

2024 Partnership Summit Report

Hosted By Lake Mead National Recreation Area,
Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, & Get Outdoors Nevada

Participants: 83

Representation: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, Trail Access Project, Guest Services, Inc., Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Venture Out Vegas, Friends of Red Rock, The Nature Conservancy, Patagonia, Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition, The Wildlife Society, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, Amargosa Conservancy, Get Outdoors Nevada, Cassidy and Associates, Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Travel Nevada, Cox, Spiegel World, Clark County, Clark County Library District, New Hope Foundation International, Moapa Band of Paiute, Southern Band of Paiute, State of Nevada Congressional & Senate representatives, Great Basin Institute, NV Energy, City of Las Vegas, City of Boulder City, community members representing various recreational interests.

Summary

On March 6, 2024, the National Park Service (NPS) Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE), the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, and Get Outdoors Nevada (GON) hosted the inaugural Partnership Summit to gather land managers, NGOs, and businesses to address shared interests, challenges, best practices, and innovative ideas to support the future of outdoor recreation on public lands. This half-day event was comprised of three panels - recreation, conservation, and business – that discussed challenges, resources/opportunities, and potential next steps to support and sustain long-term outdoor recreation services in the face of a changing climate, user interests, and services. Participants were also invited to share their input via written and electronic submissions. Key themes, specific next steps, and details from each panel are provided in this report.

Key Themes

Three overarching, key themes emerged from the Summit:

- **Improve Collaboration to Support Shared Challenges:** Utilize existing land management partnerships [such as the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP), the Regional Open Space and Trails (ROST) group, and the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement] to leverage agency resources to streamline priority services, expand shared messaging, and reduce duplicative efforts.
- **Centralize a Partnership Network Structure:** Leverage existing partnership resources [such as the Nevada Business Coalition and Chamber(s) of Commerce] to develop a clearinghouse of NGOs and businesses that have an interest or stake in public lands. The clearinghouse would coordinate efforts to address business-specific issues and mechanisms for businesses to uniquely support public lands.

- **Improve Federal Agency and Tribal Engagement:** Establish timely, efficient processes that engage and inform tribes on issues so they may provide input on shared efforts while developing sustainable processes that reduce the burden on tribes with limited resources.

All three key themes hinge on creating processes and frameworks for communication, brainstorming, planning, and project implementation to address shared issues. Elements and structures already exist that can be utilized or built upon to develop a “blueprint for action.” Such a “blueprint” will provide long-term guidance for shared stewardship and allow for continuity and longevity independent of agency staff turnover.

Next Steps

Within the frameworks of the three key themes above, there are several specific next steps that emerged from the Summit and have been elevated into the bullet points below. [NOTE: “Potential Next Steps” are detailed in each of the tables in this report, along with “Challenges,” and “Resources and Opportunities” that were identified within each panel discussion.]

- Partner with one of the NGOs to develop and distribute a survey to Summit participants, agency representatives, and other interested parties to help prioritize ideas and processes described in this report.
- As part of the business clearinghouse, create a common vision for cross-entity partnerships to support southern Nevada’s public lands.
- Inform SNAP, ROST, and the Nevada Recreation Shared Stewardship groups of the Summit results and engage them in data collection (e.g. surveys) and next-step discussions.
- Utilize a shared regional NGO tribal consultant as a trusted liaison to establish outreach, information, and collaboration efforts (e.g. a multi-agency federal lands session with tribal councils) to minimize project overlap and improve multi-agency relationships. In partnership with the tribes, identify and develop processes where agencies can co-engage with and obtain tribal input.
- Identify an initial shared project that would allow the partners to develop and test a process and framework that could become the “blueprint for action” (e.g. the Nevada Trail Finder, a public lands messaging campaign, a tribal outreach and input event, etc.)
- Hold a follow-up Summit that uses a breakout group/discussion format to further identify, expand upon, and deepen these initiatives.

Thank you for your support of the Partnership Summit and your role with future collaboration opportunities to better serve Nevada’s outdoor recreation community and our magnificent public lands. LAKE, GON, and the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce look forward to working with all of you in the days and years to come to achieve our shared vision. As panelist Gail Kaiser said, *“We are all one family of recreators.”* Let this be our guidepost.

Mike Gauthier
Superintendent, Lake Mead National Recreation Area
National Park Service

Recreation Panel Summary

Panelists:

- Mandi Elliott - Executive Director, Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition (Moderator)
- Denise Beronio - Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
- Jon Raby - State Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Gail Kaiser - Manager, Las Vegas Boat Harbor

CHALLENGES	RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES	POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-recreational user conflicts (e.g. OHVs, eBikes, mountain bikes, hikers) of a singular area, trail, or resource. • Increasing amounts of trash and human waste and associated management costs. • A lack of signage and maps (and possibly electronic resources) to inform users about rules, where to go/not to go, authorized activities and their locations. • Promoting stewardship, safety, and responsibility alongside recreation. • Reduce compartmentalization of recreators (e.g. bikers, hikers, ATV, equestrian) in areas of shared trails and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public land management agencies have similar needs and limited resources and can partner to better meet needs. • NGOs/non-profit organizations can serve as partners and help address key issues. • Volunteers are an important resource for a variety of solutions beyond single-day events. Some volunteer expertise could be shared across agencies. • The Fiscal Responsibility Act provides opportunities for outside partners to propose and implement a project (EX: BLM "Project Name"). • Recreation is a \$1.1T dollar industry and Nevada is ranked 13th in the nation in income from outdoor recreation that needs to be leveraged as a resource. • The Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement 2019 is one mechanism for agency partnership. (Stewardship Agreement Links: https://dncr.nv.gov/uploads/heritage/NV_Rec_Agreement_final_signed.pdf https://forestry.nv.gov/natural-resource-management/shared-stewardship) • The Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) is updating its Charter. • Outdoor businesses can train their staff to communicate correct, key messaging to outdoor recreators and the public. • Outdoor businesses may be able to creatively help address or solve issues in the public arena that governments/NGOs cannot. • Nevada Trail Finder is a potential system that agencies can build upon and utilize for coordinated information delivery (what processes and components would need to be present for this to happen? Are there any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a common vision for cross-entity partnerships to support public lands in southern Nevada. • Create a stakeholder survey to identify, understand, and prioritize partnership challenges and opportunities. • Identify and develop mechanisms for joint fund-raising for shared issues/challenges including developing a round 21 SNPLMA proposal for shared and structured information (i.e., NV Trail Finder and/or a cross agency messaging campaign). • Identify and develop mechanisms to streamline information sharing and reduce duplicative resources and efforts. • Identify and develop mechanisms for outdoor businesses to strategize how they can support public lands and managers.

CHALLENGES	RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES	POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding and staff across Federal Agencies to manage the recreation and corresponding public safety and enforcement needs. • Meeting the demand for recreation and access (areas being overrun; lack of access for certain demographics; safety concerns with an influx of recreators). • Giving all outdoor recreation users a voice, including tribal representation. 	<p>outstanding needs in the agencies for this type of service? Would it relieve any limited resources, such as GIS staff?).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NV Division of Recreation helps communities develop and implement strategic plans for the outdoors. • NGOs are boots on the ground and are willing and able to help find funding to support identified projects or needs. • Tribal co-stewardship offers human capital, often with lived expertise and ancestral knowledge, of natural and cultural resource protections. • NV Division of Recreation offers grants and has a team of 5 people including GIS/Mapping, drones, and education, foundations/fund raising for specific projects. • NV Division of Tourism and American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is a potential partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop ongoing mechanisms for recreators to have a voice and share ideas and determine how that process and information would be utilized (e.g. Would this be beyond the NEPA input processes agencies use?). • Learn more from BLM (specific examples) of how they use the Fiscal Responsibility Act to engage and empower the public for recreation initiatives. (Have State Director Raby present at a follow-up meeting). • Identify how the larger outdoor tourism industry can be leveraged to address challenges on behalf of the partnership network.

Conservation Panel Summary

Panelists:

- Meghan Wolf - Senior Director, Environmental Campaigns, Patagonia (Moderator)
- Shanandoah Anderson - Tribal Affiliation, Southern Paiute
- Mason Voehl - Executive Director, Amargosa Conservancy
- Jose Witt - Mohave Desert Landscape Director, The Wilderness Society

CHALLENGES	RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES	NEXT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal communities have lost their hunting and gathering rights while traditional and historical knowledge is not being passed down to younger generations. • Communication with tribes struggles to be well maintained due to staff turnover within federal agencies. • Siloing between agencies, NGOs, and tribes limits the sharing of information and reduces efficiencies. • Agencies, NGOs, and tribes are all strapped for resources. • Creating a durable vision for resource protection that considers immediate and long-term needs, as well as science and values. It also needs to identify what we know and don't know. • Pressures on public lands for mining/recreation/renewable energy/multi-use. • All agencies need to erase the notion that others are the "bad guy" from our dialog and thinking. • Resources know no boundaries (e.g. water, animal migration), which makes it a challenge to protect them across multiple jurisdictions. The patchwork of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amargosa Society could share results from its multi-day summit that focused on solutions and vision-building, or the structure could be used as a model for this work. • NGOs are often the conduit for connecting people and sharing information. Each NGO has their individual strengths and audiences. • Tribal and cultural consultants can help make connections to the tribes and develop a more collaborative, unified process for shared agency and/or NGO presentations. • Existing programs like Friends of Nevada Wilderness' Alternative Spring Break and other volunteering opportunities can serve as a gateway for people to connect with and advocate for public lands who may not have done so otherwise. • Utilize education methods from tribes, including Tribal elders who are knowledge keepers and resources or through animals and nature-based storytelling for public land campaigns (i.e., "Drive like a Tortoise" at Lake Mead NRA and USFS mascot Smokey Bear). • BLM is working with multiple tribes to create a tribal-specific Jr Ranger Book for Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. Can the content of this work be shared across agencies to modify? • Many NGOs have people on their boards and who work with them who have been part of the outdoor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a list of NGOs, their individual strengths and audiences, and current projects (e.g. Wilderness Society and public policy, Amargosa Society working with tribes to create educational assets for the community) • Identify and develop a mechanism for agencies and NGOs to have a shared tribal presentation and input structure (e.g. quarterly shared conferences where projects and tribal input needs are presented together or a shared tribal consultant). • Identify and develop a process and structured time for communication between agencies (potential through SNAP or the Nevada Recreation Shared Stewardship Group). • Identify the "base resources" for each organization and how those can be used to advance conservation initiatives. • Identify existing educational assets and how they can be developed

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<p>private/public/tribal lands can make conservation goals challenging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transportation and access to public lands for schools and certain populations (socioeconomic, age, location, physical ability). Tribes also often lack transportation to provide input on or attend public events. • People seem afraid to come into tribal communities. • Agencies and businesses need to acknowledge tribes and their lived experiences and cultural heritages from time immemorial in public remarks, publications, on websites, and more. 	<p>recreation network and area communities for many years whose wealth of knowledge that can be tapped into in a coordinated way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful partnerships and efforts have resulted in National Monuments being designated (e.g. Avi Kwa Ame, Gold Butte). • The NV Indian Territory has resources on how to visit tribal lands. 	<p>and distributed in a shared capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sensitive natural and cultural resources across public lands, their locations, and ways they can be jointly protected.

Business Panel Summary

Panelists:

- Jill Rowland-Lagan - CEO Boulder City Chamber of Commerce (Moderator)
- Rod Taylor - Vice President, Guest Services, Inc.
- Marta Soligo, PhD - Director of Tourism Research, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Kelly Riddle - Vice President, Cassidy and Associates

CHALLENGES	RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES	NEXT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners don't understand one another's wants and needs or individual goals. This includes individual and shared visions and recognizing that each organization is coming from a good place. • Disconnects between federal land agencies and public officials. • A lack of knowledge of state and federal rules and laws (80% of NV is public land). • People don't understand the limitations in the authority of federal agencies/land managers. • Over-use of certain areas and anticipated continued population growth in southern Nevada. • Business permitting across the agencies is varied and can be challenging. • Businesses need to see the benefits of resource protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal delegations have oversight over all federal agencies and they can help direct resources. • Businesses can find and connect with key people and resources and identify their strength, authority, and ability to take action (e.g. write op eds, contact elected officials, identify decision makers). • Businesses must recognize the value of conservation and create a culture for their customers where conservation and income sync. • Lake Mead National Recreation Area holds quarterly virtual public meetings. • Universities can help support research opportunities/internships. • There is no such thing as bad tourism, but there is badly managed tourism. • Identify and analyze how to manage increased crowd control and how businesses can help. • Small businesses can connect and create a system that has power. • Demystify the permit process for outdoor recreation vendors and identify possible ways to sync permit requirements for multi-jurisdictional companies. • The Statewide Economic Impact Analysis can be a resource for businesses for public land advocacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clearinghouse of partners. • Identify systematic and repeat challenges businesses and land management agencies have working with one another, and how those might be addressed (including legislation, if needed). • Create a shared stewardship agreement between outdoor businesses. • Create systems that withstands staff changes to maintain effective facilitation, communication, connections, and operational longevity. • Create support systems for shared fundraising efforts to support public lands. • Identify shared visions for businesses and public land management agencies and what "win-win" looks like.

Participant Comments

NOTE: These are unedited, individual written comments submitted by participants.

Pressing Issues:

- Educating the general public on the purpose, value, and benefits of outdoor recreation on public lands
- More collaborations/engagement with tribal nations/engagement with tribal youth
- Lack of staffing at government agencies to manage and sustain projects
- Lack of financial resources and consistent funding across agencies/needs for sharing responsibilities
- Need for buses and shuttles to increase accessibility and decrease congestion/parking
- Lack of representation/diversity/access on public lands
- Balancing preservation and recreational opportunities
- Blocking social trails
- Responsible recreation
- Clearly communicating what's allowed and not allowed/increased signage

Future Summits:

- Identify and discuss more specific projects from agencies that need support
- Have more and specific examples of avenues for collaboration between agencies
- Have breakout sessions with specific groups/more discussion, Q&A, and brainstorming
- Dig in deeper to identify specific ways agencies, businesses, and NGOs can work together on a few key issues
- Have the next summit center around active brainstorming and problem-solving

Potential Solutions

- Create a blueprint for the participating organizations to get involved with each other (will help with continuity with turnover)
- Leverage the NV Shared Stewardship Agreement and create a local shared stewardship agreement
- Leverage SNAP, ROST, and more interagency initiatives
- Bring businesses together, amplify their voices, and engage them with specific issues and initiatives
- Modernization of funding and fees collection processes across all DOI agencies
- Coordinated fundraising to address shared issues and leverage resources
- Increased and coordinated agency interaction with tribes using a shared approach (several non-profits have employed a tribal consultant/liaison who assembles initiatives across the NGOs and presents them together to the tribes. This minimizes a bunch of scattered presentations. Federal agencies should consider doing something similar.)

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