Nevada's State Parks system comprises a variety of protected areas, including state parks, state historic sites and state recreation areas, managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks within the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Nevada's state parks have received a total of more than \$24 million in LWCF State Side grant money, including \$6.5 million for land purchases and \$17.7 million for the construction, renovation and development of facilities in the parks.<sup>82</sup>



Photo: Pixabay

*Valley of Fire State Park has received more than \$1.5 million in LWCF State Side grants.*



Table 1. State Side LWCF funding and vehicle counts by park<sup>83</sup>

Park Name	LWCF Funding*	Vehicle Count (2017)
Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park**	\$6,742,151	206,420
Valley of Fire State Park	\$1,597,368	174,533
Lahontan State Recreation Area	\$1,997,399	58,838
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park	\$1,664,934	51,098
Washoe Lake State Park	\$2,771,340	39,249
Spring Valley State Park	\$999,280	29,311
Rye Patch State Recreation Area	\$327,515	25,556
South Fork State Recreation Area	\$194,953	21,378
Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area	\$435,875	20,628
Cave Lake State Park	\$670,043	17,718
Echo Canyon State Park	\$82,030	17,536
Fort Churchill State Historic Park	\$161,269	16,886
Cathedral Gorge State Park	\$490,205	11,524
Dayton State Park	\$193,149	5,286
Kershaw-Ryan State Park	\$686,626	3,539
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park	\$33,408	2,532
Wild Horse State Recreation Area	\$745,772	2,303
Berlin–Ichthyosaur State Park	\$95,840	2,036
Beaver Dam State Park	\$165,965	618
Walker River State Recreation Area	\$1,555,202	Unavailable
Ice Age Fossils State Park	\$318,889	Unavailable
Mormon Station State Historic Park	\$87,806	Unavailable
<b>Former state parks</b>		
Floyd Lamb State Park***	\$2,062,438	N/A

\* To the nearest dollar

\*\* Visitation total for Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park in this table is the sum of the vehicle counts for each of the park's individual units that have received LWCF grants and for which up-to-date visitor data is available (Cave Rock, Sand Harbor and Spooner Lake). Of the Lake Tahoe-Nevada grant total listed here, funding specifically for Spooner Lake projects has totaled \$538,305, and for Sand Harbor projects \$2,826,440. In 2017, Cave Rock received 33,549 visitors, Spooner Lake 27,843, and Sand Harbor 145,028 (based on vehicle count only).

\*\*\* Ownership of Floyd Lamb State Park was transferred to the City of Las Vegas in 2007, and the park renamed Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs.





*Bikepacking in Washoe Lake State Park.*

- Covering 3,775 acres of land on the southeast shore of Washoe Lake, to the east of Lake Tahoe, **Washoe Lake State Park** opened in 1977 against the backdrop of rapid urban expansion in nearby Carson City and Reno, with the aim of preserving the natural landscapes of the Washoe Valley for future generations to enjoy.<sup>84</sup> More than 39,000 people every year (based on vehicle count) visit the park for hiking, bird watching, horse-riding, fishing and an array of watersports, and to take in its majestic views of the mountains of the Sierra Nevada and the Carson Range.<sup>85</sup> Washoe Lake itself, known for its high winds, is a particularly popular destination for windsurfers.<sup>86</sup> In total, the park has benefited from almost \$2.8 million in State Side LWCF grants, including just over \$1.2 million for the initial purchase of land. Since then, LWCF funding has paid for the development of boating facilities (\$405,000), campgrounds (\$333,000) and other facilities used by the thousands of visitors who enjoy the park every year.
- **Beaver Dam State Park**, occupying more than 2,000 acres along Beaver Dam Wash in Lincoln County, was one of the first state parks established in Nevada after the creation of the state park system by the Nevada Legislature in 1935. The park is a designated Watchable Wildlife Area, its wild forests, canyons and streams home to a range of animals from jack rabbits and porcupines to mule deer, bobcats, great blue herons and mountain lions.<sup>87</sup> A popular destination for hikers, campers, nature enthusiasts and photographers, Beaver Dam has received a total of just under \$166,000 in LWCF funding, including \$53,000 in 2014 for rehabilitation and revegetation of 900 acres of burned land in the park.<sup>88</sup>



- A project currently in development, **Ice Age Fossils State Park** is situated on 315 acres of land on the border of the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas adjacent to Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. In 2018, the LWCF awarded just under \$320,000 for the development of an Interpretive Center to enhance visitors' experience and understanding of this unique archaeological site, rich in ancient fossils and an area of great historical importance to Nevada.

Ice Age Fossils State Park was announced in January 2017 as part of Governor Brian Sandoval's "Explore Your Nevada Initiative" and is due to open in the summer of 2020, becoming the second state park in Nevada, after Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, dedicated to the preservation of prehistoric fossils.<sup>89</sup> The park will feature a network of interpretive trails taking visitors out to the fossil beds and other sites of archaeological interest. Funding will provide staff and facilities for tours and other educational facilities at the site for the public, including school groups, and provide staff and other resources to protect the fossils.<sup>90</sup>

- **Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park** has received a total of almost \$96,000 in LWCF State Side grants, including just over \$21,000 for the purchase of its land.<sup>91</sup> Located on a remote patch of land in the Shoshone mountain range in northwestern Nye County, the park is home to a wealth of undisturbed ichthyosaur fossils as well as the remains of the old mining town of Berlin, abandoned in the early 1900s.<sup>92</sup> Around 2,000 people visit 'Berlin-Icky' every year,<sup>93</sup> many taking advantage of its opportunities for camping, picnicking and hiking, including the hike up the nature trail to the park's Fossil House where its 225-million-year-old archaeological treasures are looked after and displayed.



*Swimmers and picnickers enjoy the beach at Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park.*

In addition to more than \$100,000 in statewide State Side grants for development and maintenance of facilities across its State Parks system, Nevada has also received a total of more than \$1 million to fund a range of statewide planning projects that have led to enhanced opportunities for outdoor recreation and contributed to wildlife conservation initiatives.<sup>94</sup>

Since 1965, the LWCF has provided a total of more than \$800,000 for the development of Nevada's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs), for example.<sup>95</sup> Produced every five years, these plans serve as a comprehensive guide for all public outdoor recreation in urban and rural areas in a given state, laying out the wants and needs of recreation users, establishing outdoor recreation priorities and ways of protecting and managing outdoor recreation spaces, and ensuring citizens have access to these spaces and opportunities to enjoy a range of outdoor activities.<sup>96</sup>

## Regional and local parks

### LWCF funding in Nevada: \$18 million

#### Annual visitors to lands benefiting from LWCF funding: millions

As well as providing funds for the protection and preservation of wild lands, the LWCF also delivers grants to support local recreational projects, from regional and local parks to public swimming pools, sports fields and playgrounds, many of them in or around urban areas. Over the years, places like these across Nevada have received a total of just under \$18 million in LWCF State Side grants.<sup>97</sup> Of this, \$1.4 million has been used for land acquisitions and \$16.2 million for development, maintenance and renovations.<sup>98</sup>

- In 2018, Carson City received \$250,000 from the LWCF to purchase 187 acres of privately owned land, known as **the Hamm property**.<sup>99</sup> The property, though zoned for development, already

had several well-maintained trails connected to trails on adjacent public lands.<sup>100</sup> (See map in Figure 1.) Both the Carson City Open Space Plan and an assessment by the Eagle Valley Trails Committee had identified the Hamm property as a high priority addition to the city's park facilities because it would close gaps between existing public trails.<sup>101</sup> The property is also a mule deer migration area with mature trees and native grasses, and an important part of the visual landscape west of Carson City.<sup>102</sup> Multiple citizens spoke at a public hearing to support its acquisition.<sup>103</sup> As reported by *CarsonNow.org*, Carson City Open Space Administrator Ann Bollinger said, "I've never been out on the property when there haven't been folks out running, hiking, or biking. ... It's a keystone property that connects to other trails, and I'm grateful we haven't lost something so well-loved and well-used as this land is."<sup>104</sup> The land is now protected from development and set aside for recreation.<sup>105</sup>

Credit: Staff Report to the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee.<sup>106</sup>

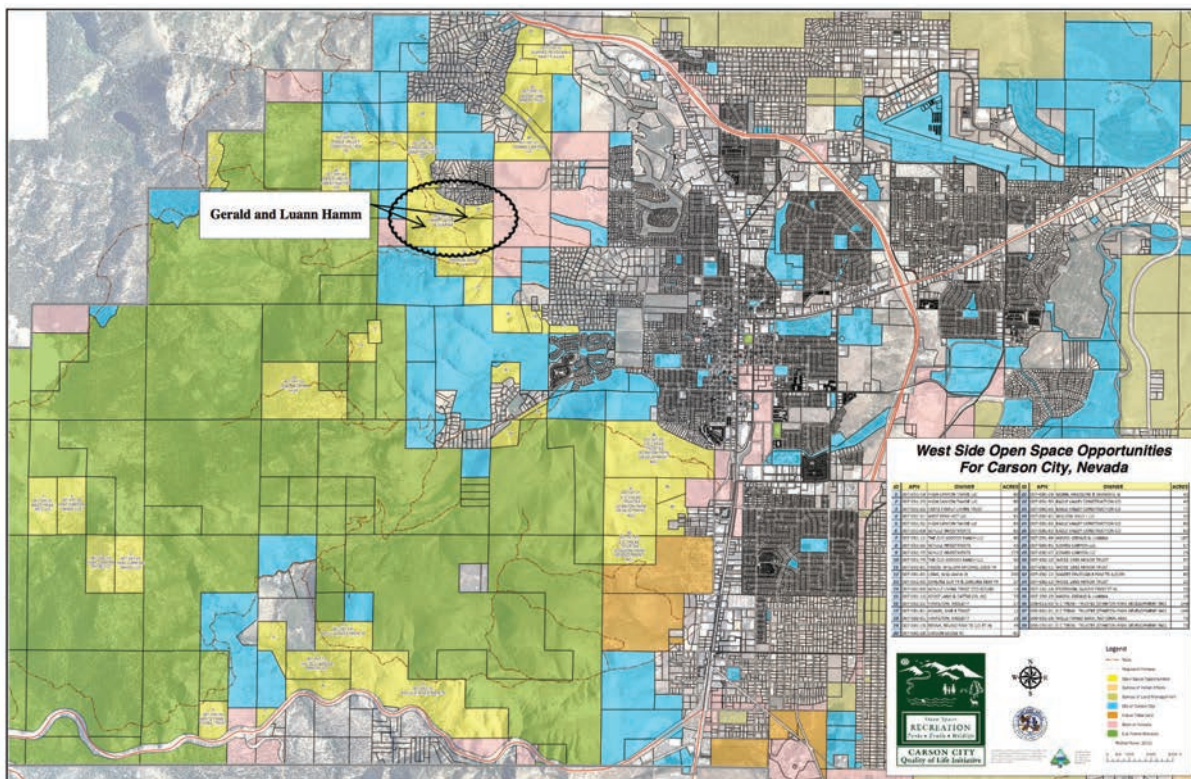


Figure 1. Acquisition of the Hamm property helped close a gap in the network of trails west of Carson City. Green, blue and pink parcels indicate publicly owned land surrounding much of the newly acquired parcel.





*The view from the loop trail at Clark County Wetlands Park.*

- In the desert east of Las Vegas, **Clark County Wetlands Park** was built to slow the flow of treated wastewater and stormwater through the Las Vegas Wash – and in the process became a favorite local park.<sup>107</sup> The first phase of Clark County Wetlands Park was built in 1999, part of a plan to turn six miles of the Wash into a 2,900 acre park.<sup>108</sup> Multiple LWCF grants in the early 2000s helped fund erosion control projects that created lush wetlands and valuable habitat.<sup>109</sup> More than 300 species of resident and migratory birds, including golden eagles, American coots and northern harriers, can be found in the park.<sup>110</sup> The wetlands are an important feeding and resting site for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway, which stretches from Alaska to Patagonia.<sup>111</sup> Today, more than 250,000 people visit Clark County Wetlands Park each year to walk, bike, horseback ride and bird watch.<sup>112</sup> Visitors who are new to bird watching can go on guided walks with birding experts to identify birds and other wildlife.<sup>113</sup> Nearly 34,000 people every year visit the Exhibit Hall in the park's Nature Center, which features interactive displays and educational activities that enhance visitors' understanding of the park's history, habitats and wildlife.<sup>114</sup>
- Washoe County's **Galena Creek Park** attracts more than 250,000 visitors a year to its trails, fishing pond, picnic areas and other recreational opportunities.<sup>115</sup> Surrounded on three sides by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the park's



trails connect visitors to hiking paths and a wilderness area within the national forest.<sup>116</sup> The oldest park in Washoe County's park system, its 420 acres are dominated by Jeffrey, ponderosa and Washoe pine trees, mixed with manzanita, mountain mahogany and other understory plants.<sup>117</sup> Galena Creek flows through the park, creating damp areas with alder, willow and other riparian vegetation.<sup>118</sup> Since 1979, the park has received multiple LWCF grants totaling more than \$650,000.<sup>119</sup> Those funds have paid for construction of two outdoor amphitheaters, helped improve access to the park, and funded other improvements.<sup>120</sup>

- Described as the “crown jewel” of Clark County's park system, **Sunset Regional Park** was made possible with funding from the LWCF.<sup>121</sup> Alarmed by subdivisions consuming the countryside south-east of Las Vegas in the 1960s, long-time residents of the town of Paradise encouraged Clark County to purchase the 325-acre Houssels Ranch to create a new park. The acquisition was funded in part with more than \$500,000 in LWCF grants.<sup>122</sup> Today, the park is Clark County's most popular regional park, repeatedly voted “best park” by readers in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* annual

survey.<sup>123</sup> It offers playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas, baseball fields, fishing, disc golf and other recreational facilities.<sup>124</sup> The park also includes the last remaining example of the sand dunes that once were common in Paradise Valley.<sup>125</sup>

Photo: Neaco via English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0



*Sunset Park includes a lake for fishing.*

# Policy recommendations

**T**he Land and Water Conservation Fund protects natural lands, parks and recreation areas in Nevada that receive at least 15 million visitors each year. LWCF funding makes a real difference for our environment and in the lives of Nevadans – protecting beautiful natural areas, safeguarding wildlife and enhancing public access to the great outdoors.

However, the program has failed to realize its full potential due to regular funding raids by Congress. Across Nevada, critical natural lands remain unprotected and parks facilities lack much-needed resources due to the loss of LWCF funding.

The popularity of Nevada's public lands has created an urgent need for funds to protect and preserve these lands, as well as for maintenance, repairs, and the construction and renovation of facilities capable of accommodating the growing number of Nevadans seeking to enjoy them. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, for example, has seen record numbers of visitors over recent years. In 2018, more

than 3 million people visited the area, breaking the existing visitation record by more than half a million.<sup>126</sup> Before 2013, the park had never even seen 2 million visitors in a single year.<sup>127</sup> This story is far from unique. Across Nevada – and the country as a whole – millions of dollars are needed to enable places like Red Rock Canyon to accommodate soaring visitor numbers and ensure that these beautiful landscapes are cared for and protected.

In 2019, Congress passed and President Trump signed legislation permanently reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund – an important first step toward ensuring that the fund can continue to protect, preserve and manage these critical lands. But to fulfill the LWCF's full promise to the American people, the federal government should commit to fully and permanently fund the LWCF at its mandated \$900 million total, ensuring that the full amount the fund is entitled to accrue each year is made available to its intended recipients to be used to support the conservation and enjoyment of our natural lands and parks for generations to come.

# Methodology

In this report, all data relating to grants administered through the LWCF's State Side program derive from an itemized list supplied to us by the National Park Service on 2 October, 2019.

Itemized lists of grants awarded through the LWCF's Federal Side for acquisitions within federal land units by the federal agency overseeing that unit (the NPS, BLM, FWS or USFS) are not available. The totals that have been appropriated for each unit, cited in this report, are the best compiled data

that exists regarding LWCF Federal Side funding. These figures were provided to us by the LWCF Coalition, with the caveat that because this program predates the keeping of digitized records, and because each agency keeps the data differently, the actual Federal Side totals may be much higher. The data cited for the Forest Legacy Program and Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Program, also supplied by the LWCF Coalition, are, to the best of our knowledge, complete.

# Notes

1. Visitation statistics are only for lands that have received LWCF funding, and are based on most recent available visitor counts.

**National Parks and Conservation Areas: 10,753,094** (Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 7,578,958; source: U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Lake Mead NRA, Annual Park Recreation Visitation (1937 - Last Calendar Year)*, accessed at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=LAKE](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=LAKE), 6 December 2019.

Great Basin National Park: 153,094; source: U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Great Basin National Park*, accessed at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=GRBA](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=GRBA), 6 December 2019.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: 3 million; source: Associated Press, “Red Rock Canyon Crowding Has Land Managers Studying Changes,” *Nevada Public Radio*, 1 July 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206091734/https://knpr.org/headline/2019-07/red-rock-canyon-crowding-has-land-managers-studying-changes>).

**National forests: 4 million** (source: U.S. Forest Service, *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: Year in Review, 2018*, archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20190725124933/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd614076.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20190725124933/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd614076.pdf), 21).

**State Parks: 500,569** (vehicle count only; source: State of Nevada, *State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of State Parks Performance Audit, 2018*, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20181218232350/https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Audit/Full/BE2018/LA18-22%20Division%20>

[of%20State%20Parks.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20191228010939/https://cnr.ncsu.edu/news/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/05/NASPD-AIX-2014-15-Data-Report-Final-copy.pdf), 7. Being based only on vehicle count, this is an extremely conservative estimate. According to the most recent publicly-available edition of the National Association of State Park Directors’ *Statistical Report of State Park Operations*, total annual visitation across the state parks system as a whole is more than 3 million [fee areas: 3,170,288; non-fee areas: 46,361]; see *Statistical Report of State Park Operations: 2014-2015*, Vol. 27, March 2016, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191228010939/https://cnr.ncsu.edu/news/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/05/NASPD-AIX-2014-15-Data-Report-Final-copy.pdf>, 18.)

2. LWCF Coalition, *Nevada: Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage* (fact sheet), accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206091252/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58a60299ff7c508c3c05f2e1/t/5b295319758d46470204832a/1529434905644/Nevada+fact+sheet+6.13.18.pdf>. Note that grant amounts cited throughout this report are not adjusted for inflation.

3. All data pertaining to grants awarded through the LWCF’s State Side program throughout this report are drawn from an itemized list provided by the U.S. National Park Service (Sally Grate, National Park Service, personal communication, 2 October, 2019).

4. See note 2.

5. Funds provided under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Program (Section 6). Amy Lindholm, LWCF Coalition, personal communication, 10 December 2019.

6. See note 2.

7. See note 3. Amy Lindholm, LWCF Coalition, personal communication, 10 December 2019.



8. Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 7,578,958; source: U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Lake Mead NRA, Annual Park Recreation Visitation (1937 - Last Calendar Year)*, accessed at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=LAKE](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=LAKE), 6 December 2019.

Great Basin National Park: 153,094; source: U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Great Basin National Park*, accessed at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=GRBA](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=GRBA), 6 December 2019.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: 3 million; source: Associated Press, “Red Rock Canyon Crowding Has Land Managers Studying Changes,” *Nevada Public Radio*, 1 July 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206091734/https://knpr.org/headline/2019-07/red-rock-canyon-crowding-has-land-managers-studying-changes>.

9. Amy Lindholm, LWCF Coalition, personal communication, 10 December 2019.

10. See note 3.

11. U.S. Forest Service, *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: Year in Review, 2018*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20190725124933/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd614076.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20190725124933/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd614076.pdf), 21.

12. See note 9.

13. U.S. Forest Service, *Forest Legacy Interactive Map*, accessed 6 December 2019 at <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9d083b89bd254c23acf56f8143e0c119>.

14. 2017 visitation estimates for Nevada state parks that have benefited from LWCF funding: 500,569 (vehicle count only). Source: State of Nevada, *State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of State Parks Performance Audit, 2018*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20181218232350/https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Audit/Full/BE2018/LA18-22%20Division%20of%20State%20Parks.pdf>, 7. Being based on vehicle count only, this is an extremely conservative estimate – see note 1.

15. See note 3.

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid. Clark County, *Parks & Recreation: Sunset Park*, accessed 18 December 2019 at <https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Pages/sunset-park-clark-county-nv.aspx>. Most popular: Clark County, *A Century of Service: Centennial: RJ Weekly History Photos*, accessed 18 December 2019 at <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Documents/centennial/history/history-rjweekly-historyphotos.pdf>.

19. Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, Community Services Department, Washoe County, personal communication, 18 December 2019.

20. Carol Hardy Vincent, Congressional Research Service, *Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues*, June 2019, archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20191206085700/https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20190619\\_RL33531\\_8a5e8b3312fb0de14e7feadb29f6a7c8ba44187.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20191206085700/https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20190619_RL33531_8a5e8b3312fb0de14e7feadb29f6a7c8ba44187.pdf).

21. Ibid.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid.

24. LWCF Coalition, *About LWCF*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20190810142234/https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/about-lwcf>.

25. National Parks: Pew Charitable Trusts, *National Park Deferred Maintenance Needs*, accessed at <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2018/national-park-deferred-maintenance-needs?year=2018&state=nevada&park=>, 10 January 2020. Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), speaking in 2019, suggests the figure for Nevada’s national park units could actually be as high as \$220 million: see Allison Winter, “House Democrats Assail Trump’s ‘Reckless’ Plan to Slash National Parks Funding,” *Nevada Current*, 3 April 2019, archived at <http://web.archive.org/web/20190406013732/https://www.nevadacurrent.com/blog/house-democrats-assail-trumps-reckless-plan-to-slash-national-parks-funding/>. State Parks: Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator, Planning, Development and Grants, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of State Parks, personal communication, 2 January 2020.

26. LWCF Coalition, *President Signs Bill Permanently Reauthorizing LWCF* (press release), 12 March 2019.

27. John Muir, *Steep Trails* (Boston: Houghton, 1918), 164.

28. Ibid.

29. See note 2.

30. See note 20.

31. See note 25.

32. Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator, Planning, Development and Grants, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of State Parks, personal communication, 2 January 2020.

33. Ibid.

34. See note 25.

35. See note 26.

36. The Wilderness Society, *Land and Water Conservation Fund*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206085146/https://www.wilderness.org/articles/article/land-and-water-conservation-fund>. See note 2.

37. See note 20. Of the \$18.9 billion appropriated throughout the history of the LWCF, 60 percent has been allocated to federal land acquisition, 26 percent to the State Side program, and 14 percent for other purposes.

38. U.S. National Park Service, *Land and Water Conservation Fund: State and Local Grant Funding*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20190703045901/https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>.

39. Ibid.

40. U.S. Forest Service, *Forest Legacy*, accessed 27 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191227232046/https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>.

41. See note 9.

42. See note 24.

43. See note 20.

44. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, *Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206091054/https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/energy-economics/gulf-mexico-energy-security-act-gomesa>.

45. Accurate as of June 2019. See note 20.

46. See note 20.

47. Ibid.

48. Ibid.

49. See note 2. See note 3.

50. See note 3.

51. See note 2.

52. See note 9.

53. Ibid.

54. See note 3. This figure comprises grants allocated under the categories 'Development' (\$13,366,239) and 'Renovations' (\$2,869,144). Nevada has received a further \$299,447 in combination grants, for both development and acquisitions purposes, for projects relating to Lyons Stadium, Hawthorne Park and Paradise Valley Park.

55. See note 8.

56. See note 11.

57. See note 14.

58. Total: \$8,997,043 (State Side: \$1,189,604.74; Federal Side: \$7,807,438); See note 3. See note 9.

59. See note 8.

60. U.S. National Park Service, *Nevada*, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191115085232/https://www.nps.gov/state/nv/index.htm>.

61. U.S. National Park Service, *7.5 Million People Visited Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 2018*, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20190614034657/https://www.nps.gov/lake/learn/news/2018-visitation.htm>.

62. U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Lake Mead NRA, Annual Park Recreation Visitation (1937 - Last Calendar Year)*, accessed at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=LAKE](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=LAKE), 6 December 2019.

63. U.S. National Park Service, *National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics: Great Basin National Park*, accessed 6 December 2019 at [https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=GRBA](https://irma.nps.gov/STATS/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=GRBA).

64. Bureau of Land Management, *The BLM Nevada National Landscape Conservation System Strategy*, 2015, 4.

65. The Outbound Collective, “Rock Climb at Red Rock Conservation Area,” accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <http://web.archive.org/web/20170721180202/https://www.theoutbound.com/nevada/rock-climbing/rock-climb-at-red-rock-conservation-area>.

66. See note 2.

67. Associated Press, “Red Rock Canyon Crowding Has Land Managers Studying Changes,” *Nevada Public Radio*, 1 July 2019, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206091734/https://knpr.org/headline/2019-07/red-rock-canyon-crowding-has-land-managers-studying-changes>.

68. The BLM withdrew 10,000 acres of Red Rock Canyon for protection in 1964, and in 1967, 62,000 acres were designated Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. In 1990, after a push by Nevadans to ensure greater protections for the area, President George H. W. Bush signed legislation designating Red Rock as a National Conservation Area. See *Guide to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Records*, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200116030557/https://www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/finding-aids/MS-00399.pdf>. Federal Side funding figure: see note 9.

69. See note 9.

70. See note 11.

71. U.S. Forest Service, *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest* (fact sheet), accessed 27 December 2019, archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20190725130020/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd498235.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20190725130020/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd498235.pdf).

72. See note 9.

73. See note 71.

74. See note 11. See note 71.

75. See note 9.

76. LWCF Coalition, *LWCF Programs*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206092030/https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/lwcf-programs>. U.S. Forest Service, *Forest Legacy*, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200117061615/https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>.

77. See note 2.

78. See note 13.

79. U.S. Forest Service, *Forest Legacy Interactive Map*, accessed 6 December 2019 at <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9d083b89bd254c23acf56f8143e0c119>. Carson City, *Ash Canyon*, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/save/https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/parks-recreation-open-space/parks-trails-and-open-space/natural-parks-and-open-space/ash-canyon>.

80. See note 3.

81. See note 14.

82. See note 3. The \$17.7 million figure includes grants awarded to individual parks for specific projects and \$109,000 in statewide grants allocated to the Nevada state parks system as a whole for the development and maintenance of park facilities across the state.

83. Vehicle counts: State of Nevada, *State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of State Parks Performance Audit*, 2018, 7, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20181218232350/https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Audit/Full/BE2018/LA18-22%20Division%20of%20State%20Parks.pdf>.

84. Nevada State Parks, *Washoe Lake State Park*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20191206093948/https://www.stateparks.com/washoe\\_lake\\_state\\_park\\_in\\_nevada.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20191206093948/https://www.stateparks.com/washoe_lake_state_park_in_nevada.html).

85. *Ibid.* Visitation estimate: see note 83.



86. “Windsurfers Rejoice over Washoe Lake; Dub it ‘Brown Maui,’” *Las Vegas Sun*, 1 August 1999, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200115222010/https://lasvegassun.com/news/1999/aug/01/windsurfers-rejoice-over-washoe-lake-dub-it-brown/>.

87. Nevada State Parks, *About Beaver Dam*, accessed 20 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200115221531/http://parks.nv.gov/parks/beaver-dam>.

88. See note 3.

89. Nevada State Parks, *Ice Age Fossils State Park*, accessed 15 January 2020, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200115223013/http://parks.nv.gov/parks/ice-age-fossils>.

90. Nevada State Parks, *Explore Your Nevada Initiative: Fast Facts*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206094244/http://parks.nv.gov/about/explore-your-nevada-initiative/fast-facts>.

91. See note 3.

92. Travel Nevada, *Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park*, accessed 6 December 2019, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191206094351/https://travelnevada.com/discover/25955/berlin-ichthyosaur-state-park>.

93. Based on vehicle count. See note 83.

94. See note 3.

95. *Ibid.*

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