AGREEMENT FOR RECREATION SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Between

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

INTERMOUNTAIN AND PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONS, and the

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

and

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Whereas:

- Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of the Interior, as well as the Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture, manage 87% of Nevada's lands.

- Participation in outdoor recreation has been growing nationally. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified that increase and generated new and more diverse participation, creating a unique opportunity to encourage stewardship of our public lands, and protect and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

- Outdoor recreation is a $4 billion industry in Nevada, and much of that economic activity is dependent on healthy, resilient public lands. Many rural and gateway communities in Nevada seek to enhance sustainable outdoor recreation-based tourism to diversify their economies.

- Access to outdoor recreation is linked to improved public health outcomes. Federal and state partners can help to address social determinants of health by increasing access for people of all backgrounds and abilities and partnering with health and wellness stakeholders to determine shared values and common goals, build relationships, and generate innovative partnerships to fulfill shared visions.

- Federal and state agencies face limited resources and staffing, contributing to deferred maintenance backlogs, lack of capacity for planning, limitations on developing new infrastructure and a lack of onsite personnel to educate, interpret and, when necessary, enforce. These limitations negatively affect the visitor experience, natural and cultural resources, and potential economic benefits from outdoor recreation.

- Wildfire directly threatens recreation infrastructure and impacts visitor experience through closures or smoke impacts. Conversely, outdoor recreation activities can contribute to unwanted fire, such as from abandoned or escaped campfires, recreational shooting, cigarette smoking, and vehicle use. Wildfire risk also relates to outdoor recreation in terms of responsible development of outdoor recreation gateway communities. Recreation is one of the shared values identified in the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement for Wildfire Risk Reduction signed in November 2019.

- Climate change affects outdoor recreation on public lands indirectly through its effects on ecological conditions and settings, and directly though changes in temperature and precipitation. For instance, hotter temperatures and extended drought conditions can reduce or eliminate recreation opportunities, create safety concerns, and alter visitation dynamics. Sustainability requires adapting recreation opportunities and infrastructure to changed conditions, as well as mitigating their contributions to climate change.

- Equitable and inclusive access for all Nevada citizens and visitors, including Tribal Nations, is vital to outdoor recreation sustainability.

- Multiple funding opportunities, planning efforts, and partnerships, each with its own focus and limitations, currently support outdoor recreation in Nevada. Coordinating and expanding on these is essential to achieving sustainability.

- Public access to important outdoor recreation opportunities may not always be available or guaranteed, depending on land ownership and land use patterns. Acquisitions, easements, and other means may be necessary to establish or protect access to opportunities or to protect key conservation and recreation lands.

- Media, marketing, and other communication about outdoor recreation opportunities influence where, when, and how recreation occurs, which can impact management both

positively and negatively. Recreation participants need easy access to high quality, accurate information in order to set their expectations, enhance their safety, and enable them to behave responsibly within the landscape and among other recreation participants. Additionally, meaningful education and engagement can cultivate a stewardship ethic among recreation participants.

- Shared Stewardship is a collaborative approach to federal land management that emphasizes partnering with states, Tribal Nations, and other groups to identify joint priorities and to develop cross-boundary strategies that make an impact at the right scale. The partners to this Agreement seek to apply the Shared Stewardship approach to achieve ecologically, economically and socially sustainable outdoor recreation in Nevada.

Vision:

Leveraging the strengths, missions, authorities, and capacities of each signatory agency, the parties will collaboratively plan and manage for sustainable outdoor recreation. For the purposes of this Agreement, sustainable outdoor recreation:

1) Provides for an array of appropriate, high quality visitor opportunities
2) Protects and conserves the natural environment, as well as cultural/historic resources
3) Enhances the economies of Nevada communities in a manner that preserves unique aspects of their culture and quality of life

Achieving this vision will require:

1) Strong partnerships among agencies, nongovernmental organizations, Tribal Nations and Nevada communities
2) A sufficient, highly skilled, and stable workforce
3) Creative optimization of funding opportunities

Mutual Objectives:

The parties agree to:

1) Develop a Strategic Plan for achieving sustainable outdoor recreation in Nevada that will guide the parties' efforts to plan and manage recreation opportunities and resources but not supersede existing agency plans or project planning and implementation. The Plan will contain a brief overview of existing conditions, identify other partners and stakeholders, and set forth desired conditions, goals, objectives and action items. It will be informed by this Agreement, as well as by relevant planning documents that guide recreation and conservation decisions within the state and for the parties to this Agreement. In January of each year, the parties will commence a review of the Plan, report accomplishments, and develop and revise Plan components as needed.

2) Integrate the desired conditions, goals, and objectives of the Strategic Plan into relevant future planning documents and administrative initiatives, recognizing that each agency has a unique mission and set of authorities that may influence the degree to which and the manner in which these aims can be incorporated.

3) Identify, integrate, and expand funding opportunities to support sustainable outdoor recreation. Assess how existing authorities and instruments allow the parties to leverage that funding to support sustainable outdoor recreation and identify additional needs.
4) Develop complete, accurate, and collaboratively sourced data sets using state-of-the-art collection and maintenance methods, and develop a plan for data sharing among agencies.

5) Create tools to support Nevada communities, including rural and under-resourced communities, in working effectively with state and federal agencies to develop, plan for, and achieve desired conditions for sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism.

6) Working with other stakeholders as appropriate, coordinate content for media, social media, marketing, and other communications with regard to location, timing, and volume of visitation; responsible recreation messaging, including safety and protection of natural and cultural resources; and fostering a stewardship ethic among recreation participants.

7) Implement this Agreement though an annual (minimum) meeting of authorized representatives or their designees, and through the existing interagency working group convened by the USFS Nevada Liaison and the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation. Voluntary, ad hoc working groups may be established as needed -- for example, to develop the strategic plan.

Modifications and Periodic Review of Agreement:

This Agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective for 5 years at which time it will expire. The State, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service agree to review this document prior to expiration to evaluate progress toward the mutual objectives and make appropriate adjustments, prior to signing a new Agreement.

Mutual Understandings:

This document creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. Nothing in this document authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.

The parties are bound by all applicable federal, state and local statutes and regulations, and this Agreement does not supersede those.

The signatory agencies will adhere to all relevant laws, regulations and policies regarding consultation and coordination with Tribal Nations in working toward the objectives identified in this Agreement.

The parties will protect sacred sites and preserve cultural resources and take all necessary actions to protect data collected from Tribal Nations.

Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no U.S. member of, or U.S. delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly. In addition, this document is subject to the Freedom of Information ACT (FOIA).

Principle Contacts:

Primary contacts for the purposes of this Agreement will be designated by the Authorized Representative for each agency.

Authorized Representatives:

By signing the document, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Agreement for Recreation Shared Stewardship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below:

Governor Steve Sisolak, State of Nevada

Brad R. Crowell, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Kristina Swallow, P.E., Director, Nevada Department of Transportation

Brenda Scolari, Director, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Mary Farnsworth, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region

Paul Souza, Regional Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E., Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin

Ernest A. Conant, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10: California-Great Basin

Cindy Orlando, Deputy Regional Director, Interior Regions 8,9,10 and 12, National Park Service

Jon K. Raby, Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management

Robert Mergell, Administrator, Nevada Division of State Parks

Colin Robertson, Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation