

Healthy Parks, Healthy People

Park visitor numbers have soared during the pandemic

March crowds and closures at Lake Mead:

- [“Parks in Southern Nevada limit visitor access to mitigate COVID-19 spread,”](#) Fox5 KVVU, 23 March 2020.
- C. Douglas Nielsen, [“Coronavirus affects lives of outdoor enthusiasts, too,”](#) Las Vegas Review-Journal, 25 March 2020.
- Lucas Wright, [“Lake Mead announces more closures amid COVID-19 outbreak,”](#) KLAS 8 News Now, 22 March 2020.

May visitation figures: Data supplied by Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator, Planning, Development and Grants, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of State Parks, personal communication, 19 June 2020.

May visitation:

- **Sand Harbor.** May 2020: 88,816; May 2019, 48,978; % increase: 81.3.
- **Spooner Lake.** May 2020: 9,632; May 2019, 4,918; % increase: 95.9.
- **South Fork State Recreation Area.** May 2020: 21,461; May 2019: 10,557; % increase: 103.3.

Red Rock Canyon NCA

- Alex Chhith, [“Free public trails around Red Rock Canyon closed indefinitely,”](#) Las Vegas Review-Journal, 5 April 2020
- Alex Chhith, [“Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive temporarily closes ‘until further notice’”](#), Las Vegas Review-Journal, 22 March 2020.
- Amy Abdelsayed, [“Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive, Visitor Center closed until further notice,”](#) KTNV, 22 March 2020.
- [“Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop closed until further notice,”](#) Newsbreak.com, 23 March 2020.

Access to the outdoors requires funding public lands

- [“Parks in Southern Nevada limit visitor access to mitigate COVID-19 spread,”](#) Fox5 KVVU, 23 March 2020.
- Blake Apgar and Shea Johnson, [“Southern Nevada governments closing playgrounds amid coronavirus fears,”](#) Las Vegas Review-Journal, 23 March 2020.
- Henry Breaun, [“Red Rock Canyon Scrambling to Handle Record Crowds,”](#) Las Vegas Review-Journal, 23 June 2019.
- Nevada national parks maintenance backlog: Pew Charitable Trusts, [National Park Deferred Maintenance Needs](#). Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), speaking in 2019, suggests the figure for Nevada’s national park units could 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.

- Nevada state parks maintenance backlog: Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator, Planning, Development and Grants, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of State Parks, personal communication, 2 January 2020. See also James Horrox, Frontier Group, and Levi Kamolnick, Environment Nevada, [Protecting the Places We Love: How the Land and Water Conservation Fund Supports Outdoor Recreation in Nevada](#), January 2020, p.7.

The LWCF has protected some of Nevada’s most treasured places

- \$104 million+ in total grants: LWCF Coalition, “[Nevada: Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage](#),” 2019.
- Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park, Washoe Lake State Park, and local and regional parks: LWCF **State Side grants** list provided by Sally Grate, U.S. National Park Service, personal communication, 2 October, 2019. Full list available [here](#).
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: Amy Lindholm, LWCF Coalition, personal communication, 10 December 2019. Per this communication, total LWCF **Federal Side, Forest Legacy Program** and **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Program** grants for Nevada are as follows:

Federal side grant totals

Federal Unit Name	Total Funding	Agency
Ash Meadows NWR	\$7,579,000	FWS
Desert NWR	\$500,000	FWS
Humboldt NF	\$1,400,000	USFS
Lake Mead NRA	\$4,807,438	NPS
Moapa Valley NWR	\$2,384,000	FWS
Red Rock Canyon NCA	\$3,000,000	BLM
Soldier Meadow Ranch	\$1,000,000	BLM
Stillwater NWR	\$13,718,000	FWS
Toiyabe NF	\$25,319,000	USFS

Forest Legacy program

Ash Canyon Gateway (Carson City): \$438,000

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Program (Section 6)

FY	Project	Total funding	County
FY03	Lockes Ranch	\$900,000	Nye
FY04	Dave's Island Tract	\$1,000,000	Elko
FY05	Lahontan Cutthroat, Little Humboldt/Snowstorm Mountain	\$600,000	Elko
FY10	Black Rock Station Acquisition (Railroad Valley Springfish)	\$420,000	Nye

FY10	Revert Spring Acquisition (southwestern willow flycatcher, candidate yellow-billed cuckoo, Amargosa toad, Oasis valley speckled dace)	\$968,922	Nye
	Total	\$3,888,922	

For more information on LWCF-funded projects in Nevada, see James Horrox, Frontier Group, and Levi Kamolnick, Environment Nevada, [Protecting the Places We Love: How the Land and Water Conservation Fund Supports Outdoor Recreation in Nevada](#), January 2020, p.7.

To expand access to the outdoors, fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Carol Hardy Vincent, Congressional Research Service, [Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues](#), June 2019.
- State side grants: U.S. National Park Service, [“Land and Water Conservation Fund: State and Local Grant Funding.”](#)
- The Wilderness Society, [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#).

Funding for parks supports our outdoor economy

LWCF Coalition, [“Nevada: Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage,”](#) 2019.