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Governor Lombardo Announces \$42 Million Dollar Investment through Conserve Nevada Program for Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Projects Across Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. – Governor Joe Lombardo and the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) Conserve Nevada Program are proud to announce a historic \$42 million investment in outdoor recreation and conservation projects across Nevada. This funding strengthens Nevada’s \$8.8 billion outdoor recreation economy, expands access to public lands, protects critical natural resources, and supports our frontier, rural and urban communities.

“Nevada is home to incredible outdoor recreation opportunities and some of the most spectacular public lands in the country,” said Governor Lombardo. “I’m proud of the work being done across our state to expand access to the outdoors, support local economies, conserve our natural resources, and ensure future generations can enjoy these places for years to come.”

“This investment reflects the dedication of the many partners working to conserve Nevada’s natural resources, enhancing public access and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities across our state,” said DCNR Director Vinson Guthreau. “The projects funded through the Conserve Nevada Program will deliver meaningful results on the ground, from restoring habitat and improving public access, to strengthening the long-term health of Nevada’s landscapes.”

Through collaborative partnerships, NDCNR’s Conserve Nevada Program is awarding more than \$12 million in grants for projects that will protect 34,816 acres of recreation area and critical habitat and open nearly 48,906 acres for public recreation. Funding will support habitat restoration and recreation access along the Humboldt, Muddy, Carson, Truckee, and Walker Rivers. Significant investments are also being made at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Ash Canyon, McCullough Hills, Tahoe Meadows, Canepa-Carcione Open Space, Idlewild Park, the Pioche Mill recreation trail plan, the Lamoille Summit Trail System, and the Elko HARP Trail. Additional

conservation projects include wildfire mitigation in the Ruby Mountains and Warm Springs Natural Area, post fire landscape restoration in the Carson City BLM District, and enhancements to wetlands and riparian areas in Smith Valley.

The Conserve Nevada Program is also supporting more than \$29.5 million in new investments statewide. Over \$19 million is dedicated to developing a new hands-on Science Center and an immersive Colorado River exhibit at the Springs Preserve OriGen Museum. This investment will provide thousands of Clark County students an opportunity to explore our state's natural resources through an engaging learning environment. An additional \$3 million is being invested in major trail systems that benefit both Nevadans and visitors, including the Vegas Valley Rim Trail, the Wetlands Loop Trail at Clark County Wetlands Park, and the Lake Tahoe East Shore Trail. More than \$7.5 million will further protect Nevada's natural and cultural resources through targeted investments in recreation and conservation projects managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Division of State Parks.



NDCNR's Conserve Nevada Program is Nevada's statewide conservation and recreation grant program, supporting projects that protect and enhance the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Established through voter-approved conservation bonds and renewed by the Nevada Legislature in 2019, the program invests in projects that improve outdoor recreation access, conserve wildlife habitat, protect rivers and wetlands, reduce wildfire risk, preserve historic and cultural resources, and strengthen communities throughout Nevada. Since 2002, the program has funded projects in every county across the state, benefiting both Nevadans and visitors.

To learn more about Conservation Bond Grants in Nevada, visit <https://dcnr.nv.gov/blogs/bond-program-benefits-every-county-in-nevada>

Questions regarding the Conserve Nevada Program? Please contact [Conserve Nevada](#) Program Manager Brandon Bishop at brandon.bishop@dcnr.nv.gov or (775) 684-2707.

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The **Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources'** mission is to protect, manage, and enhance Nevada's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Established in 1957, the Department includes 11 divisions and programs (Environmental Protection, Forestry, Outdoor Recreation, State Parks, State Lands, Water Resources, Historic Preservation, Conservation Districts, Natural Heritage, Sagebrush Ecosystem, and Conserve Nevada) and 12 boards and commissions.

Organization/Project Name:	Project description	Amount
Land and Water Acquisitions Category		
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Windermere Hills Conservation and Public Access Easement	This project will permanently conserve 23,085 acres of sagebrush steppe, wet meadow, and native grassland habitat that supports greater sage-grouse, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and other wildlife species. Located northwest of Wells, this acquisition will protect the state's second-largest mule deer herd and provide public access to 47,175 acres.	\$ 1,000,000.00
Nevada State Parks Foundation: Chaves Ranch Acquisition	This project will acquire 1,650 acres of land in Dayton along the Carson River. The acquisition will protect approximately 4.5 miles of the river's riparian corridor, including cottonwood forests, wetlands, oxbow ponds, and sagebrush ecosystems. The property is also well suited for a variety of outdoor recreation activities.	\$ 1,600,000.00
The Nature Conservancy: Clover Valley Conservation Easement	Located near Angel Lake, this project will protect 10,000 acres through a conservation easement that safeguards critical habitat for elk, greater sage-grouse, mule deer, and other wildlife while preserving historic ranchland. The property spans elevations from 5,800 to 7,400 feet and includes sagebrush steppe, semi-desert grasslands, pastureland, riparian areas, and meadows.	\$ 1,000,000.00
Humboldt River Basin Water Authority: Voluntary Groundwater Retirement Program	The project will purchase and permanently retire groundwater rights from willing sellers in the Humboldt River Basin to reduce conflicts and address declining groundwater levels.	\$ 1,800,000.00
Carson City: Ash Canyon Acquisition	This project would acquire 81.55 acres in the Carson Range, protecting a portion of Carson City's largest sub watershed, a critical source of the community's drinking water. The property would be incorporated into the Eagle View Open Space, expanding recreational access to surrounding public lands.	\$ 1,200,000.00
Carson and Truckee River Grants Category		
Carson Valley Conservation District: 2026 Carson Valley Riverbank Restoration	This project would support restoration efforts along the Carson River, including bank stabilization and treatments such as bioengineering, sediment removal, bank and slope shaping, and bank protection. These actions aim to improve floodplain connectivity, restore native vegetation, and address erosion and sediment issues along the river. The restoration work would occur between Genoa and Dresslerville, covering 2,985 linear feet of the Carson River..	\$ 400,000.00
One Truckee River: Idlewild Habitat and Riverbank Stabilization Project	This project will restore a degraded section of the Truckee River at Idlewild Park, implementing transformative improvements to habitat and recreation along the river. The work will address impaired water quality, erosion, native vegetation loss, and habitat degradation, while also enhancing public access to the river for recreation.	\$ 550,000.00
City of Reno: Dickerson Trail Bridge	This project will design and engineer the Dickerson Trail Bridge, which will enhance multi modal access by spanning the Truckee River from Idlewild Park to the Dickerson neighborhood. In addition to providing essential community connectivity, the bridge will create a key access point between the Oxbow Nature Study Area and Idlewild Park.	\$ 250,000.00
Open Grant Category		
Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC): East Walker Riparian Enhancements	This project represents a partnership among WBC, Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Division of Forestry, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to enhance wetland and riparian habitats along the East Walker River within the Walker River State Recreation Area. The project will expand riparian forests, control invasive weeds, stabilize stream banks, and strengthen riparian buffers to improve water quality and recreational access along 30 miles of the East Walker River.	\$ 328,346.00
Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC): Smith Valley Wetland Improvements	This project will enhance two miles of riparian corridor and restore 70 acres of wetland habitat along the West Walker River. It will also improve public access to outdoor recreation by developing a trail network and installing signage along 3.8 miles of the river.	\$ 380,303.00
Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association: New multiuse trail at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA)	This project involves constructing six miles of new multi use trails within the RRCNCA. The new trail system will help reduce user conflicts while providing additional recreation opportunities in this highly visited outdoor destination.	\$ 841,021.00
National Forest Foundation: South Ruby Fuels Reduction and Resilience Project	This wildfire mitigation project aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve habitat on the Elko Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The project will remove hazardous fuels and supply up to 1,260 cords of wood to local wood banks. It also includes restoring nearly 1,500 acres of native plant communities and implementing post treatment weed mitigation.	\$ 780,000.00
Protectors of Tule Springs: Increased Recreation Opportunities at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument	This project will enhance and improve the Aliante Loop and Durango Loop trails within Tule Springs. Improvements include trail upgrades, increased accessibility, and the installation of shade structures and benches along the routes. The project also includes adding permanent interpretive signage throughout the area.	\$ 109,043.00
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District: Tahoe Meadows West Nordic Trailhead Improvements	This project will fund the design and engineering for a new parking area and trailhead on the west side of Mt. Rose Highway (SR 431), just south of Tahoe Meadows. The site is a heavily used, year round recreation access point due to its proximity to the Tahoe Rim Trail, the Mt. Rose Wilderness, and popular winter recreation areas. The project will improve safety along Mt. Rose Highway while enhancing public access to this high use recreation destination.	\$ 145,000.00
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers: Post-Fire Rehabilitation & Connective for Big Game	This project will help restore several burned landscapes within the Carson City BLM District. It will support the planting of approximately 25,000 bitterbrush and sagebrush plants to improve winter range habitat for native wildlife, including mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, pollinators, and other species.	\$ 290,000.00
Washoe County: Carcione-Canepa Open Space Bridge Development	This project includes the planning, design, and permitting needed to construct a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Truckee River. The bridge will connect public lands, transportation routes, and multi use trails from north to south. It will enhance public access to the Truckee River while improving connectivity throughout this open space and highly used recreation area.	\$ 770,000.00
Tahoe Rim Trail Association: Tahoe Meadows Interpretive Loop Accessibility Improvements	This project will improve wetland connectivity and create a 1.3 mile, wheelchair accessible loop along the Tahoe Rim Trail in Tahoe Meadows. The Tahoe Meadows Interpretive Loop will include replacing and constructing boardwalk sections, converting an existing road to trail, and providing an unpaved tread surface suitable for walkers, wheelchairs, and other mobility assisting devices.	\$ 280,000.00
Elko County: Lamoille Summit Trail System Construction	This project will support the construction of five miles of professionally designed, non motorized, multi use singletrack trails on Bureau of Land Management lands in Elko. When fully built out, the planned 40 mile trail network will create a world class system and enhance regional connectivity between Elko and Spring Creek.	\$ 150,000.00
Southern Nevada Water Authority: Warm Springs Natural Area (WSNA) Wildfire Mitigation	The WSNA is vital to Southern Nevada for its ecological value, water resources, and public recreation opportunities. The property contains, or is adjacent to, springs that form the headwaters of the Muddy River an area that supports 29 sensitive wildlife species, including seven endemic species found nowhere else in the world. This project will implement wildfire mitigation measures on the property to help protect these critical resources.	\$ 49,000.00
City of Henderson: McCullough Hills Trail Restoration	The McCullough Hills Trail, located within the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, is a key recreation resource for the City of Henderson. This project will implement major trail restoration to ensure the long term sustainability and continued enjoyment of this important public asset.	\$ 22,500.00
City of Elko: HARP Trail Extension- 12th Street Bridge	The HARP Trail Extension is a multi use path along the Humboldt River in downtown Elko. This extension will create a multimodal connection beneath the 12th Street bridge, providing a key access point for the trail system, nearby neighborhoods, and the future community fishery at the 12th Street Pond.	\$ 90,000.00
Lincoln County: Pioche Mill Recreation Plan	The Pioche Mill Recreation Plan will provide a comprehensive trails and amenities strategy for both motorized and non motorized recreation across 120 acres of county owned land. The project will include planning and design for a trail system that highlights the historic Pioche (Godbe) Mill and aerial tramway.	\$ 25,000.00