



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Joe Lombardo, Governor
James A. Settelmeyer, Director
Denise K. Beronio, Administrator

Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation – Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Proposal Presentations

MINUTES

Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Richard Bryan Building
Bonnie Bryan Conference Room (1st Floor)
901. S. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

1. **Call to Order** – Amy Berry 8:30am
2. **Roll Call** – Kendal did roll call

| ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER | REPRESENTATION |
|---|--|
| Garrett Tamagni for Stavros Anthony -absent | Office of Lieutenant Governor |
| Amy Berry, Vice Chair - present | Conservation |
| Mauricia Baca - present | Education |
| Alex Bacchus for Tom Burns – present arrived @ 9:15 | Governor's Office of Economic Development |
| Bobby Jones for Alan Jenne - present | Department of Wildlife |
| Jonathan Brunjes for Robert Mergell - present | Division of State Parks |
| Staci Emm - absent | Department of Native American Affairs |
| Greg Juhl - present | Public Health |
| Nicole Orsua for Rafael Villanueva - present | Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs |
| James A. Settelmeyer - present, arrived @8:45 | Department of Conservation and Natural Resources |
| Debra Strickland - absent | Nevada Association of Counties |
| Chad Taylor - present | Outdoor Recreation Industry |
| Cheva Gabor, Ex-officio, present | United State Forest Service |
| Miles Gurtler, Ex-officio, absent | Bureau of Land Management |

3. **Public comment**

Amy Berry asked for public comment, there was none.

4. **Tier II Applicant Presentations Kendal called for presentations, explained scoring process to TAC, and provided housekeeping rules for breaks.**

8:30am-8:45am: Nevada Outdoor School, Melanie Erquiaga (virtual), Melanie provided the presentation for NOS. Youth programs for 2026 proposals and elaborated on how the NOER funds were used last year. Goal is to get youth outside again with this grant for 2026. Reaches

over 4000 underserved youth including nature journaling and Nature in the Park for over 1100 rural kids. Nature Explorers camps in summer serving over 150, 4–17-year-olds. NOER request is only 50% of the program. Comment from Amy Berry: good application.

8:45am-9am: St Jukes Ranch for Children, Robert Peraza (virtual) – Presented by Kevin Nelson, week-long sibling reuniting camp. The NOER grant previously provided additional engagement and opportunities for kids to experience the outdoors and nature with family. Used Springs Preserve/scavenger hunt, LV Yacht club on Lake Mead for lessons in sailing and hands on experience with siblings to strengthen bonds, new calendar this year with additional activities. This year they would like to go to Mt. Charleston for sibling snow day, Spring Mt. Ranch for super summer theater, and a day at Colorado State Park in Laughlin. Kevin is currently the only program manager and would like to hire a part-time program assistant. Questions: James Settelmeyer asked about why they only attend camp in Irvine. Answer was there are no camps available in NV with same accommodation. Bobby Jones commented - this was discussed last year. Question from Jonathan Brunjes to make sure the cost for field trips that are further away are calculated correctly, Kevin answered that some of the longer distance field trips have more in-kind commitments. Amy Berry, comment about great program.

9am-9:15am: Raise the Future, Andrea Martinez (virtual), and Taylor Wise presented. Family connection camp for kids who have experienced early life trauma. Promotes family-based healing and engagement. This has been successful in other states. Teaching kids to connect with their sensory connectors in their bodies while connecting with the outdoors, and to learn calm and relieve stress/healing. Questions: James, how many camps are across the US? NV has 3-day camps in Vegas, Colorado and UT have been doing camps for many years. 2 and 1 respectively. Chad Taylor, how many per family and how do you choose families? 7-9 family units, small but needs to be for family units – this makes it easy to work in a small group and how many kids per family has impact. Choosing families – who will benefit the most. Kids in different age ranges, to try and round it to have kids interact in same age range. Chad Taylor, how do the families find them? They have a referral through their website or other organizations. Self-referral also. Amy Berry, great presentation and great work.

9:15am-9:30am: Wild Sheep Foundation, Ryan Brock (virtual), Youth education coordinator, youth shooting hunting and ethics training for kids, and educating youth on conservation and wildlife management. Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience. Outdoor and career seminars at Wild sheep Foundation event in Reno. Archery, rock climbing, fishing stations, art. Nevada Outdoor Experience in June @ Capital City Gun Club to come and inspire youth. Archery, trap and Skeet etc. and now Fort Churchill Camping Trip, transportation, meals, student plan and cook for parents, 2 days of outdoor learning. Water testing samples, riding in the outdoors, cooking – first time for lots of kids to go to state park and camping. Learn to shoot archery clinics, free clinics for youth. Taking them to ranges and 3D shoots as well as shoot trap clinics. NRA certified staff that are there to teach. They take kids on Chukar/Pheasant hunts and then they are taught how to clean/cook them. They send them home with recipes to cook their own food. Teach rifle and opportunity to go on Big Game hunt to Shandon CA for 3-day experience. Girls presented at Women in Wildlife. Questions: Amy Berry, cost question, how much is the conference? Part of national convention, half of budget is food. Chad Taylor. Great program, how many of the youth get to go to the convention. 3800 kids come through. Denise Beronio mentioned that NDOR participates in both convention and CC gun club events.

9:30am-9:45am: Democracy Prep, Sarah France (virtual), Dr. Duncan and Mr. Paul, DPCA HS, Nevada Explorers program for 10-12 graders. This is a K-12 public charter school. Promotes academic success in the real world, and as active, global citizens. Excel inside and outside and deep knowledge of community and environment. Field trip experience, community impact. Providing access to nature outside their zip code. To develop skills holistically. Goals to provide access to 80% + of the student population to the outdoors, establishing a legacy of exploration and explore Nevada heritage, and put their hands on the geological aspects of our state. Make the classroom come alive and promote mental health and outdoor skills. Promote environmental education and conservation to share with their families, friends, and communities. Questions: Chad Taylor, re: Clark County School Dist. This program is successfully achieving cost per student experience. Well done. Amy Berry, love that they are incorporating all of Nevada, State and NPS. Greg Juhl, this program is cost effective. With the 14% match, are you looking to expand that. Sarah answer – looking for additional sponsors. James – likes the idea of getting more kids to Hoover Dam. Very few kids have this opportunity now. DCNR is working with Bureau of Reclamation/Hoover Dam to lower costs to get more kids to dam. Bobby, dollar for dollar great project.

9:45am-10am: SOS Outreach, Mia D'Angelo (virtual), Heather Schwartz, Seth Elrich, uses the power of skiing and snowboarding, to build strong character and support social emotional skills. Washoe, Douglas, Lyon, CC outreach. Running 3 intro sessions for youth from Washoe for Diamond Peak and Mt. Rose. Used an example of a youth who has been in the program since 9 YO, now a senior in HS. He is now a Jr. mentor for SOS and how it expanded leadership skills and work ethic, which built life skills. Now his entire family is participating in the program, turning skiing into a family passion. Mentor program has 3 components, outdoor adventure, leadership and skill building workshops, and community contribution. Participate in organized cleanups at Tahoe, Mt. Rose and Vansickle State Park, to participate in community service and conservation efforts. Work with local groups like Keep Tahoe Blue etc. Work with hundreds of kids on all the program efforts. Tahoe Fund is supporter and match. The funds from grant are not used for lift tickets or the like, it's for gear, and transportation. SOS is in 15 locations across the country. Questions: Jonathan, commented on clear the goals and objectives were, and the high level of community service and grant match. Chad Taylor comment, the price per youth served is high. Asked to explain what is "50 hours of gathering": this connects with Johnathan's comment & is a one year mentoring effort, that's service days, workshop, encouraging youth to graduate. A lot of the cost go into the curriculum to highlight the kids, and a lot of moving parts in logistics for programming and equipment – kids get to own their equipment and donated lift passes. Amy Berry, loves this program, 10th year volunteering for this program. Mauricia Baca was also impressed with the leveraging of resources.

10am-10:15am: LEAD with Horses, Jeane Spada-Allgood (in person), and Mary Ann McAuliffe, focus on the unique benefits of working with horses to support growth and wellbeing of young people. The grant will allow expanded reach and services they already provide. Horses have unique accommodation of characteristics and combined with social nature support non-verbal communication. Horses offer multi-sensory for deep healing – improves social emotional and behavioral development of youth. Experiences news partnerships and obtained a new property center for adaptive riding. Sole provider in Washoe. Adaptive riding, equine assisted council. Lots of testimonials for kids with successes. They have a dedicated personal and horse program that supports the program, mental health and youth development is problem, Nevada is last! Barriers to OREC which ties to mental health. Limited opportunities and environments that are not inclusive. Feedback was that kids want more hands on, and after school/work looking for a

full day option. They now have expanded programing, and new facility provides more land and access to Washoe lake beyond arena activities to provide additional in outdoor recreation activities. Designed to promote care for animals, self, environment while building life skills. Teen and tween projects work to engage with national world and animal husbandry, nature study, horse care, to encourage responsibility. Play is a big part of it to encourage social interaction. Connect students with nature, personal responsibility. Questions: Greg Juhl, questions about budget, reasonable price. Has concerns about staff certification and how long it's good for, staff response was that it is making sure professionals receive certifications and properly trained. Staff development turnover is low for both staff and volunteers. There is currently an intern from UNR. James, certification lasts for how long? staff response was it is every two years. Over 600 kids served year-round. They don't provide transportation yet but come from all over local rural and Washoe area. Chad Taylor, can you double that 600 if it was funded if there is space? Yes. Goal is to work on Capital Campaign to triple the number.

10:15am-10:30am: Sierra Nevada Academy, Kassandra Ingalls (virtual), Title 1 charter school in the north valleys, personalized learning through choice and play, and increasing time outdoors. 100% of students experience barriers to outdoor learning. Want to change that by making outdoor learning to outdoor education at school. Birth – PreK, K-5, 6-8, and building a conservation skill set. The program is curiosity driven. Partnership with Sierra NV Journeys for science based learning sessions. Integration with STEM learning. They use flexible outdoor spaces and want them movable throughout campus. Middle grades partners with Urban Roots for school gardens. Mentorship opportunities and focus on stewardship, including after school clubs. Farm & Ranch ELOB Day partners, ag, animal science, land stewardship, mining, DRI, UNR, Urban Roots, Dept of Ag, Farm Bureau. Building environmental literacy and focus is on every child having access to nature. Building stewards to the environment and making the outdoors their classroom. Questions: Chad, what are seat time requirements = required instruction time. \$60 per youth was Chad's assessment. Staff agreed. Greg Juhl, budget question – Kendal will verify. Johnathan had same question and matching funds – how much? Sierra NV Journey's is the match to help lower the cost per child. On a wait list with Urban Roots for additional support.

5. **Recess (15 MINUTES)**

6. **Tier II Applicant Presentations continued**

10:45am-11am: Walker Basin Conservancy, Tailor Purciel (virtual), education outreach coordinator, with Brice Boland of Boys and Girls club of Mason Valley. Work to preserve Walker Lake while protecting environmental, ag, and OREC interests. Worked with 157 farmers to acquire 59% of the flows to restore Walker Lake. 1600 active members in Boy and Girls Clubs (BGC). Majority of youth qualify for free lunch. Ave daily attendance is 550, offers over 15 programs a year in the areas of art, education, health and wellness, service and leadership and sports and recreation. April 2023 partnered with Shurs elementary, in 2023, well received, BGCMV to explore the Walker basin. Enviromenatl Education program official launch September 2023, NOER funding helped to secure full time employees to support the outreach and education program to explore the Walker Basin. Kids used magnify glasses to look at bugs and ID them. Expanded summer program to spring break, Dayton, Silver Springs, Hawthorne and Yerington, for environmental education program. Touched over 3447 youth in 2025. They get bino's and a scavenger sheet, more than doubling the number in one year. 2026 BGCMV and using WBC science and conversation principles, ensure kids get outside, core explore in the

Walker Basin & has 4 core field trips in the summer. Funding from 3 private foundations and other partners. Questions: Amy Berry, great work. Loved last slide as how NOER funds help get matching funds and will it leverage more future funding. Yes, they work to obtain more funding through NGO's and private sector funding in the future, and projects continue to gain recognition for other potential funders. Chad Taylor, well done with leveraging NOER funding, keep the momentum, will more grant money help keep momentum and more funding. Brice – yes. Working for it to segway into other projects and opportunities and evolution of youth to have stake in the game of the conservation world.

11am-11:15am: Red Rock Audubon, Alex Harper (virtual) , education and outreach director, to help organization grow, one of the only members offering staff report, working with NOS also. Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve managed by city of Henderson, youth education programs, 2022 when it was launched. 2-2.5-hour programs 3-4 educators to help keep things personal. And we have lots of volunteers as well. Get kids excited about nature and getting kids outside, 3 of the volunteers are retired Clark Cty educators, 2024 – hosted 28 field trips for 970 students mostly supported by volunteers, and increased that by 19 field trips, including charter and home school groups, but focus on Title 1 schools – kids and teens from local neighborhood. In 2026, it will be on track to increase education programs and bring in more programs outside of field trips. Looking for support to sponsor more field trips to support birds and bird watching conservation, as well as educational materials for students to use and take home with them, laminated bird guides – 1100 guides. And offering those to 810 students to take those guides. Questions: Greg Juhl, how much is the NOER request, asking over 10K, servicing 970+ students through end of 2025, with 810 students being served in 2026. Bobby Jones, are you using tables with E bird, or the NDOW guides as a supplement or your guides instead of the NDOW guide. Alex – the guides are made specific to S. NV. They haven't focused on tablets but use EBird with older students. Identifying with site and sound on site so not to be overwhelming. The sounds ID is a big plus with Merlin ID. Amy Berry, match is now much? Alex – no match.

11:15-11:30am: YMCA of Southern Nevada, Lisa Tomlin (virtual), Erica Stegall, Christian principles promoting health and wellness, race and ethnicity with language barriers. Barriers continue to make OREC activity difficult. NV Outdoor Education and recreation development, 108 hours of curriculum and SE learning. Teaches empathy for land and wildlife conservation efforts. Visits to Mt. Charleston and state parks. Stepping foot on public lands. State there is not much age appropriate learning for kids - using desert wildlife refuge as a learning experience. Supporting 100 more families through this program. They currently don't have enough to support K-2 and transportation is the biggest challenge. They need to double the amount from last year 25 to 50K. NOER allowed for the program to succeed and park entrance is not free and public transit is the biggest barriers. 8% of LV families rely on public transit. Even traveling 30 minutes from home is a challenge for them. Questions: Amy Berry, asked for more details on field trips each month include the topic of the month, staff response: they go to the destination to learn about the topic and try to pair up with rangers or professionals at the park, public land, location etc.

11:30am-11:45am: Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Michelle Witte (virtual), Youth programs manager. Youth backcountry camps and stewardship education. Engage, educate, empower. Applying to expand stewardship education, 19 years doing the youth backcountry camps. Main goal is to get kids outside to have a relationship with the outdoors to empower them with outdoor skills and personal skills. Showing them that the outdoors is somewhere they belong.

YBCC, up to 200 youth in short 10 weeks summer season for multiple 3 days camps. Slopes for Sanity and Urban Indian, Eagle Valley Middle School etc. There is NO technology and immerse them with a highly educated guided experience. Build self-confidence and resilience. The kids really have a huge impact on them without having their phones. This grant is for gear, education and transportation, food and all the gear is provided. Stewardship education piece is new piece this year to reach out to local schools and youth organization for partnership and hit more demographics and inspire Leave No Trace standards. The grant is to increase staff capacity to grow the youth programs to the stewardship education. They will network and build partnerships and beta test lessons and programs, erosion and trail building science is part of the programming, including art, science and adventure. More touch points with students at K-12 and encourage workforce development. This will help build gear/equipment base, gas for transportation, and curriculum building. Questions: Greg Juhl, how many NV youths are average 50% but last year was closer to 80% but anticipate that to grow with NV school integration. Amy Berry: great program and integration with SOS.

11:45am-12pm: Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Karen Rudd (virtual), develop girls in confidence through OREC. Over 95 years old, covers all of N NV, and other areas, and N Eastern side to the Oregon border and down to Bishop. Goal is to accommodate 500 girls. 100% face barriers to the outdoors and 70% qualify for free and reduced lunches. Created Council Led troop program that have low income and rural areas, with BGC's and work to provide transportation, and food security with the NV Food Bank. They work to help kids get financial assistance. Badges that can be earned for 2026, Eco Learner badge, Eco Friend, Eco Camper, Eco Trekker, Clover, Bugs, Flowers, Trees. And then also used for snow shoeing at Chickadee Ridge. GS's build outdoor confidence, interest in the outdoors, big percentage feel that GS taught them about the outdoors and how to take care of the environment. It has helped them overcome fears as well. Questions: Greg Juhl, clarification for programming which was provided.

12pm-12:15pm: Green Our Planet, Woody Worthington (in person), Garden Connect Plus program, impacting 250K students, largest in the nation for green school gardens, STEM education focus, only STEM accredited program in the nation, including farmers markets. Coaching and essential teachers support. Farmers are educators, connect farmers to gardens to bring direct education to students. Weekly school visits – 40 educational touch points per years, hands on engagement, mentorship & support. Water management and sustainability, mentors and support from farmers. Students also see ag sustainability and careers in actions. 93% of students show increase in academic achievement and kids are more excited about STEM. The lesson provides learning opportunities for ag science and ag professionalism. Also teaching financial literacy. Teaching entrepreneurs. They have lots of events sponsors for the Farmers Markets in both Vegas and Carson. NOER grant alignment is high, and students develop tangible ag-tech sustainability skills, environmental literacy, and STEM curriculum. 400+ schools in Nevada is statewide outreach. Mineral County is the only county not participating. Questions: Greg Juhl loves reach of program. Labor is being filled with the NOER grant monies. Johnathan, match is unsecured? SB 104 was passed to support school gardens but not enough. NOER and WIC are supplement. Amy Berry, great detail in programming.

12:15pm-12:30pm: UNR Extension, Nora Luna (virtual), Clark County 4-H overnight camps. Alamo is the location of the camp, Tahoe was the main location of the camp originally but now has a southern location. 120 youth reached, shooting sports, team and pre-teen camps are the 3 camps. 3-4 overnight experiences. Transportation paid for, but meals, activities, and lodging are

what grant would be used for. Build resilience, leadership, independence through OREC, and strengthen environmental literacy and more about NV, Kayaking, hiking, rock wall, fishing, campfire, team building, arts and crafts. They use Experiential Learning Model for curriculum and team building. And then how these skills apply to real life. 4 teen schedules were provided to show the activities and field trips, team building, and debrief at the end of each day, including challenges and night walks, archery, air rifle, sewing, cooking, talent show, cleaning up and awards. And then how camp counselors' involvement and chaperone is with a group for the whole week. Connect students with nature, physical and mental health and fosters stewardship. Increase confidence and positive relationships with NV landscapes. Sometimes they go to state parks. They also partner with NDOW for fishing and kayaking, and they learn about the different opportunities in communities regarding OREC. Water activities. Promotes environmental literacy most kids are from urban areas. Questions: Chad Taylor, impressive cost per student. Transportation is paid for. Can you do more? Yes. They actually do 6 per year but only asking for funding for 3.

12:30pm-12:45pm: Boys & Girls Club Truckee Meadows, Joseph Taglieber (in person), Snow Riders, winter sports are expensive, life ticket prices have increased 4600% since 1942. They partner with Sky Tavern, they provide transportation and meals. Slopes for Sanity provides instruction for Snow Riders. Provides to underserved communities. A lot of kids come from clubs where they don't have transportation access and then internal growth, social emotional learning, S4S partnership focuses on mental health outdoors. The cross over is key with Snow Riders program – through youth skiing/snowboarding, break financial barriers by teaming up with Mt Rose and Sky Tavern, skills taught, problem solving, building grit and resilience, establishing friendships, healthy safety care habits. A lot of the kids are under scholarship with BGC and this offers another layer of building skills and being outside. Taught to care for gear, and exposure leads to retention, and then aged out of the program and then coming back to volunteer as a mentor. A lot of kids have never experienced skiing or snowboarding, and this teaches the sport plus the passion transformation. Self-confidence is built. Future pathways and continued learning that builds to volunteers and community workforce development. Roster is at 40 kids. Questions: Greg Juhl, how do you pick the kids? They ask previous kids if they want to return, then look at 50+ BGC locations to pick kids to participate. The program could be upscaled with right funding. The capacity is there, just need more funding. Mt. Rose donates the lift tickets and Sky Tavern donates the first two sessions for the first 3 hours, then Mt. Rose for the second half. Amy Berry, do you work with SOS Outreach? – Kendal can make outreach connection.

12:45pm-1pm: River Wranglers, Rebecca Felderman (virtual), RRs has been around for over 30 years providing environmental education to thousands of students in the Carson River Watershed. Primarily grant funded, no students are charged for services provided. Also, work with students in Alpine County, CA in that watershed region. Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe also. They do have outreach within several communities. Each county in the CRWS is included. Environmental educational community events like Washoe Earth Day and Cantaloupe Festival, workday activities like build a watershed, non-point source pollution, build a beaver, plant pollinator plants, paint/wrap cotton wood trees, pick up trash etc. and work to meet science standards for each grade level. There is also map reading. They receive a journal to correlate with stations they cycle through. Water quality testing during Snap Shot day, 108 students this last year, plus a hot shot crew of 7 kids to test different sites. Looking to serve 300 8th graders this coming year. Seasonal changes program is 1st grade program, once per season go into classroom or go to a site to visit areas that pertain to those seasons. Trout in the classroom

program is included. 2nd graders usually have different field trips. Over 500 last year participated - the trout in the classroom program. Partnership is with NDOW. They created ornaments for the USCCT this year. They went to Nature Conservancy, worked with RCI, did nature walks, and identified animals. Questions: Chad Taylor, service is wide, and price per students is impressive, and scalable to bring on more. Out of the 5200 students how much time is outdoors per student? Conserve the Carson River workdays example, 3 hours, ag in the classroom is outside, trout in the classroom is 2-5 hours. Other events are 2-8 hours. Amy Berry, do you really serve all students with free and reduced lunch? yes.

7. **Recess (45 MINUTES)** *called back to order at 1:49pm*
8. **Technical Advisory Committee Deliberations:** Discussion to reduce some of the larger requests to fund some of the lower scoring projects who have impact but didn't score as high. Some controversy with one application and their reporting on free and reduced lunch. Robust discussion on top 6 grant scores and then moved up additional grants with mostly partial funding, total of 11 recommended awards. Attempts to reallocate funds to grants that didn't receive full grant awards.
9. **Submit recommendations to NDOR Administrator (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** Amy Berry requested a motion, Greg Juhl motioned, Chad Taylor 2nd, motion passes.
10. **Public comment**
Amy Berry asked for public comment, there was none.
11. **Adjournment:** James Settlemyer motioned to adjourn. Johnathan Brunjes 2nd. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:37pm

Attendance: Kendal Scott, Denise Beronio, Amy Berry, Maurica Baca, Alex Bacchus, Bobby Jones, Jonathan Brunjes, Greg Juhl, Nicole Orsua, James Settelmeyer, Chad Taylor, Cheva Gabor, Melanie Erquiaga, Robert Peraza, Kevin Nelson, Andrea Martinez, Taylor Wiese, Ryan Brock, Sarah France, Dr. Duncan, Mr. Paul, heather Schwartz, Seth Ehrlich, Jeane Spada-Allgood, Mary Ann McAuliffe, Kassandra Ingalls, Tailar Purciel, Brice Boland, Alex harper, Lisa Tomlin, Erica Stegall, Jess Marco, Michelle Witte, Joanne Estes, Karen Rudd, Woody Worthington, Nora Luna, Joseph Taglieber, Jackie Aguirre, Rebecca Felderman.