



Joe Lombardo, Governor

## **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## \$3.6 Million awarded by Conserve Nevada to preserve and protect Nevada's natural and cultural resources

CARSON CITY, Nev. – The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) is pleased to announce the allocation of approximately \$3.6 million in Conserve Nevada grant funding to various entities across the state. These grants are dedicated to initiatives aimed at the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Nevada's rich natural and cultural heritage.

A total of 11 applicants have been selected to receive funding for their diverse and impactful projects, which include:

- Expanding wildlife habitat in the Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area.
- Acquiring property in Washoe County to safeguard the endangered Steamboat buckwheat.
- Repairing flood damage along the Carson River corridor.
- Establishing Conservation Easements in Washoe Valley and Carson City to protect forest health and wildlife habitat.
- Improving ADA accessibility through trail upgrades and enhancing wetland habitat at the Henderson Bird Viewing Park.
- Constructing the Canepa Ranch Trailhead in Washoe County to provide recreational access to the Truckee River.
- Establishing a trail system adjacent to the community of Beatty to enhance outdoor recreation tourism and provide economic benefits to local businesses.
- Creating a Master Plan for the Douglas County Fairgrounds to enhance the facility and meet the needs of the community.
- Rebuilding the Upper Meadow Loop portion of the Tahoe Meadows Boardwalk.
- Removing Tamarisk, a State of Nevada recognized noxious weed, from the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.
- Developing over 100 miles of trails within the Las Vegas BLM Redrock Canyon National Conservation Area.

"Nevada's conservation bond funding program has been pivotal in preserving and restoring the state's natural and cultural resources for over two decades," stated **NDCNR Director James Settelmeyer**. "This grant funding supports the creation of fire-resilient landscapes, protection of rivers and wetlands, preservation of historic and cultural resources, and development of outdoor recreation opportunities for Nevadans and visitors to our great state. We extend our gratitude to our partners and public leaders for their steadfast support of the Conserve Nevada Program, which will contribute to a healthy and vibrant Nevada for generations to come."

For more information about Conserve Nevada, please visit ConserveNevada.nv.gov and view our informational <u>video clip</u>. For inquiries, please contact Conserve Nevada Program Manager Brandon Bishop at <u>brandon.bishop@dcnr.nv.gov</u> or (775) 684-2707.

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Since 2002, the **Conserve Nevada Program**, a part of the **Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**, has funded more than 200 projects in every county across the state, resulting in more than 100 miles of new recreational trails and over 53,000 acres conserved for open space, as well as improvements to all of Nevada's 27 state parks and 13 Wildlife Management Areas, and increased conservation and habitat restoration.

## **Conserve Nevada - 2024 Grant Awards**

Applicant	Project Title	Awarded	Match	Project Description
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	South Schell Acquisition	\$250,000.00	\$1,040,000.00	The South Schell Land Acquisition will purchase approximately 1,720 acres of land to preserve and protect critical environment. This acquisition will enlarge the Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
The Conservation Fund	Leslie Steamboat Buckwheat Acquisition	\$900,000.00	\$193,000.00	This project will acquire approximately 13.47 acres of land in Washoe County, Nevada. This acquisition will acquire habitat containing Steamboat buckwheat (Eriogonum ovalifolium var. williamsiae) a critical endangered plant species.
Carson Valley Conservation District (CVSD)	Carson River Restoration and Flood Damage Repairs	\$350,000.00	\$815,000.00	This project will support 5 Carson River restoration projects. CVSD proposes to apply bioengineering treatments, sediment removal, bank shaping, rock riprap barbs, and bank protection to repair and restore the banks of the Carson River in designated project areas.
The Nevada Land Trust	Eastern Sierra Nevada Project	\$682,500.00	\$2,392,610.00	This project establish 3 conservation easement on forested properties along the Eastern Sierra Front to protect forest health and prime wildlife habitat. These easements are critical mitigate fire risk and to protect watershed health.
City of Henderson	Henderson Bird Viewing Park	\$400,000.00	\$94,427.74	The project area encompasses nearly 100 acres of basins, lagoons and evaporating ponds for bird habitat. The project will support improved pathway accessibility through improvements to 2 miles of trail within the park. This will enhance access while improving this recreational resource.
Washoe County	Canepa Ranch Trailhead Construction	\$748,497.00	\$187,125.00	This project will support the construction of trailhead that will provide public access to the Truckee River, adjacent public lands, and trails managed by the Forest Service. The project includes trailhead construction and design. The construction of a new loop trail, a new ADA compliant river access trail, interpretive and wayfinding signs and kiosks, 2 ADA accessible restrooms, landscaping and picnic areas.
Storm OHV	Beatty Trail Development	\$100,000.00	\$29,641.00	This project seeks to complete the remaining planning and review for the construction of 65 miles of world class trails and trailheads in Beatty, NV. This project will serve as major economic development project and includes the construction of 15. 2 miles of trail near the Town of Beatty.
Douglas County	Douglas County Fairgrounds Master Plan	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	This project will support the development of a Douglas County Fairground Master Plan. This plan will include multi-use facilities hosting regional events. The complex will include a 1,500-seat grandstand, horse barn, pavilion, and other amenities for recreational and public usage. The 81-acre site is adjacent to 600 acres owned by the Bureau of Land Management, which may be available for site expansion and improved access to public lands.
National Forest Foundation	Tahoe Meadows Boardwalk Project	\$75,000.00	\$96,804.69	The project will support the National Forest Foundation and its partnership with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) to complete the reconstruction of the Upper Meadows Loop of the Tahoe Meadows Boardwalk. Located on the HTNF, the Tahoe Meadows boardwalk is a popular trail in the Carson Ranger District
Mason Valley Conservation District	Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area- Tamarisk Removal	\$29,999.24	\$27,800.00	This project will inventory, map, treat, and control tamarisk in the wetlands of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. These activities will protect habitat and the wetland environment. While enhancing the habitat for fishery, big game, and waterfowl.
Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Redrock Canyon National Conservation Area Trail Development	\$100,000.00	\$30,660.00	This project will assist in development of the Redrock Canyon NCA Trail Network by supporting the adoption of nearly 101.5 miles of recreational trails. This will protect the environment while enhancing outdoor recreation for nearly 3-million visitors per year.

Conserve Nevada Awarded Funds	\$3,680,996.24
Total Matching Funds	\$4,912,068.43