



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

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

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

1. **Call to Order**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 8:37am by designated chair, Garrett Tamagni, recording started.

2. **Roll Call**

- a. Present: Garrett Tamagni (for Stavros Anthony), Allen Biaggi (for Amy Berry), Bobby Jones (for Allen Jenne), Bob Mergell, Debra Strickland, Chad Taylor, Tammy Boyd (ex officio – for Miles Gurtler), Alex Bacchus, James Settelmeyer (not present for roll call, but arrived 10 minutes after called to order), Brenda Scolari

3. **Public comment**

None.

4. **Tier II Applicant Presentations**

#1 Youth Backcountry Camps on the Tahoe Rim Trail Assoc (TRTA) online, Lyndsy Schultz, executive director, & Veronica Palmer from TRTA. Gave background of TRTA, loop for TRT closed in 2021, users are approximately 750,000 users and it continues to grow. Leave No Trace ethics started to be put in place, adults were educated and then a youth program was introduced with the Youth Backcountry camp. 4-day, 3-night nature experience, fully outfitted and guided, fully funded program out on the trail. The program provides Lessons in local ecology, Leave No Trace, working together to live in the backcountry, Nature based reflections, reaching new peaks, filter water, cooking, carrying a backpack, sleeping under the stars. This is a raw experience. A lot of regional youth don't get to experience their own backyard, ***TRT Thanking our grantors video. The cost is about \$200,000 annually to run the program, \$140,000 is secured, NDOR funding is \$17,922, \$35,000 under review.

Questions:

Allen: who are other grantors? = some 3-year grants, Tahoe Fund CTC, City of SLT, private family foundations.

James: Is it CA & NV kids? About 60% Nevada

Bobby: how many kids per trip? average is 13, hoping to do 15-16 trips, as many as 20 in a season. Need to increase staffing.

#2 River Wranglers in person presentation, Rebecca Feldermann, Carson River Watershed: 501c3, youth hands on learning, work with Churchill, Carson, Lyon, Douglas and Lyon counties. 3,000 students reached in the last year. Many youths' organization reached, STEM nights, Community events, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H students from NV elementary to HS, Flora & Fauna info introduced – environmental education. 11 Carson River workdays provided including all counties that they serve. Watershed, health of river, cooperation with industrial and professionals. Field Days, Trout in the Classroom, Flood Awareness Programs, partnerships with NDOW, exploring the watershed and environment were all included at all age levels.

Questions:

Bob: What is the Match? It is 1:1.

Allen: how do you engage tribal kids? Washoe tribe have engaged in 2 events with River Wranglers in their Dresslerville areas. They utilize animal pelts as well.

Chad Taylor: #1 this group has lowest per youth served cost = good job. Scalability – can they reach more because of this? The restrictions are daytime and volunteer interactions/availability. Some of it is funding.

James: partnerships with Carson River Water sub-conservancy? NDOW, NDWR, NDSP etc., for partnerships is utilized.

#3 YMCA Southern Nevada, online, Jordan May and Erica Stegall, YMCA one of oldest and largest charities in NV, serving over 60,000. Youth development, social responsibility, and healthy living are 3 pillars. Designed to combat learning regression. Emphasis on Social Emotional Learning, evidence-based curriculum. Urban youth stay within 16-mile radius to where they live. OREC education is a focus including additional funding and classrooms to be included. Monthly fieldtrips to public lands around Vegas including transportation. Top-rated environmental education curriculum offered but not enough funding to support these elements to support an additional 160 students annually. Program Impact = Connecting students with nature, environmental literacy, self-confidence, personal responsibility, community involvement. This program gives exposure and access.

Questions:

Brenda Scolari: asked to clarify After School program, how many hours are spent outside, field trips are Friday's afterschool 3pm and usually 2-3 hours, sometimes longer. Other trips that are full days are on a Saturday.

Bobby Jones: 16-mile radius data? comes from a national data.

James: Is it scalable to give less than \$50K? Depends on the amount of the award as to # of school sites that would be funded. Might not fund all 6 schools.

#4 Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus (DPAC), Zion Discovery, online, King Duncan & Sarah France, Jason Gibson, launching innovate initiative program to parallel Nevada's environmental learning standards. K-12 public charter in Vegas to educate responsible citizen scholars for success in college of their choice and a life of active citizenship, engage students with community. 3rd most economically challenged zip code in NV – 89106. Zion experience, complex environmental challenges. Students present their experience to peers and families, increasing impact of their experience including current 8th graders to give them an idea of what they will experience. Holistic Health & Nature's gift, hiking – improves cardiovascular health, mental wellness, outdoor skills. SEL. Expected outcomes are transformative impacts for students. It provides experiential learning:

Questions:

Chad: Budget is great. How many times have you done this? Last year was first. It's a one-day trip.

James: Great Basin is out of reach, but have you thought of partnering with a NSP? 75% of the students have never been out of state, and if they had it was CA. So trying to create more exposure to other states.

#5 St. Jude's Ranch for Children, online, Kevin Nelson, Robert Peraza: Sibling Preservation Program and Camp2Belong. Focus on Sibling preservation, high adverse child experience, parent incarceration, behavioral health disorders, and the separation of siblings by foster care is the largest problem. Monthly and annual activities with siblings outside to bring siblings together. Work with Springs Preserve. Sailing. Other nature opportunities. Annual Camp to belong, 80 kids in sibling preservation program. Capacity building and programmatic sustainability – kids often come back to volunteer. Archery, Birthday celebration, horseback riding, zip lining, arts, crafts, pillow exchange, education. Starting Geo-caching program with kids. Building cultural experiences in the future to grown cultural awareness. Renaissance Fair.

Questions:

None

#6 Nevada Outdoor School, online, Melanie Erquiaga, Jessica Snaman Myers, Inspires exploration of our natural world for youth: Youth, Training, Community Programs. Explore, Connect. Serves rural NV offices in Winnemucca and Elko but go outside of those service areas. NOER last year supported 5534 hours of youth outside. TSO – time spent outside. Connecting youth and nature is empowering. Evelyn one of students Hidden Lake, had transformative experience and wanted to participate and volunteer with other groups. AIC, Action Impact Choice. Nature in the Park fosters over 500 hours of TSO for 4–7-year-olds in 9 rural communities is goal this year. Nature Explorers is the summer camp, OREC education and stewardship. Expanding to incorporate Leave No Trace more and they are a Gold Standard for LNT youth program. Want to expand to Elko Young Naturalist Club to hold session on Fridays. Starting a Nature Journaling Club, STEM journaling and recording observations. Total program is over \$300K, 15% (\$50k ask from NOER grant).

Questions:

Allen: the \$250K that is being used for match, who are grantees, AmeriCorp grant, and Nevada Mining Co's, support from wildlife confirmation groups NBU, Nevada Mule Deer, etc. and manage about 30 different funding groups throughout the year.

#7 Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada, online, Joanna Estes, Karen Rudd – chief development officer, reaching 240 girls with this funding. Partner with schools and youth programs, title 1 schools and low-income communities are targeted. Council Led Troop program addresses barriers to participation by employing professional troop leaders in place of volunteers. Badge focus is on ANIMAL HABITATS, TRAIL ADVENTURE, ECO FRIEND, CAMPER, TREES, SNOW ADVENTURE, OUTDOOR ART. Field trips like hiking, camping, hiking, kayaking, etc. Focus on building leaders outdoors and environmental stewardship. Groups are age appropriate and measurements for leadership and program outcomes.

Questions: NONE

5. **Recess (15 MINUTES)**

6. **Tier II Applicant Presentations continued** (reconvened at 10:46am)

8 – Stead Elementary School, Michelle Will - principal, Nadine Kienhoefer, Title 1 school. Leadership camp outdoors and Team Building: Video presentation. 5th grade students are group of focus. Camp is \$150 per student pays for 2-night camp and overnight experience, total of \$18K, need to purchase tents and sleeping pads for this and future camps. Project Discovery, cook own meals, nature centered activities, fostering stewardship. Many kids don't have an opportunity to see the outdoors otherwise.

Questions:

Bobby Jones: dollar per dollar this is a strong application. Chad Taylor agrees:

Allen: Other funding? PTO provided other \$1000 in funding

#9 Johnston Stem Academy of Environmental studies, online, group presentation: Allison, Amy, Fred, Melanie: Their project focuses on Wetlands, Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Zion, Red Rock, School Garden. Shared video from students. Lots of kids liked the opportunity to hike, garden, have mental wellness and improve physical health, reduce stress, going to a place outside the state. They provided commitment and mission including conservation, stewardship, environmental literacy, this is an environmental STEM School. Learning beyond the classroom. Engineering like at the Hoover Dam, Red Rock Geology to inspire careers in these fields. School garden is the living classroom and is ongoing and maintained at the school – kids have least experience with this and are very excited about this and will allow lots of programs to connect. Barriers to outdoors, finance, transportation and accessibility.

Questions:

Bobby: you have listed students; how many kids will go on a field trip if awarded? Most field trips are 100 students. 6th graders are the focus magnet group. Zion would be less students. Closer field trips will allow for more students. Gardening hope is to get 7th and 8th graders excited.

Chad: Budget is clear. Is this a Clark County School Dist? Yes. Trying to get kids outside of N. Las Vegas. These are charter bus trips.

#10, NV North Cycling Assoc. (Mt. Biking) NICA Nevada North Dirt Tour, 550 student athletes. Serve 5th-12th grade. 260 volunteers, 17 teams. Have a team in Ely and include kids in Foster Care system and would like to expand to rural. DEI/Inclusivity and Equity are part of core values. This is a volunteer run organization, \$200K in volunteer hours for 5 events. Carson City bike park got over 20 letters of support. 75% of students participate in at least one race, and everyone can compete. The other 25% attend practice or other league events. Offer other programs, Teen Trail Corps, Grit (Girls Riding Together), Adventure, summer camps. \$14,000 to buy bikes, trailer etc. Targeted communities include Battle Mt., Elko, Ely (amazing community 9 kids that went to all 5 races this year, and the goal is to bring an event to them) and other rural areas. They are receiving donated equipment; kids of color get special consideration.

Questions: NONE

#11 – Libby Booth Elementary, Sara Cunningham and Mary Culpepper: Sierra NV Journey's outdoor camp. Students in the path have had some engagement with SNJ's. Girls in STEM, social interactions, outdoor activities. Students have a responsibility to be engaged in community, but they are a walking school.

#12 – Burkholder Academy of Science: Ayesha Yacubic: Their goal is to expand their garden, requesting 6 additional garden beds to cultivate Native NV Plants and use it as an outdoor classroom setting. This all stemmed from feedback in a survey to 6th graders. They wanted more ownership. Connect students with nature and foster stewardship. Each garden bed would be dedicated to a classroom, utilizing hydroponics and aeroponic systems to start seeding. They would take data measurement and keep track of health of plants. Their goal is to partnership with outside organizations and governments to repopulate native plants in areas where needed, including wetlands. There is a plan to incorporate ag & sustainability, and encourage team building. Looking to build a greenhouse as well, using NASA's living pod as an example. Native plant seeds have been donated by UNR.

Questions:

Chad: where are you located? Henderson valley.

Allen: Could you scale the project if you didn't receive all of the funding? Yes.

#13 Lahontan Conservation District, Christie with the conservation district within DCNR. GreenWave Plant Systems with Churchill County HS, earn skills cert and potentially college credits. Leadership activities and ag programs. 2 green houses on campus were in disrepair and when Jamie Sammons came on board they were brought up to speed and provided a garden and started an IG account. 25 students in the class. Waiting list for next year. Many of the students have a 504 plan. They volunteer for cantaloupe program, grow herbs and make

tea, started a horticulture group. Want to use grant to expand resources and field trips. They sell products they harvest.

Question:

Tammy Boyd: LEP, Limited English Proficiency.

Allen: 1100 kids served? It does serve the whole school but 50 kids directly, but anyone can engage with the greenhouse, and elementary school is engaged.

Bobby: showed project has value and good collaboration with the conservation dist.

#14 Walker Basin Conservancy, In person, Nick Beaton, Brice Boland: History of Walker Basin Conservancy, work to maintain Walker Lake, and water resources for Ag. Boy and Girls club of Mason Valley, 1500 active members, 550 every day. It is a pillar of the community. Engagement with Walker River Paiute Tribe and were able to bring over 1020 youth outside. Explore the Walker Basin, program launches, in school field trips sessions began in Jan 2024. AmeriCorps came in and presented career opportunities. Regular engagement with schools at all grades. They receive a lot of requests for outdoor curriculum. Lots of collaboration efforts and deeper relationships created. They are not a professionalized program. Goal is to build a year around program, and create new programs, and utilize new professionals to teach the programs.

Questions:

Chad: great scope of work.

#15: Great Basin National Park Foundation, Aviva O'Neil: they are non-profit of GBNP. They are the only NP entirely in the state. Darkest skies in contiguous US, under ground caves, Bristol Cone Pine, oldest tree. Dark sky focus instruction, engage youth in person or virtual, mentored by University professors and write scientific paper that can be a peer reviewed published paper. Great Basin has an observatory. Focuses on ecology, biology, cave systems, and natural and cultural science. Goal is to meet 100% of demand and will add a new program manager to add capacity. GBNP and Snake Valley surrounding area will have a new 5-year study of mountain lions, and studying Mt. Lion kill, and collaring. Help connect teens more with rangers and things like fishing to connect youth to the park. Only 2 people run the program, and two great volunteers. Supporting tribal groups is ongoing.

Questions:

Bobby: Who is leading the Mt. Lion research? SNMPLMA lead by parks service and forest service and BLM.

7. **Recess** until 1:30 pm and then deliberation.

8. **Technical Advisory Committee Deliberations**

Kendal outlined the requirements again. Deliberations and TAC input was considered.

9. **Submit recommendations to NDOR Administrator (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Team came to a decision to fund a diverse range of grants, Debra Strickland motioned, Bob Mergell made a 2nd to consider the grant allocation. All were in favor, no nays.

10. **Public comment**

None.

11. **Adjournment** at 2:02pm

Attendance: Garrett Tamagni, Allen Biaggi, Bobby Jones, Bob Mergell, Debra Strickland, Chad Taylor, Tammy Boyd, Alex Bacchus, James Settelmeyer, Brenda Scolari, Denise Beronio, Kendal Scott, Sarah France, Lyndsy Schultz, Veronica Palmer, Rebecca Feldermann, Jordan May, Erica Stegall, King Dunca, Jason Gibson, Kevin Nelson, Robert Peraza, Melanie Erquiaga, Jessica Snaman Myers, Joanna Estes, Karen Rudd, Michelle Will, Nadine Kienhoefer,

Allison, Amy, Fred, Melanie, Sara Cunningham, Mary Culpepper, Nikki Peterson, Ayesha Yacubic, Christie, Nick Beaton, Brice Boland, Aviva O'Neil.