

# *Study of State Parks*



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STUDY OF STATE PARKS

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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Following is a summary of the recommendations approved by the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study State Parks.

### I. OVERALL POLICY

1. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that the State of Nevada should support a progressive state park system providing adequate recreational and cultural opportunities for the citizens of the State and its visitors.
2. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the basic policy that operations and maintenance funding, including personnel, should be provided consistent with the following principles in order to shift the Division of State Parks away from "crisis management" and allow it to function at a high standard:
  - a. Preventive maintenance should be the norm;
  - b. Operations and personnel funding should be concurrent with acquisition, development and opening of all new facilities; and
  - c. Development of new parks should be limited until this goal is achieved.
3. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the expansion of state parks which receive a substantial amount of visitation in order to meet the demands placed upon these facilities, and express support for the concept of conducting scientific user surveys periodically in the areas of rapid population growth to determine the types of recreation most desired and the aspects of the state park system with which the users are most and least satisfied.
4. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's recommendation that the Division of State Parks work with other appropriate entities in conducting periodic studies of the economic impacts of visitation at state parks as these impacts relate to the immediate vicinity of the parks, activities of visitors in transit to the parks, and activities of the visitors at their points of origin.

5. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that uses of state parks which generate revenue, such as concessions and special events, should be encouraged.

## II. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Amend *Nevada Revised Statutes* 407.033 by removing Subsection 2, thus leaving the State Park Advisory Commission subject to the notification provisions of the Open Meeting Law. (BDR 35-263)
7. Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to adopt:
  - a. A systematic process based upon established criteria to prioritize improvements and major maintenance projects to be recommended for funding; and
  - b. A similar systematic process to establish priorities for acquisition proposals.

Include in the preamble of the resolution a statement indicating that the Legislature should base its decisions concerning funding of capital development and acquisition requests for state parks upon a systematic process for determining priorities. (BDR R-264)

8. Amend NRS 341.141 (1) (b) by removing the phrase, "other than buildings," thereby including buildings within the exemption so that the Division of State Parks may provide its own building-related engineering and architectural services, as the exemption currently allows for other improvements within state parks. (BDR 28-265)
9. Recommend, by letter, that the Governor appoint a State Recreational Trails Advisory Board with a composition which, at a minimum, meets the requirements of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 and includes representation from the State Park Advisory Commission.
10. Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to work with parties interested in securing the Steamboat Ditch Trail in Washoe County, Nevada, and consider use of funds from the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991, if applicable. (BDR R-266)



### III. STAFF AND FUNDING FOR THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

#### Staffing Considerations

11. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the concept of:
  - a. The Division of State Parks employing a public information officer;
  - b. The State Park Advisory Commission assigning two of its members (one each from the northern and southern regions of the State) to assist the Division of State Parks in the areas of public information and public relations; and
  - c. Each member of the State Park Advisory Commission making at least one public talk or presentation each year using materials prepared for this purpose by the Division of State Parks.

#### General Policies for Funding Consideration

12. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that new funding sources should be sought to assist in financing the activities of the Division of State Parks, and that such sources should supplement appropriations from the State General Fund rather than "offsetting" these allocations.
13. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's finding that the Legislature should separately fund major park maintenance and renovation projects over the next three bienniums to reduce the backlog of deferred projects.
14. Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that the Legislature should fund routine operations and maintenance at a minimum biennial rate of 5 percent of the Division of State Parks' actual acquisition and development costs.
15. Include in the final report a recommendation that the Division of State Parks conduct a study to estimate the number of miles driven on roads within state parks as compared to statewide statistics and derive findings relative to the proportion of the state motor vehicle fuel tax which could logically be allocated to development, maintenance and renovation of roads and parking areas associated with state parks.

#### Creation of a Nevada State Park Foundation

16. Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to work with interested citizens in establishing a Nevada State Park Foundation as a non-profit corporation for public benefit whose goals include:
  - a. Increasing public awareness of the Nevada State Park System and its programs;
  - b. Developing personal and financial support for the system, its facilities and its programs; and
  - c. Encouraging private individuals, when appropriate, to preserve and/or donate historically or culturally significant areas and structures to the State of Nevada through its proper administrative agencies. (BDR R-271)

#### Registration of Recreational Vehicles

17. Impose a fee of \$20 per year on recreational vehicles registered in the State and:
  - a. Provide that the fee is collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety with the regular vehicle registration;
  - b. Provide that the revenue is deposited in a special account for state park roads;
  - c. Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and
  - d. Authorize that the revenue be used by the Division of State Parks for the development, maintenance or renovation of roads and parking areas according to a schedule approved by the Legislature's Interim Finance Committee. (BDR 43-268)

#### State Park Fees

18. Establish a special account for park fees and:
  - a. Provide that fees in excess of projections be deposited in this account rather than the State General Fund;
  - b. Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and

- c. Authorize the Division of State Parks to use the funds for maintenance projects with approval of the Interim Finance Committee, except that the administrator may authorize emergency repairs without obtaining prior approval from the Committee.  
(BDR 35-267)
- 19. Exempt fees imposed by the Division of State Parks specifically for repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park from the statutory provision which requires that fees collected by the division be deposited in the State General Fund, and:
  - a. Direct that the revenue from these specific fees be deposited in a special account for renovation of the sewer and water systems;
  - b. Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and
  - c. Authorize that the revenue be used for repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems.  
(BDR 35-269)
- 20. Amend NRS 407.065 (4) by eliminating the statutory prohibition against charging senior citizens for special services, and authorize the Division of State Parks, with advice from the State Park Advisory Commission, to regulate any such senior citizen charges. (BDR 35-270)

#### Revenue from Boating Fuel Tax

- 21. Amend NRS 365.535 (4) by directing that all revenue from the State's boating fuel tax be deposited in the Park Marina Development Fund for use by the Division of State Parks, and specify that the money in this fund may be used for improvement and maintenance (but not operation) of boating facilities and other outdoor recreational facilities associated with boating.  
(BDR 32-272)

22. Include in the final report a recommendation that the Division of State Parks work with the Department of Wildlife and other relevant entities to review the formula specified in NRS 365.535 (2) by which the boating fuel tax is calculated, especially the number of gallons of fuel purchased by out-of-state boaters which was determined by a study conducted in 1969-1970, and report any substantive findings and recommendations to the 1995 Session of the Legislature.

#### IV. CULTURAL RESOURCES

23. Appropriate \$360,000 to the Department of Museums and History to employ six members of a technical services unit to provide assistance to state agencies (primarily the Division of State Parks) in cultural resource-related activities such as archeological survey, preparation of initial environmental impact assessments, preservation of artifacts, and design, construction and/or installation of exhibits. (BDR S-273)
24. Include in the final report a summary of the efforts being made by the White Pine Historical Railway Foundation, the Division of State Parks and the Department of Museums and History to design a cooperative approach for the possible future development of a Nevada Northern Railway Park/Museum in Ely, Nevada.

REPORT TO THE 67TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE  
TO STUDY STATE PARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of July 31, 1991, the Legislative Commission approved an interim study of state parks in Nevada. A subcommittee consisting of the following nine legislators was appointed to conduct the study:

Senator Thomas J. Hickey, Chairman  
Assemblyman Matthew Q. Callister, Vice Chairman  
Senator Virgil M. Getto  
Senator Nicholas J. Horn  
Senator William J. Raggio  
Assemblywoman Vivian L. Freeman  
Assemblyman David E. Humke  
Assemblyman John W. Marvel  
Assemblyman Larry L. Spitler

Legislative Counsel Bureau staff services for the subcommittee were provided by Fred W. Welden of the Research Division (principal staff), Thomas Linden of the Legal Division (legal counsel), and Debby Richards of the Research Division (study secretary).

A notable amount of assistance was provided by representatives of several agencies and organizations throughout the State. Of special significance were the contributions of the following individuals within Nevada's Division of State Parks:

John Richardson, Administrator  
Wayne Perock, Chief of Field Operations  
Steve Weaver, Chief of Planning and Development

The subcommittee held three hearings - two in Las Vegas and one in Carson City, Nevada. A total of 24 recommendations were adopted covering overall policy for the state park system, funding-related matters, and management of cultural resources. The present report provides a concise history and description of Nevada's state park system and a discussion of each of the recommendations.

## II. THE NEVADA STATE PARK SYSTEM

The state park system in Nevada derives its structure and vitality from the natural resources and rich historical heritage of the State.

### A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nevada's state park system was born with the establishment of a State Park Commission and designation of the first four parks in 1935. The initial sites included Valley of Fire, Kershaw-Ryan, Beaver Dam, and Cathedral Gorge.

The Division of State Parks was created as part of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 1963. At that time, the system consisted of 10 parks with a total area of 32,700 acres. Combined visitation was approximately one-quarter million people annually.

Since that time, the organization has evolved into a 23-unit structure including 13 state parks, five state recreation areas and five historic sites. The 23 units comprise a total of 142,000 acres, and visitation for 1991 was estimated at more than 2.5 million people. This figure established an all-time record despite the drought which significantly restrained the water-based recreational opportunities.

### B. STATISTICS RELATIVE TO PARK VISITATION

Appendix A contains the following charts depicting several types of visitation statistics:

- "State Park Visitation--1982-1991 Statewide";
- "1991 Park Visitation % and Employees Per Park";
- "Origin Of State Park Visitors--Nevada State Parks - Statewide";
- "Frequency Of Visitation--Nevada State Parks - Statewide"; and
- "Age Profile Of Park Visitors--Nevada State Parks - Statewide."

Of special significance is the fact that visitation has risen appreciably over the 10-year period. Also of interest is the information indicating that over 80 percent of the visitation is in close proximity to the State's two urban centers, and employees per park are correspondingly high in these areas.

Over two-thirds of the park users are Nevadans, and almost 80 percent visit the parks more than once per year. Visitors represent all age groups with slightly more being in the 26-35 age category and slightly fewer being in the 60+ classification.

### III. DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

As previously highlighted, the subcommittee adopted a total of 24 recommendations. Following is a discussion of the background information associated with each of these recommendations.

#### A. OVERALL POLICY

The subcommittee reviewed several "overall policy" considerations as they relate to the state park system.

#### Missions and Priorities

By legislative declaration, the overall mission of the Division of State Parks is to "acquire, protect, develop and interpret a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific and historical importance for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the people of the State." The statute further specifies that these areas are to be "held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage." (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 407.013)

To assist in the discussion of long-term missions and shorter-range priorities, a questionnaire was distributed to legislators serving on the study, members of the State Park Advisory Commission, local park system directors, and selected state and Federal agency staff having expertise in the field of park programs. A copy of the questionnaire with totaled responses is provided in Appendix B.

In general, the respondents' opinion concerning the most significant and least significant missions and priorities may be summarized as follows:

1. Missions (overall goals):

- (a) The most important overall mission for the state park system was clearly "providing recreation/entertainment experiences"; and
- (b) The least important overall mission was "enhancing tourism and economic development activities."

2. Shorter-term priorities:

- (a) The highest short-term priority was clearly "upgrading/enhancing the operations and maintenance of existing state parks";
- (b) The next highest priority was "developing new/expanded sources of funding for the State Park System"; and
- (c) The least significant short-term priority was clearly "developing new state parks." (However, it should be noted that the public's favorable vote on the statewide park bond proposal in 1990 may signify its support for development of new parks.)

Based on this background information, the subcommittee approved the following three recommendations:

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that the State of Nevada should support a progressive state park system providing adequate recreational and cultural opportunities for the citizens of the State and its visitors.
- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the basic policy that operations and maintenance funding, including personnel, should be provided consistent with the following principles in order to shift the Division of State Parks away from "crisis management" and allow it to function at a high standard:



- a. Preventive maintenance should be the norm;
  - b. Operations and personnel funding should be concurrent with acquisition, development and opening of all new facilities; and
  - c. Development of new parks should be limited until this goal is achieved.
- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the expansion of state parks which receive a substantial amount of visitation in order to meet the demands placed upon these facilities, and express support for the concept of conducting scientific user surveys periodically in the areas of rapid population growth to determine the types of recreation most desired and the aspects of the state park system with which the users are most and least satisfied.

#### Economic Impacts and Revenue

The subcommittee invested a considerable amount of effort in the analysis of economic factors associated with state parks.

To assist in this effort, Dennis L. Soden, Ph.D., Associate Director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, compiled a special report entitled "Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Value of State Parks." The preliminary analyses suggest that, except for a few highly visited parks near metropolitan areas (such as Nevada Tahoe State Park and Spring Mountain Ranch State Park) and those with close proximity to major transportation arteries (such as Valley of Fire State Park), Nevada's state parks have not achieved their potential as visitor attractions. Dr. Soden proposed that additional investigation of the existing and potential economic impacts of state parks would be valuable.

Based on these types of discussions, the subcommittee adopted the following two recommendations:

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's recommendation that the Division of State Parks work with other appropriate entities in conducting periodic studies of the economic impacts of visitation at state parks as these impacts relate to the immediate vicinity of the parks, activities of visitors in transit to the parks, and activities of the visitors at their points of origin.

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that uses of state parks which generate revenue, such as concessions and special events, should be encouraged.

## **B. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The subcommittee considered several issues which were not related to any specific topical category.

### **Meeting Notification**

Under current law, the State Park Advisory Commission must post notification and an agenda 30 days before its regular meetings.

In fulfilling its responsibility to advise the Division of State Parks, the Governor and the Legislature, the commission often faces policy issues which should be addressed sooner than possible under the 30-day provision. Especially during a legislative session, the commission's comments on proposed bills are needed within a much shorter time frame.

Nevada's Open Meeting Law provides guidelines that apply generally to governmental agencies. Among other requirements, it stipulates at least a 3-day notification period and specifies the content of all agendas.

The subcommittee concluded that the 30-day time frame was ineffective and that the State Park Advisory Commission should be subject to the same provisions as other agencies. Thus, the following recommendation was approved:

- Amend NRS 407.033 by removing Subsection 2, thus leaving the State Park Advisory Commission subject to the notification provisions of the Open Meeting Law.  
(BDR 35-263)

### **Priorities for Improvements and Maintenance**

The Nevada State Park System currently has approximately 500 improvements and major maintenance projects which have been recommended for action.

In order to objectively establish priorities based on actual need, the Division of State Parks has developed a preliminary series of criteria for use in evaluating the proposals. The following factors are to be "weighted" for relative significance and serve as evaluative criteria:

1. Unfinished projects (or those "cut" from budget);
2. Code violations/regulatory agency requirements;
3. Management/security considerations;
4. Resource significance;
5. Resource/facility condition;
6. Recreational demand;
7. Availability of funding/manpower;
8. Park visitation;
9. Interpretive/environmental education values; and
10. Tourism values.

While this type of systematic approach is not designed to preclude other considerations such as administrative/policy judgment or relative costs, it does provide an objective basis from which to proceed. For these reasons, the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

- Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to adopt:
  - a. A systematic process based upon established criteria to prioritize improvements and major maintenance projects to be recommended for funding; and
  - b. A similar systematic process to establish priorities for acquisition proposals.

Include in the preamble of the resolution a statement indicating that the Legislature should base its decisions concerning funding of capital development and acquisition requests for state parks upon a systematic process for determining priorities. (BDR R-264)

#### Engineering and Architectural Services

Existing Nevada law (NRS 341.141) requires the State Public Works Board to furnish engineering and architectural services for most types of state construction projects. One exception is "improvements, other than buildings, made in state parks."

Testimony indicated that the Division of State Parks has the expertise (in-house or through contract) to provide its own engineering and architectural services for building construction. Due to its workload, the State Public Works Board typically authorizes the division to hire consultants for this type of assistance. However, the process for obtaining the authorization or having the work handled by the board can be time-consuming.

Thus, the subcommittee adopted the following recommendation:

- Amend NRS 341.141 (1) (b) by removing the phrase, "other than buildings," thereby including buildings within the exemption so that the Division of State Parks may provide its own building-related engineering and architectural services, as the exemption currently allows for other improvements within state parks. (BDR 28-265)

#### Recreational Trails

The subcommittee received a considerable amount of testimony concerning the recently enacted Symms National Recreational Trails Act and its possible application in Nevada. (The Symms Act is a component of the comprehensive Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991.)

The Symms Act provides up to \$30 million nationally over each of the next 5 fiscal years to establish and maintain recreational trails. It is estimated that Nevada's share will be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually.

Recreational trails, as defined in the act, include trails used for bicycling, cross-country skiing, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging, trail biking, overnight or long-distance backpacking, snowmobiling, water activity and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive or all-terrain off-road vehicles.

Funds received under this act may be used:

- a. To develop urban trails linking homes with work places;
- b. To maintain existing trails, including the grooming of snow-covered trails;
- c. To restore areas damaged by usage;

- d. To develop trail-side or trail-head facilities;
- e. To make trails accessible to disabled persons;
- f. To acquire easements or property for trails; or
- g. To construct new trails.

No more than 7 percent of the funds may be used for administrative costs, and no more than 5 percent may be used for environmental protection or safety education related to using recreational trails. States may also use these funds to make grants to private individuals, city and county governments, and other governmental entities for the purposes listed above. Funds cannot be used for condemnation of any kind of interest in property.

Money made available under this act is to be used on trails and trail-related projects that have been planned or developed under otherwise existing laws, policies and administrative procedures within each state and that are identified in a trail plan included or referenced in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The funds are not available for planning, except a portion of the 7 percent set aside for administration.

To maintain eligibility for these Federal funds, states have 3 years from the date the United States Congress approved the law (December 18, 1994) to meet the following requirements:

1. The state must create a state recreational trail advisory board with representatives of both motorized and non-motorized trail users;
2. If a state imposes a tax on non-highway recreational fuel, the state must, by law, reserve a reasonable estimation of the revenues from that tax for use in providing and maintaining recreational trails; and
3. The governor must designate the state official or officials who will be responsible for administering money received under the act.

Based on this information, the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

- Recommend, by letter, that the Governor appoint a State Recreational Trails Advisory Board with a composition which, at a minimum, meets the requirements of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 and includes representation from the State Park Advisory Commission. (Appendix D contains a copy of this letter.)

Testimony also addressed possible application of the provisions of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act to the Steamboat Ditch Trail in Washoe County, Nevada.

Advocates of retaining public access to the trail indicated that it was constructed approximately 100 years ago. It is about 45 miles long and traverses Washoe County from Verdi in the west to the Steamboat area south of Reno. Public access to the trail has been obstructed, and testimony pointed out that Washoe County and the City of Reno have expressed support for establishing it as a public parkway. However, neither local entity has sufficient funding to undertake the project. Thus, the subcommittee adopted the following recommendation:

- Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to work with parties interested in securing the Steamboat Ditch Trail in Washoe County, Nevada, and consider use of funds from the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991, if applicable. (BDR R-266)

#### C. STAFF AND FUNDING FOR THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

The Division of State Parks provided a considerable amount of information relative to the division's staff and funding.

##### Staffing Considerations

As background for its presentations, the division compiled a staffing plan which projected staff needs over the next three bienniums. Appendix C contains an organization chart for the division and a copy of the "Permanent Employee Staffing Plan."

Appendix E contains the comprehensive recommendation proposed by the division to implement the staffing plan, but this proposal was not adopted by the subcommittee.

The subcommittee did, however, consider at length the fact that the general public has a limited awareness of the division's facilities, programs and activities. A conclusion that the division needs to achieve a higher level of positive public visibility led to adoption of the following recommendation:

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's support for the concept of:
  - a. The Division of State Parks employing a public information officer;
  - b. The State Park Advisory Commission assigning two of its members (one each from the northern and southern regions of the State) to assist the Division of State Parks in the areas of public information and public relations; and
  - c. Each member of the State Park Advisory Commission making at least one public talk or presentation each year using materials prepared for this purpose by the Division of State Parks.

#### General Policies for Funding Considerations

Considerations related to funding received a major portion of the subcommittee's attention. Discussions centered upon: (a) the areas in which additional funding is especially needed; (b) technical modifications which could enhance the efficiency of financial management; and (c) possible sources of increased financial support.

The following three general policy recommendations concerning funding were approved by the subcommittee:

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that new funding sources should be sought to assist in financing the activities of the Division of State Parks, and that such sources should supplement appropriations from the State General Fund rather than "offsetting" these allocations.
- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's finding that the Legislature should separately fund major park maintenance and renovation projects over the next three bienniums to reduce the backlog of deferred projects.

- Include in the final report a statement of the subcommittee's conclusion that the Legislature should fund routine operations and maintenance at a minimum biennial rate of 5 percent of the Division of State Parks' actual acquisition and development costs.
- Include in the final report a recommendation that the Division of State Parks conduct a study to estimate the number of miles driven on roads within state parks as compared to statewide statistics and derive findings relative to the proportion of the state motor vehicle fuel tax which could logically be allocated to development, maintenance and renovation of roads and parking areas associated with state parks.

#### Creation of a Nevada State Park Foundation

The subcommittee received a significant amount of testimony and background information supporting the concept of creating a Nevada State Park Foundation. State park foundations have been established in several states with varying degrees of success. Probably the most successful effort is administered by the California State Park Foundation.

The primary goal of a state park foundation is to coordinate the efforts of citizens who are willing to work toward: (a) the development of particular facilities or programs within existing parks; or (b) the creation of new parks. The foundation staff also provides technical expertise in fund raising, project planning, and cooperation with technical specialists in the state park system.

Most foundations are created as non-profit "corporations for public benefit." Essential characteristics of a successful state park foundation include:

1. Adequate initial funding to support full-time, professional staffing;
2. An independent structure that is separate from the governmental management of the state park system; and
3. A board of directors consisting of people of stature in the community who have the ability and desire to direct a positive, dynamic program.



The widespread, enthusiastic support for creation of such a foundation led the subcommittee to adopt the following recommendation:

- Direct, by resolution, the Division of State Parks to work with interested citizens in establishing a Nevada State Park Foundation as a non-profit corporation for public benefit whose goals include:
  - a. Increasing public awareness of the Nevada State Park System and its programs;
  - b. Developing personal and financial support for the system, its facilities and its programs; and
  - c. Encouraging private individuals, when appropriate, to preserve and/or donate historically or culturally significant areas and structures to the State of Nevada through its proper administrative agencies.  
(BDR R-271)

#### Registration of Recreational Vehicles

Among the highest park costs are those associated with road/parking maintenance. In reviewing funding options, the subcommittee considered alternatives which exhibit a logical relationship to this function.

Many states have instituted special registration fees for vehicles which are used for recreational purposes. Although the specific aspects of these programs vary, the basic concepts are similar. Relevant registration programs for the states surrounding Nevada include:

1. California - registration of "off highway motor vehicles";
2. Idaho - recreational sticker fee based on market value of "recreational vehicles" (motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers and camping trailers);
3. Oregon - registration of motor homes, campers, travel trailers, and "all-terrain vehicles";
4. Utah - registration of "off-highway vehicles"; and
5. Washington - registration of "off-road and non-highway vehicles," motor homes, campers, and travel trailers.

In 1987, Nevada's Department of Transportation estimated a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000 per mile annually to maintain secondary roads. There are over 200 miles of paved and gravel roads in the Nevada State Park System. Using the \$5,000 per mile estimate, approximately \$1 million per year would be needed to maintain these roads.

Nevada's Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety registered 41,232 recreational vehicles and travel trailers in 1991. Thus, a new recreational vehicle registration fee of \$20 per year would generate \$824,640 annually.

Based on these considerations, the subcommittee adopted the following recommendation:

- **Impose a fee of \$20 per year on recreational vehicles registered in the State and:**
  - a. **Provide that the fee is collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety with the regular vehicle registration;**
  - b. **Provide that the revenue is deposited in a special account for state park roads;**
  - c. **Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and**
  - d. **Authorize that the revenue be used by the Division of State Parks for the development, maintenance or renovation of roads and parking areas according to a schedule approved by the Legislature's Interim Finance Committee. (BDR 43-268)**

#### State Park Fees

The existing state park fee program was reviewed by the subcommittee. Recommendations were approved for three aspects of the division's activities.

Prior to 1989, if the division's fee collections exceeded estimated levels as approved in its budget, the excess reverted to the State General Fund. The Legislature added a provision to the 1989 Authorized Expenditures Act which permitted the division to use these excess fees for maintenance projects (as approved by the Interim Finance Committee). In Fiscal Year (FY) 1989-1990, the division received approval to expend \$90,661 in excess fees, and in FY 1990-1991 approval was given to spend \$60,721. The provision was extended for an additional biennium by the 1991 Legislature.

The division requested that the provision be made a permanent part of its program, and the subcommittee adopted the following recommendation to accomplish this goal:

- Establish a special account for park fees and:
  - a. Provide that fees in excess of projections be deposited in this account rather than the State General Fund;
  - b. Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and
  - c. Authorize the Division of State Parks to use the funds for maintenance projects with approval of the Interim Finance Committee, except that the administrator may authorize emergency repairs without obtaining prior approval from the Committee.  
(BDR 35-267)

Another special situation exists in association with repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Because of the environmental regulations in the Tahoe Basin, relatively sophisticated sewer and water systems are required in this park.

The division has the authority to impose fees which could be used to maintain this equipment, but current law provides that this revenue would go into the State General Fund. Establishment of a special account for these fees would provide for ongoing maintenance and allow an accumulation of revenue to finance major repairs and renovations.

The subcommittee agreed with this approach and approved the following related recommendation:

- Exempt fees imposed by the Division of State Parks specifically for repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park from the statutory provision which requires that fees collected by the division be deposited in the State General Fund, and:
  - a. Direct that the revenue from these specific fees be deposited in a special account for renovation of the sewer and water systems;
  - b. Specify that the funds in the account do not revert to the State General Fund; and

- c. Authorize that the revenue be used for repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems.  
(BDR 35-269)

The subject of special senior citizen fees was also discussed. Subsection 4 of NRS 407.065 precludes the division from charging fees for services to resident senior citizens. According to testimony from the division, a 1987-1988 park user survey indicated that senior citizens are willing to pay a portion of the relevant costs rather than receiving free services.

The same survey concluded that 12 percent of park visitors are seniors and two-thirds of these are Nevada residents. The division's calculations indicate that 1991 fees would have been supplemented by approximately \$60,500 if resident senior citizens had paid full fees.

The division suggested that it should be authorized to develop regulations implementing alternative approaches for senior citizen fees. Such options might include a 25 or 50 percent discount for senior residents, free use of facilities except on weekends and holidays, or free use during specific portions of the year.

Based upon this testimony, the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

- Amend NRS 407.065 (4) by eliminating the statutory prohibition against charging senior citizens for special services, and authorize the Division of State Parks, with advice from the State Park Advisory Commission, to regulate any such senior citizen charges. (BDR 35-270)

#### Revenue from Boating Fuel Tax

The subcommittee also reviewed the mechanism for distribution of the State's boating fuel tax (sometimes referred to as the marina gas tax).

The formula outlined in NRS 365.535 determines the portion of the State's motor vehicle fuel tax which is deemed to have been used by watercraft (the boating fuel tax). Distribution of this revenue to Nevada's Department of Wildlife and the Division of State Parks is determined by the Legislature, with recommendations from the Governor, through the budget approval process. In recent years, the Division of State Parks has been allocated \$750,000 annually while the proportion distributed to the Department of Wildlife has grown to \$907,381 per year.

Prior to 1983, the revenue allocated to the Division of State Parks was placed in the Park Marina Development Fund. Since that time, the revenue has been placed directly in the division's main operating account and used to cover operating costs.

After considering this background information, the subcommittee adopted the following two recommendations:

- Amend NRS 365.535 (4) by directing that all revenue from the State's boating fuel tax be deposited in the Park Marina Development Fund for use by the Division of State Parks, and specify that the money in this fund may be used for improvement and maintenance (but not operation) of boating facilities and other outdoor recreational facilities associated with boating. (BDR 32-272)
- Include in the final report a recommendation that the Division of State Parks work with the Department of Wildlife and other relevant entities to review the formula specified in NRS 365.535 (2) by which the boating fuel tax is calculated, especially the number of gallons of fuel purchased by out-of-state boaters which was determined by a study conducted in 1969-1970, and report any substantive findings and recommendations to the 1995 Session of the Legislature.

#### D. CULTURAL RESOURCES

The statutory mission of the state park system incorporates natural and historical (cultural) resources. Thus, the activities of the Division of State Parks are closely allied with those of several other state and local entities.

After receiving information concerning the broad context of cultural resources in state parks, the subcommittee invested a considerable effort in two specific areas.

##### Establishment of a Technical Services Unit

Testimony highlighted the close relationships between the functions of the Division of State Parks, the Department of Museums and History, and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. The creation of state parks like Old Mormon Fort in Clark County, Nevada, focuses special attention on activities such as archeological survey, historic research and preservation, interpretation of the cultural resources, and design/construction of displays.

In the past, the three agencies have worked together on these types of projects to the extent allowed by their individual staffing restraints. It has usually been necessary, however, for the Division of State Parks to contract for the necessary services at a significant expense to the State.

Based on these factors, it was proposed that a technical services unit be established in Nevada's Department of Museums and History to provide the following types of services to other state agencies, including primarily the Division of State Parks:

1. Archeological survey;
2. Preparation of initial environmental impact assessments relative to cultural resource issues;
3. Preservation of valuable artifacts; and
4. Design, construction and/or installation of exhibits.

The immediately apparent benefits of this approach include savings of state revenue and an increased quality in preservation of the State's cultural resources. Policy implications include enhanced coordination of efforts among state agencies, centralized planning and management of artifacts, immediate access to materials already existing in the State's five museums, and greatly enhanced policy development relative to protection of sensitive sites/materials which are subject to potential public abuse.

Based on the positive technical and policy implications of this proposal, the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

- **Appropriate \$360,000 to the Department of Museums and History to employ six members of a technical services unit to provide assistance to state agencies (primarily the Division of State Parks) in cultural resource-related activities such as archeological survey, preparation of initial environmental impact assessments, preservation of artifacts, and design, construction and/or installation of exhibits. (BDR S-273)**

### Nevada Northern Railway Park/Museum

The Nevada Northern Railway was constructed in 1906 to connect the rich copper deposits near Ely, Nevada, with the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad running across the northern portion of the State. It has been billed as the "Last Bonanza Railroad."

When Kennecott Copper Corporation ceased operations in 1983, the Nevada Northern Railway was donated to the City of Ely and the White Pine Historical Railway Foundation. The donation was undoubtedly the largest gift of highly significant industrial property in Nevada's history. It included the 45-acre main complex with its associated 30 buildings, 46 miles of railroad, rolling stock from the 1880's to the 1940's, and literally thousands of related artifacts.

The city and the foundation have been developing the facilities to enhance tourism. Steam-powered excursions on the "Ghost Train of Old Ely" feature the classic 1910 Baldwin 4-6-0 locomotive pulling an original 1890 Pullman coach and an open top flat car with seating benches. The main depot, freight barn and extensive documents collection have been transferred to state ownership.

Ongoing discussions have centered upon the possibility of designating the Nevada Northern Railway as a state park. Joint administration through the Division of State Parks, the Department of Museums and History, and the White Pine Historical Railway Foundation has received considerable attention. Appendix F contains a "Nevada Northern Railway Feasibility Study" which outlines alternatives for such a joint management structure.

Discussions between the three potential management entities continued during the period of the interim legislative study. A proposed management structure was submitted to the subcommittee by the two state agencies, but representatives of the foundation indicated that additional time was needed to fully evaluate the ramifications of the proposal. All of the participants expressed their willingness to continue the efforts to develop an effective administrative framework for the long-term future of the valuable resource.

As a result of this testimony, the subcommittee adopted the following recommendation:

- Include in the final report a summary of the efforts being made by the White Pine Historical Railway Foundation, the Division of State Parks and the Department of Museums and History to design a cooperative approach for the possible future development of a Nevada Northern Railway Park/Museum in Ely, Nevada.

#### IV. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The subcommittee wished to express its gratitude to all of the people who invested their time and effort in the study. Their assistance and input was of extreme importance to the deliberations.

The state park system is a valuable resource of significance to all Nevadans, and its assets will continue to increase in importance as the population of the State grows. While the study attempted to project policy implications over time, the subcommittee members realized that the future of the system is dynamic. Thus, the conclusions contained in this report will need to be updated and reevaluated periodically.

If the missions of Nevada's state park system are to be achieved in a progressive manner, it is imperative that the dedicated efforts of the citizens and legislators of the State be actively carried into the future.



## V. APPENDICES

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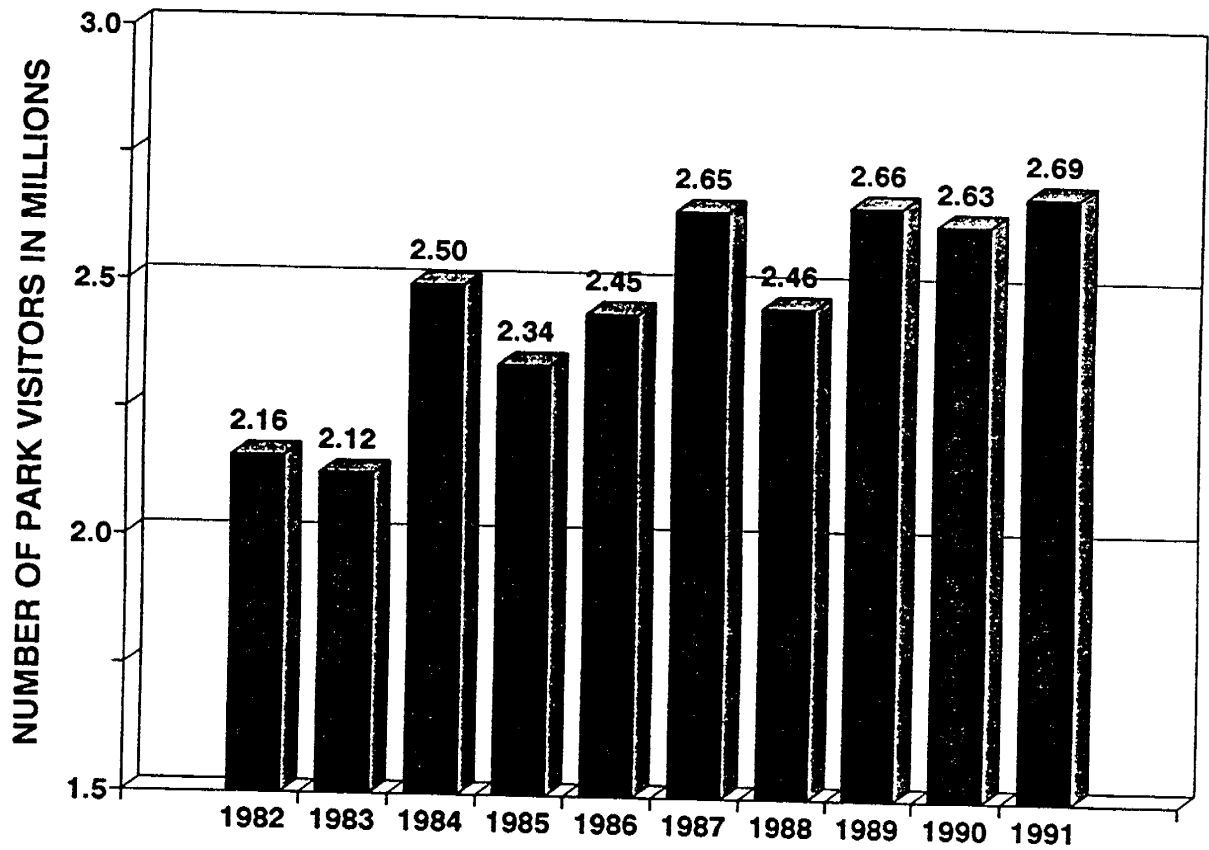


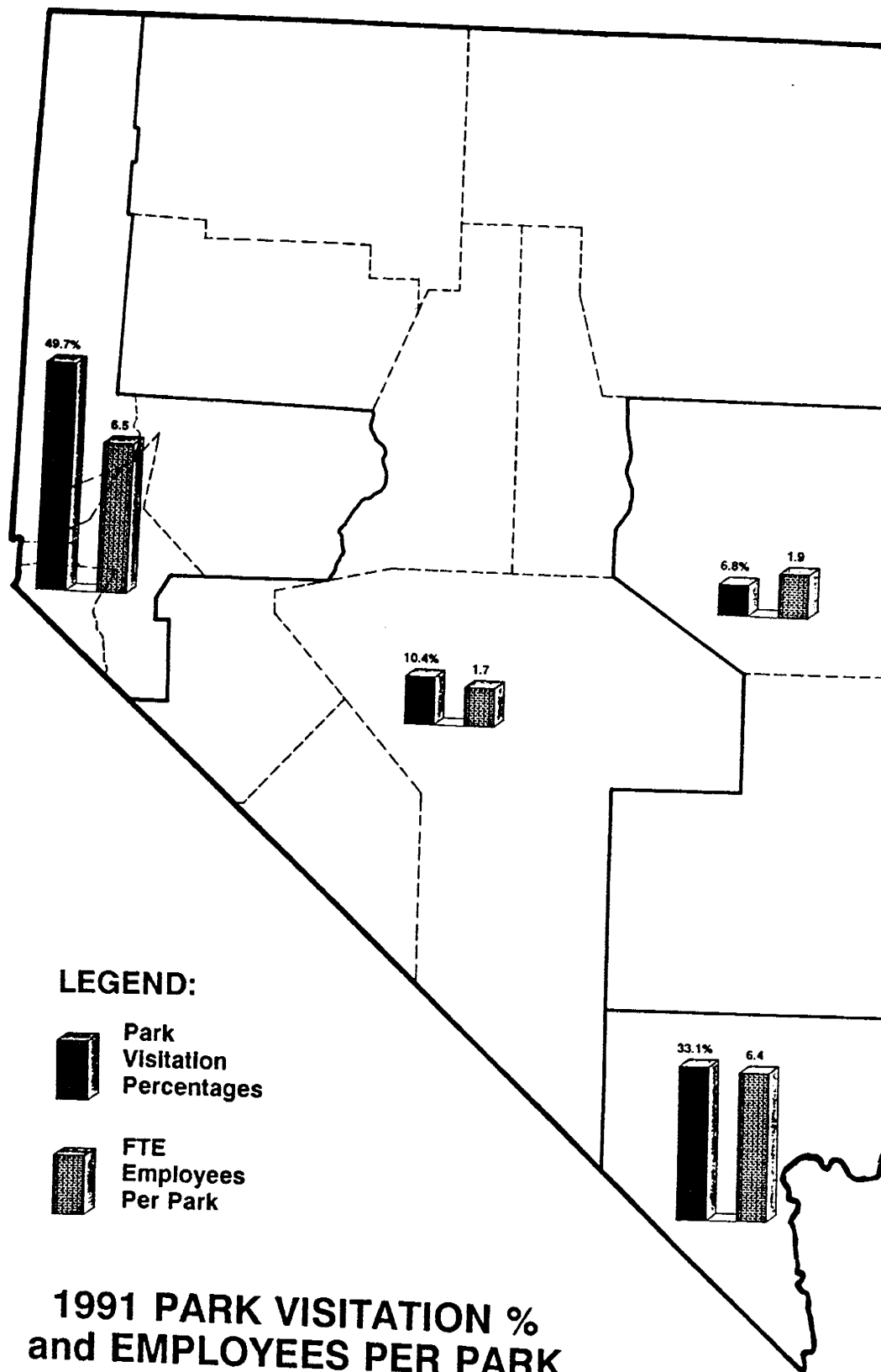
APPENDIX A

Statistics Relative to Park Visitation



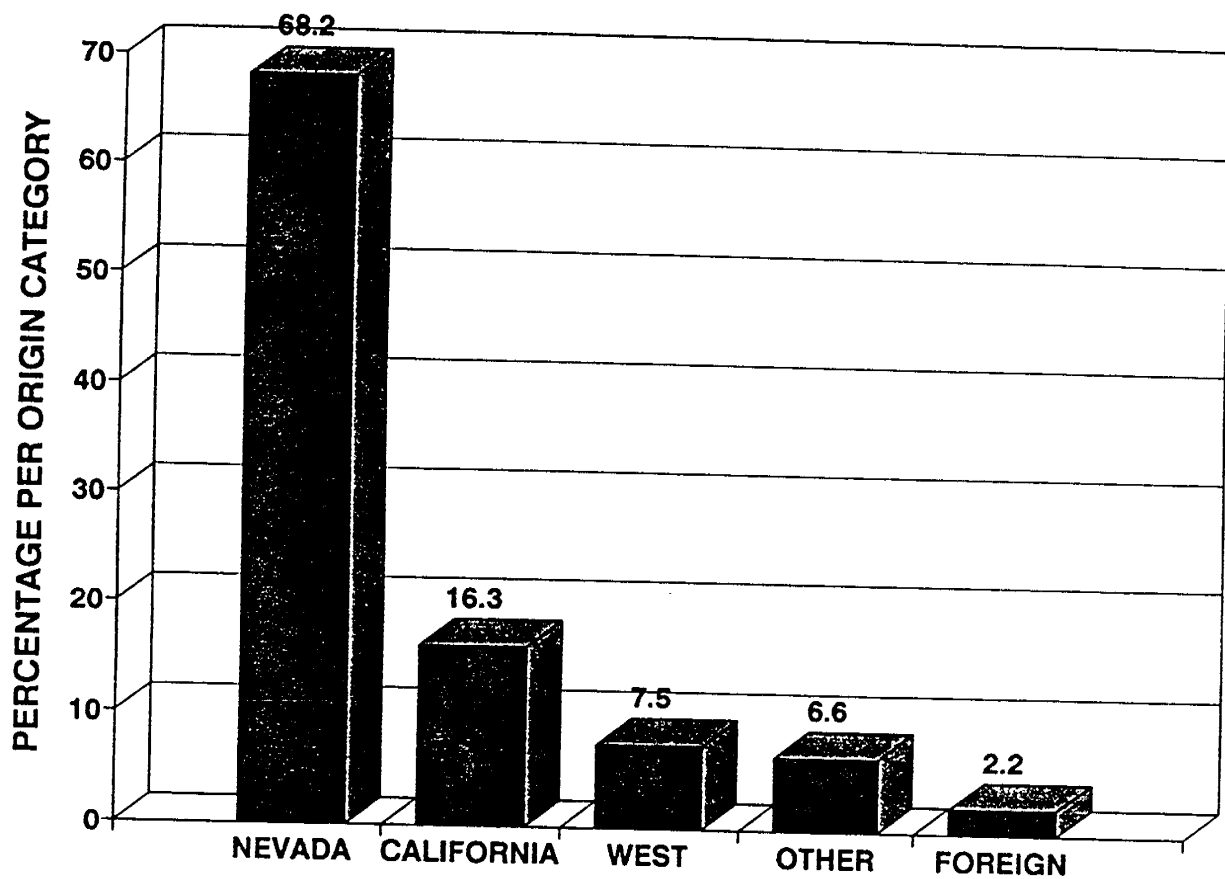
# STATE PARK VISITATION 1982-1991 Statewide





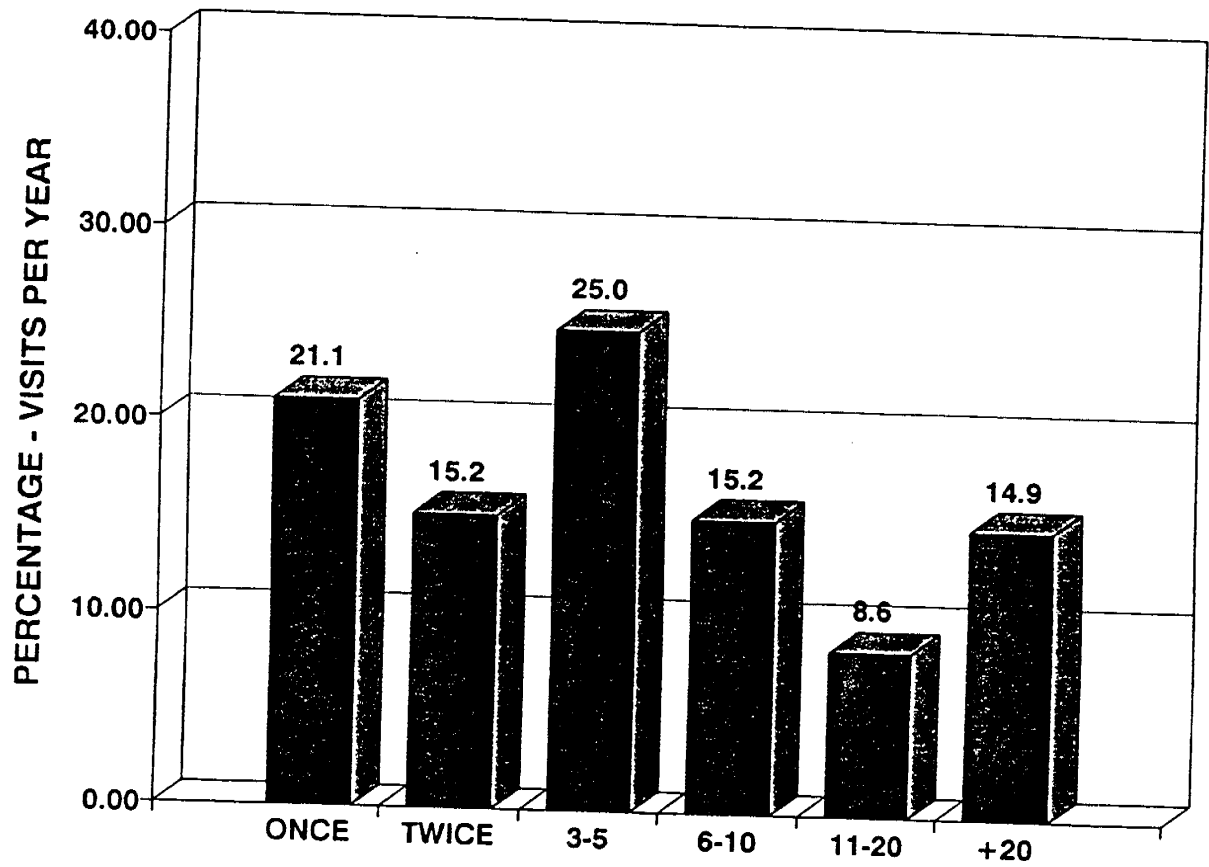
# ORIGIN OF STATE PARK VISITORS

Nevada State Parks - Statewide



# FREQUENCY OF VISITATION

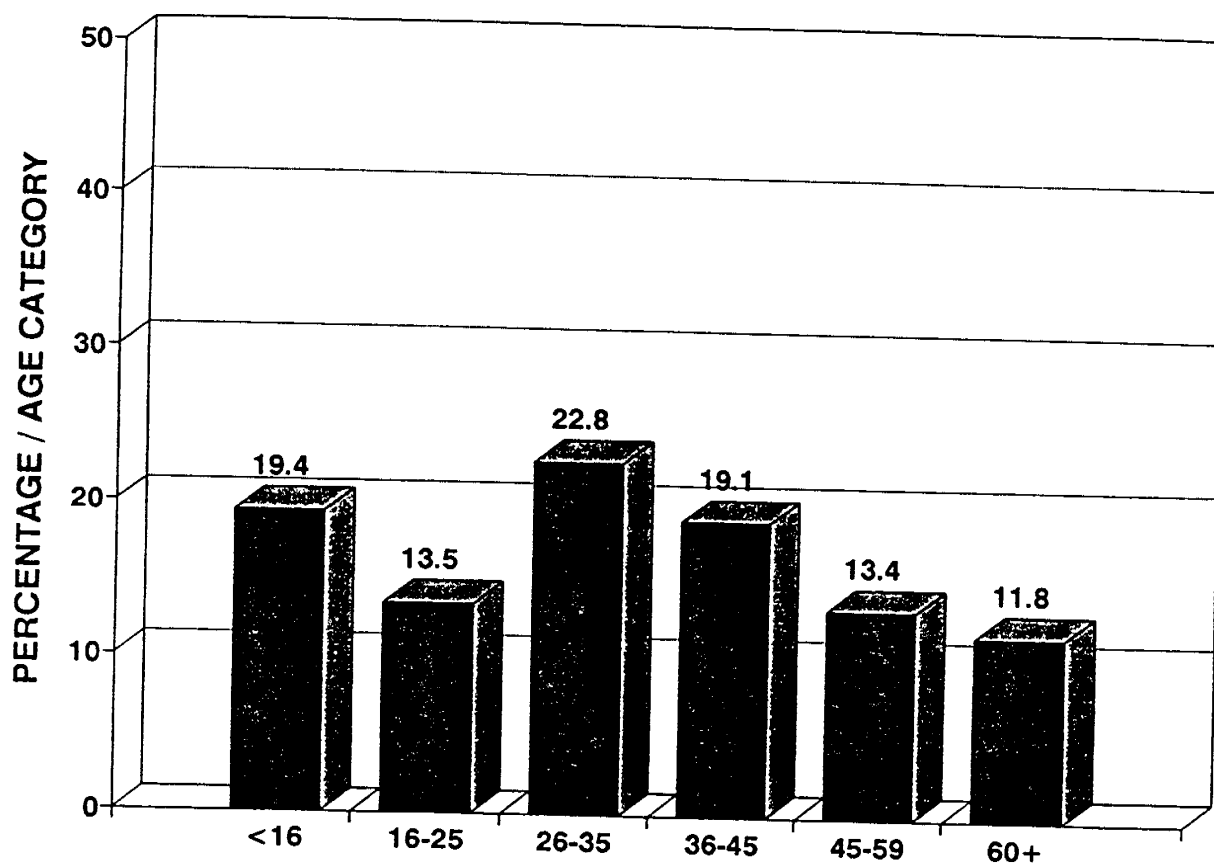
## Nevada State Parks - Statewide





# AGE PROFILE OF PARK VISITORS

Nevada State Parks - Statewide





APPENDIX B

"Questionnaire Associated With Interim  
Legislative Study Of State Parks,"  
November 22, 1991



November 22, 1991

QUESTIONNAIRE ASSOCIATED WITH  
INTERIM LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF STATE PARKS

The purpose of the following questionnaire is to provide background information for the Interim Legislative Study of State Parks in Nevada.

The results of the survey will be used as introductory materials for subcommittee discussion. After completing the questionnaire, please fold, staple and return it as indicated on the reverse side.

Relative Importance of Missions (Overall Goals)

Please number the following "missions statements" from 1 through 5 with your opinion of the most important missions having the lowest numbers. Because all of the missions may be significant, your response only provides relative rankings.

- ★ 91 Enhancing tourism and economic development activities.
- 62 Interpreting cultural/historic places and providing cultural activities.
- 68 Preserving natural habitat and ecosystems.
- 76 Providing environmental/cultural education.
- ★ 48 Providing recreation/entertainment experiences.
- \_\_\_ Other (Specify)

Priorities for Action

Please number the following shorter-term priorities for action from 1 through 7 with your opinion of the highest priorities having the lowest numbers. Again, your responses are only designed to provide an outline of the priorities in relation to one another.

- 102 Construct additional facilities in existing state parks.
- ★ 80 Develop new/expanded sources of funding for the state parks system.
- ★ 124 Develop new state parks.
- 108 Increase promotion of state parks as assets to tourism and economic development efforts.
- 99 Increase special activities (recreational and cultural) at state parks in order to provide more services or to obtain additional funding.
- 103 Seek to establish partnership programs with entities having similar missions in the areas of development and management of recreational and cultural/historic resources.
- ★ 50 Upgrade/enhance the operations and maintenance of existing state parks.
- \_\_\_ Other (Specify)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your assistance is sincerely appreciated.

CW91-2149, PARKS, Q



APPENDIX C

An Organization Chart and the "Permanent Employee  
Staffing Plan" for the Division of State Parks





**ADMINISTRATOR**

**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**OPERATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES**

**Design/  
Construction  
Unit**

**Planning  
Unit**

**Clerical  
Unit**

**Accounting &  
Personnel/  
Payroll Unit**

**District II**

**District III**

**District IV**

**District V**

**District VI**

**NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS  
PERMANENT EMPLOYEE STAFFING PLAN  
By Biennium**

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
Fiscal Year 1994-95					
5	Beaver Dam	Park Supervisor I	31	\$28,140	The park presently is staffed on a seasonal basis although it is opened and used year around. The position will provide on-site management, providing a needed level of visitor protection with a commissioned employee.
5	Kershaw-Ryan	Park Supervisor I	31	\$28,140	The park will be reconstructed and reopened to the public as a result of the Question 5 Bond Issue. Position will provide for the day to day operations, maintenance, protection, visitor services, interpretations and resource management.
2	Washoe Lake	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Acquisition and capital improvements at Little Washoe Lake resulting from the Question 5 Bond Issue, require on site operations, law enforcement and public safety.
3	Fort Churchill	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Acquisition of the 3 Carson River Ranches will bring additional responsibilities. Position will provide visitor service and protection of historic and natural resources.
5	Ward Charcoal Ovens	Park Supervisor I	31	\$28,140	The park will be developed and opened to the public as a result of Question 5. Position will provide on site management including administration, visitor services, law enforcement, maintenance and resource management.
5	Cathedral Gorge	Park Supervisor I - Interpretation	31	\$28,140	A Regional Visitor Center will be developed as a result of Question 5. Position will manage the operation, plan and present programs throughout the district. This includes supervision and participation in program research, development and presentation.
6	Big Bend of the Colorado	Park Supervisor II	33	\$31,968	The Park Supervisor II will be responsible for the management of this large and complex State Park, which includes its development, operation, interpretation, law enforcement, maintenance and improvements. This position is needed during the latter planning stages and before any construction starts. The park will be developed and opened to the public as a result of Question 5.
4	Headquarters	District Ranger I	35	\$36,385	The District is presently managed by the Park Supervisor at Wildhorse. This places double duty on the acting district ranger. His duties include both park operations and district management. He must leave Wildhorses unattended for periods of several days to attend to district business. No staff support presently exists. Position will manage the district, supervise the Park Supervisors.
6	Headquarters	Law Enforcement Specialist	31	\$27,187	Position will Coordinate Law Enforcement activities and training throughout the district. Duties include liaison with other L.E. agencies and D.A., technical support of other commissioned personnel, review, recommend and implement procedures, etc. Population growth and new parks in Clark County increases the demands placed on the parks especially regarding visitor, facility and resource protection.
6	Big Bend of the Colorado	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	This position, due to the location of the park in the fastest growing area of Nevada and coupled with the mild year-round weather, we anticipate this park to be in high demand. The park will have a camp ground and be open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Fee collection and visitor/facility protection are primary concerns.

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
1	Planning and Development	Park Architect	37	\$39,645	A licensed professional architect is needed to coordinate the increasing number of architectural rehabilitation and renovation projects faced by the Division, as well as new structures. Such an individual would coordinate architectural consultants for larger jobs and design smaller projects in-house. State legislation would be necessary to authorize such a position, since we are currently required to have all architectural services provided by State Public Works. Unfortunately, Public Works is frequently not in a position to make Parks' projects a priority, due to their own heavy workload.
3	Fort Churchill	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position will maintain and repair historic building and systems for the newly acquired ranches as well as at Fort Churchill. Carpentry and masonry skills are the primary needs.
6	Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position will provide repairs and routine services to building, ground and equipment.
4	Headquarters	District Park Maintenance Supervisor	34	\$31,988	Position will manage the district's maintenance program, providing technical services, repairs, etc. at both Wildhorse and South Fork. The district presently has <u>no</u> maintenance personnel assigned.
6	Headquarters	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	This position will work with the District Park Maintenance Supervisor assisting the five district parks with maintenance projects, vehicle repairs, purchasing supplies, materials, projects and park improvements planning.
2	Headquarters	Equipment Mechanic II	31	\$28,140	The District's fleet of trucks, dump trucks, tractors, and small equipment requires a skilled journeyman mechanic familiar with the latest automotive technologies. Duties would include routine service and preventative maintenance, minor repairs, major overhauls, and minor body and fender work.
1	Planning and Development	Trail Projects Coordinator	35	\$36,385	The "Symm's National Recreational Trails Fund Act of 1991" will, if directed by the Governor in concurrence with NDOT recommendations, place a substantial burden on the Division of State Parks. This program will involve the updating of the Nevada State Trails Plan, distribution of \$300,000-\$400,000 per year in Federal trail grants, political subdivision project reviews and approval, and coordination of trails planning and construction throughout the state. Consequently, it is anticipated that a full-time coordinator will be necessary to maintain the State's eligibility for these grant programs is anticipated.
		TOTAL POSITIONS Operations - 10 Maintenance - 5 P&D - 2 Clerical - 0	17	\$499,864	

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
Fiscal Year 96-97					
6	Big Bend of the Colorado	Maintenance Repair Specialist II	31	\$28,140	This position will be responsible for all maintenance of vehicles, facilities, water, sewer, electrical and communications systems and park improvements.
6	Big Bend of the Colorado	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	This position will assist the Maintenance Repair Specialist II with his duties. May be responsible for various phases of the operation as he shows the abilities necessary.
3	Rye Patch	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position would service and repair park facilities, buildings, grounds, fleet, and equipment maintenance. It will provide the park with seven day coverage during the park supervisor's days off and the additional safety of a two person operation. New facilities added fifteen miles up the reservoir will require service on a routine basis.
6	Headquarters	Equipment Mechanic II	31	\$28,140	The District's fleet of truck, dump trucks, tractors, and small equipment requires as skilled journeyman mechanic familiar with the latest automotive technologies.
5	Headquarters	Equipment Mechanic II	31	\$28,140	The District's fleet of truck, dump truck, tractors, and small equipment requires a skilled journeyman mechanic familiar with the latest automotive technologies.
6	Floyd Lamb	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Clark County's population growth and the park's increased popularity places demand on the existing staff which cannot be met. The primary function of this position will be law enforcement and fee collection. Existing Ranger staff can only meet minimum custodial and administrative duties with little time left for law enforcement and fee collection, resulting in increased potential for damage to park and injury to visitors as well as loss of revenue.
5	Spring Valley	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Visitation increases over the past 5 years demands addition of another Ranger to cover the park and offer full time peace officer coverage on a year-round basis.
3	Walker Lake	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Acquisition and more intensive facility development requires a higher level of on-site management and visitor protection.
1	Operations	Cultural Resource Manager	37	\$39,645	Position will provide historical and archeological expertise regarding the management and development of resources. It will also develop and implement programs to stabilize and maintain historical buildings and archeological sites. But, further efforts are needed in many other areas in the form of stabilization, restoration, cultural resource planning and management, public education, artifact curation and conservation. Pursue, apply for and manage appropriate historic preservation and other grants.
1	Operations	Natural Resource Concession Manager	37	\$39,645	Staff expert would develop actions to protect resources. Planning, designing and installing erosion controls to stabilize shorezones, trails, roads, recreational sites, and efforts to prevent eutrophication of ponds and lakes are example of actions needed. Resource Manager would determine and establish carrying capacities of the parks' natural resources. Assure compliance with state and federal regulations (ie. wetlands, non point pollution, etc.) Pursue, apply for and manage appropriate grants (urban forest, forest stewardship). Position will also be responsible to manage concessions and leases, including Requests for Proposals development, solicitation and selection, and ongoing administration.
1	Operations	Public Information Specialist	35	\$36,385	Staff expert would manage the Division's public relations and interpretive programs. Developing and implementing programs to project a positive image, deal directly with media, write press releases, etc. Individual would also coordinate interpretive programming statewide. Providing expertise in the development of publications, presentations, audio-visuals, displays and education /public relations materials.

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
2	Headquarters	Park Ranger - Interpretation	28	\$24,870	Position will be responsible to plan, coordinate and present interpretive programs. Duties also included the development, event scheduling and brochure publications statewide.
1	Operations	Micro Computer Specialist III	32	\$29,333	Position will provide technical support and training to both headquarters and field staff. Primary function will be the development and implementation of computerized management applications, trouble shoot problems, etc., statewide.
2	Lake Tahoe	Management Assistant I	23	\$20,407	Position will perform a wide variety of duties including fee collections, supervision and reporting, reservations, word processing, bookkeeping, inventory and other clerical functions.
1	Administration	Administrative Aid	20	\$18,197	Position performs a wide variety of clerical duties including word processing and other computer input functions and graphic layout to assist P & D.
5	Cathedral Gorge	Park Ranger - Interpretation	28	\$24,870	Position will assist in the operation of the regional visitor center, assuring that it is operated 7 days a week. Duties will include program research and development, presentations and talks and a variety of activities related to the cultural and natural history of the area.
5	Headquarters	Law Enforcement Specialist	31	\$27,187	Coordination of Law Enforcement activities and training. Provide liaison with other local enforcement agencies and backup to other park peace officers district wide.
4	Headquarters	Management Assistant I	23	\$20,407	Position will provide management support including accounting, records management, word processing, answering telephone and providing public information, etc. in support of the management of the district.
1	Planning and Development	Supervisor - Planning, Grants and Acquisition	37	\$39,645	The anticipated revival of the Land & Water Conservation Fund program, in addition to the already approved "National Recreation Trails" grant program, will substantially increase the amount of grants administration required of the Division of State Parks. There is a need to actively pursue various sources of government, foundations and corporate grants for the state parks. For these reasons, a supervisory level grants specialist is needed.
		TOTAL POSITIONS Operations - 10 Maintenance - 5 P&D - 1 Clerical - 3	<u>19</u>	<u>\$533,605</u>	

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
Fiscal Year 98-99					
1	Operations	Senior Law Enforcement Specialist	34	\$30,837	Coordinate law enforcement statewide, including training, interagency coordination, certifications, records, background, research and investigation. These functions, presently being performed by the District II L.E. Specialist, should be moved from the district, allowing the District position to devote his entire time to local matters.
4	Wild Horse	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position will perform repairs and routine service on buildings, grounds and equipment primarily at Wild Horse. The position will also assist with projects at South Fork. Wild Horse's isolation and distance from Elko and the lack maintenance staff within the District makes the use of other alternatives difficult, costly, and inefficient.
6	Floyd Lamb	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Increased visitation and development will require increased law enforcement coverage. Larger seasonal staff will require increased supervision. Increased administrative and supervisory demands on the Park Supervisor will prevent that position from being used for law enforcement purposes.
6	Floyd Lamb	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position needed to meet basic maintenance functions. Tasks including painting, fence repair, and landscaping are currently being left undone resulting in deterioration of facilities. Stabilization of historical structures to be completed in 1992 will be left to deteriorate as existing staff cannot meet existing demands.
6	Headquarters	Park Ranger - Interpretation	28	\$24,870	Coordination of the District's interpretive programs. The duties of this position are assisting in the planning and implementing of the interpretive programs in District VI and other areas upon request; coordination of natural and cultural resource programs; coordinating volunteer groups involved in all aspects of park work, i.e., Docent, State Parks Cultural Arts Board, liaison with other state, federal, city agencies and civic and citizen groups.
1	Administration	Administrative Aid	20	\$18,197	Position performs a wide variety of clerical support duties including word processing and other computer input function and graphic layout.
6	Valley of Fire	Administrative Aid	20	\$18,197	With the increased fees, visitation, facilities, responsibilities, etc., the administrative aspects of the Park Supervisor will overtake the field responsibilities. This position will decrease the amount of time that the Ranger staff will have to spend in the office allowing more time for patrol, fee collection, maintenance, etc.
5	Cave lake	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Visitation increases over the past 5 years demand addition of another Ranger to cover the park and offer full time peace officer coverage on a year-round basis.
3	Berlin-Ichthyosaur	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	This position would provide the park with two permanent positions, reducing the need for extended seasonal employee coverage and providing a more consistent level of expertise and service. The segregation of the townsites in future development will require a resident ranger in the townsites to provide security. Two permanent positions will eliminate many of the safety and security concerns in this remote park operation.
3	Lahontan	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	This position is needed to provide year around maintenance services for the park's large maintenance work load. Many jobs require two people due to their size or O.S.H.A regulations. The position would provide a higher sustained level of technical expertise than seasonal position and expand maintenance capabilities for buildings, grounds and utility systems maintenance.

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
2	Lake Tahoe (Split)	Park Supervisor II	33	\$30,594	The size, complexity and popularity of the existing Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park makes supervision and management extremely difficult. The park would be geographically and administratively divided in half. These positions and a portion of the existing permanent and seasonal staff would operate state park properties in the southern portion of the Tahoe basin. Presently this includes Cave Rock and Van Sickle. The most logical timing for such a change would come if and when Round Hill (Q-5 Feasibility Study site), the 4-H Camp or other properties are acquired.  Park Supervisor will manage the operations and maintenance of the South Tahoe parks.
2	Lake Tahoe (Split)	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Position will assist with the operations and maintenance of the South Tahoe parks.
2	Lake Tahoe (Split)	Maintenance Repair Specialist II	31	\$28,140	Position will be responsible for buildings, grounds, systems and equipment maintenance of the south Tahoe park.
5	Ward Charcoal Ovens	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	Position will assist with operation and maintenance providing 7 day per week security, management, maintenance and visitor services.
6	Floyd Lamb	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Visitation will no doubt continue to increase beyond the current 300,000 annually due to a residential development in the surrounding area. Addition of proposed new swimming pond and associated turf, restrooms, and picnic sites will create new maintenance needs beyond capacity of existing staff.
6	Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort	Park Ranger - Interpretation	28	\$24,870	This position will enable the park to be open seven days per week for eight hours, assist the Friends of the Fort volunteers, implement a program with the Clark County School district, be available for any special group requests, and provide for increased protection of the facility and visitor assistance.
6	Spring Mountain Ranch	Maintenance Repair Specialist I	30	\$26,992	Position will assist the Maintenance Repair Specialist II with grounds maintenance to include lawn and pasture grooming, fertilization and irrigation, weed control, tree and shrub pruning and upkeep, tree replacement, etc. Will also provide maintenance and upkeep of out-buildings and public use facilities, provide maintenance to the outer recreation areas under the agreement with BLM, work with an NDF Conservation Camp crews and assist with vehicle and equipment maintenance.
6	Valley of Fire	Park Ranger	28	\$24,870	The opening of the outer areas of the park will open more than two thirds of the park which had been previously closed due to washed out roads. With this is the need for more patrol, visitor services, fee collection, emergency services, etc.
6	Valley of Fire	Park Ranger - Interpretation	28	\$24,870	Position will operate the visitor center and coordinate interpretive programs and be responsible for special events within the park.
1	Planning and Development	Management Assistant II	25	\$22,064	The P&D Section has no support staff, not even basic clerical support. A full-time management assistant will allow more efficient use of professional staff time, providing word-processing of specifications and correspondence, filing, collating, and related services.
1	Planning and Development	Engineering Technician III	29	\$25,909	P&D staff needs the technical support that an engineering technician would provide. Such support services would include: basic drafting, computer aided drafting, surveying assistance, construction inspection, materials testing, etc.
		TOTAL POSITIONS Operations - 11 Maintenance - 6 P&D - 1 Clerical - 3	21	\$532,728	

District	Park or Unit	Title	Grade	Salary	Duties
		GRAND TOTAL Operations - 3 Maintenance - 16 P&D - 4 Clerical - 6	57	\$1,566,197	

#### SUMMARY BY FUNCTION

BIENNIUM	Operations		Maintenance		P & D		Clerical		TOTAL NEW PERMA- NENT POSITIONS	TOTAL COST
	Positions	Cost	Positions	Cost	Positions	Cost	Positions	Cost		
FY 94/95	10	\$282,730	5	\$141,104	2	\$76,030	0	\$0	17	\$499,864
FY 96/97	10	299,545	5	138,404	1	36,645	3	59,011	19	533,605
FY 98/99	11	285,261	6	163,100	1	25,909	3	58,458	21	532,728
TOTALS	31	\$867,536	16	\$442,608	4	\$138,584	6	\$117,469	57	\$1,566,197



APPENDIX D

Letter to Governor Robert J. Miller Concerning  
Appointment of State Recreational  
Trails Advisory Board



THOMAS J. HICKEY  
SENATOR  
Clark No. 2



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# State of Nevada Senate

**Sixty-Sixth Session**

**October 23, 1992**

The Honorable Robert J. Miller  
Governor of Nevada  
State Capitol Building  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Governor Miller:

At the conclusion of its interim legislative study, the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study State Parks adopted a recommendation relative to appointment of a State Recreational Trails Advisory Board. As Chairman of the subcommittee that conducted the study, I was asked to forward this letter recommending that you appoint such a board with a composition which, at a minimum, meets the requirements of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 and includes representation from the State Park Advisory Commission.

## Background Information

The subcommittee received a considerable amount of testimony concerning the recently enacted Symms National Recreational Trails Act and its possible application in Nevada. (The Symms Act is a component of the comprehensive Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991.)

The Symms Act provides up to \$30 million nationally over each of the next 5 fiscal years to establish and maintain recreational trails. It is estimated that Nevada's share will be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually.

Funds received under this act may be used:

1. To develop urban trails linking homes with work places;
2. To maintain existing trails, including the grooming of snow-covered trails;

3. To restore areas damaged by usage;
4. To develop trail-side or trail-head facilities;
5. To make trails accessible to disabled persons;
6. To acquire easements or property for trails; or
7. To construct new trails.

No more than 7 percent of the funds may be used for administrative costs, and no more than 5 percent may be used for environmental protection or safety education related to using recreational trails. States may also use these funds to make grants to private individuals, city and county governments, and other governmental entities for the purposes listed above. Funds cannot be used for condemnation of any kind of interest in property.

Money made available under this act is to be used on trails and trail-related projects that have been planned or developed under otherwise existing laws, policies and administrative procedures within each state and that are identified in a trail plan included or referenced in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

#### Eligibility for Funds

To maintain eligibility for these Federal funds, states have 3 years from the date the United States Congress approved the law (December 18, 1994) to meet the following requirements:

1. The state must create a state recreational trail advisory board with representatives of both motorized and non-motorized trail users;
2. If a state imposes a tax on non-highway recreational fuel, the state must, by law, reserve a reasonable estimation of the revenues from that tax for use in providing and maintaining recreational trails; and
3. The governor must designate the state official or officials who will be responsible for administering money received under the act.

Recommendation

Based on this information, the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

**Recommend, by letter, that the Governor appoint a state recreational trails advisory board with a composition which, at a minimum, meets the requirements of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 and includes representation from the State Park Advisory Commission.**

Concluding Comment

It is my understanding that the Division of State Parks has been tentatively identified as the lead agency, and that you have delayed appointment of an advisory board until relevant federal regulations are adopted. This approach appears to be advantageous.

At the appropriate time, however, we would ask that you seriously consider the subcommittee's recommendation. From a personal perspective, I would also suggest that the trails advisory board be as small as practical in order to maximize the efficiency of financial expenditures, and that the members of the State Park Advisory Commission be used as much as possible to ensure coordination between the two bodies.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and the excellent assistance provided by the Division of State Parks during the interim study. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hickey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Thomas J. Hickey  
Chairman, Legislative Commission's  
Subcommittee to Study State Parks

TJH/dr:PARKS-L03



APPENDIX E

"Division Of State Parks' Recommendation  
For Implementation Of Staffing Plan  
(Not Adopted By Subcommittee)"





DIVISION OF STATE PARKS' RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STAFFING PLAN  
(NOT ADOPTED BY SUBCOMMITTEE)

Appropriate \$2,241,957 to the Division of State Parks (for the biennium containing Fiscal Years [FY] 1993-1994 and 1994-1995) for the employment of 17 additional permanent persons and 360 additional man-months of seasonal personnel in the following categories:

- a. Operations - 10 persons (\$579,597);
- b. Maintenance - 5 persons (\$289,263);
- c. Planning and Development - 2 persons (\$155,862); and
- d. Seasonal Personnel - 360 man-months per year (\$1,217,235).

In the preamble of the bill highlight that:

- a. It is necessary to increase staffing in the Division of State Parks in order to provide sufficient services within new and existing state parks by the end of the 1990-2000 decade;
- b. The new positions are consistent with the Division of State Parks' master staffing plan for the remainder of the decade;
- c. The emphasis for staffing increases in FY 1993-1994 and FY 1994-1995 is placed upon support for new parks created as a result of the "Question No. 5" bond program and existing parks which are unstaffed; and
- d. The Division of State Parks' master staffing plan for the remainder of the decade projects future needs in the following areas:

	<u>Fiscal Years</u> <u>1995-1996/1996-1997</u>	<u>Fiscal Years</u> <u>1997-1998/1998-1999</u>
Operations	13 persons (\$358,556)	14 persons (\$343,719)
Maintenance	5 persons (\$138,404)	6 persons (\$163,100)
Planning/Development	1 person (\$39,645)	1 person (\$25,909)
Seasonal Personnel	106 man-months (\$188,468)	176 man-months (\$312,928)
Public Info/Interpreter	1 person (\$36,385)	-
Cultural Resource Manager	1 person (\$39,645)	-
Natural Resource Manager/ Concession Manager	1 person (\$39,645)	-

(Note: All salary-related figures in subsection d reflect only the initial year of the biennium and are based on "step 1" salaries as of May 1992.)

- e. The emphasis for future staffing increases outlined in subsection d is placed upon operations and maintenance, supplemented by public information/interpretation and management of cultural resources, natural resources and concession functions.



APPENDIX F

"Nevada Northern Railway Feasibility Study,"  
prepared by the Division of State Parks,  
March 12, 1991



NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

FEASIBILITY STUDY

ELY, NEVADA

March 12, 1991

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I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine and document the desirability/feasibility of acquiring, or managing the Nevada Northern Railway grounds/facilities/rolling stock as a Nevada State Historic Park.

Location

The Railroad Complex is located within the City limits of Ely, Nevada. It can be reached by driving north on Ave F and then turning left onto 11th street, the depot is located at the end of 11st street. The railroad complex is 45 acres in size with 46 miles of track. The track includes two short lines, one 8 miles long, and the other 11 miles. The tracks tie in with additional track (185 miles owned by Los Angeles Power and Light). The complex has 28 separate buildings, rolling stock from the 1880's to 1940's, and railroad maintenance equipment (welding, wood shops, blacksmith operations, machine shop, maintenance shop etc.).

Site Quality

The Railroad Complex includes a series 30 buildings and structures that have significant historical value to the mining and railroad history of Ely and Northern Nevada. The property is adjacent to private homes/property within the City Limits on the east and south sides. One two acre private in-holding is on the west side of the property. To the north is City owned property (George Town Ranch Complex and City Golf Course). Electric, water, and sewer are provided to the site by the City of Ely. The property is adjacent to the city sewer plant, and dog kennels. The many historical buildings on the site give the property a highly developed appearance. Building design and architecture range from early 1900's to 1950's.

The primary value of the property is its historical setting and significance. Its views are not consistent with natural or geological expectations of a State Park.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

### Site History

The site, billed as the Home of the Last Bonanza Railroad, was built, owned, and operated by the Nevada Northern Railway Company. Throughout its history, the railway and railroad were owned by several different mining corporations, its ownership and name changed several times. The final ownership was by Kennecott Copper Company. In 1983, the Railroad and building complex was donated to the City of Ely and the White Pine County Historical Railroad Foundation established under the direction of the City of Ely to receive, administer, develop the railroad and associated properties. The property, facilities, and rolling stock remain the property of the City of Ely. Much is known about the site, the history of the railroad and its development. Extensive records have been kept on line repairs, freight hauled, passengers, etc. These can be found on site in storage.

### Current Status

The properties are currently owned by the City of Ely and managed by the White Pine County Historical Railroad Foundation. One of the buildings, the Passenger Depot, is owned by the State Museum and are registered as National Historic Landmarks.

The properties have 30 assorted building and structures on the grounds of the main complex. The two best preserved buildings are the transportation building and depot. The transportation building is currently used as an office complex for the Foundation. It also serves as a sales outlet for commercial items similar to the Nevada Division of State Parks Natural History Association. During the summer months, the depot serves as a ticket sales office for train rides.

### Future Status if No Action Taken

Neither the City of Ely nor the Foundation has the funds to do the restoration work necessary to develop the properties and rolling stock to its potential and into bonified historical area. If money is not made available, facilities now open to the public may be closed, all operations will instead be focused on train operation with no interpretive support of the many historical aspects of the complex. The current program is "band-aided" with unstable financial support. Ticket sale revenue alone can not support the operation and restoration programs.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

### II. REGIONAL INFLUENCES

**Demographics:** The site is located in White Pine County. The counties' population was 8,830 in 1989. The County Seat is in Ely. Population growth has declined from a high of 10,150 in 1970 primarily due to lay-offs at Kennecott Copper Company.

**Recreation Supply and Demand:** The predominate land holder in the White Pine County is the Federal Government, which also provides recreational facilities in the county in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service (5 campgrounds), the Bureau of Land Management (2 campgrounds), and the National Park Service/Great Basin National Park (4 campgrounds). The Division of State Parks maintains two campgrounds at Cave Lake, but provides no developed facilities at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Monument. There are seven private RV parks in or around Ely.

#### SCORP

Review of the 1982 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reveals that most recreational demands up to the year 2000 are met with current developments (see pages 6-11, Table 6-6).

#### Potential for Recreational Activities

The proposed site offers the potential to establish a State Historic Park with a variety of recreational facilities and opportunities for park users. Primary focus should be to preserve the facility's historical character and the railroad equipment. Opportunities abound for interpretative programs, not only of the history of the railroad, but also the importance of the mining industry in shaping Nevada's History. Opportunities are available to develop museum exhibits, walking tours, living history programs, equipment storage, and displays. There seems to be limitless opportunities for interpretive program development. For example, the Engine House is most suitable for programs involving the operations of its belt-driven machine, blacksmith, welding, and boiler shops. Because the tools and machinery are in such excellent condition, intact and operable, interpretive displays and tours could be developed to walk visitors back 25 years in time. The actual inventories, the equipment, and the rolling stock of the Nevada Northern Railroad are still there, as if the workmen laid down their tools and the end of their shifts yesterday.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

As an historical site, this is a crown jewel. The site could also be developed to accommodate secondary recreational opportunities, such as picnicking, bird watching, and interpretive displays to promote additional historical or outdoor recreation interests within the region.

The feasibility study completed in 1986 on the Nevada Northern Railway included a needs assessment for the City of Ely. It determined that the property and equipment associated with the complex needs to be managed, maintained, and restored. The endeavor will not be inexpensive. The long-term benefit, however, is the restoration and operation of a 1940's vintage rail line and the restoration of maintenance and operating facilities associated with it. The facility as it now stands is a "Turn-Key" operation. The tools, equipment, and much of the inventory needed to keep the train operating are on hand. The facilities will require funding to get them in tip-top condition. Several key facilities are in need of immediate attention if there is to be a future for the railroad, the equipment, and inventories now located in the facilities.

### **Future Role**

All elements currently exist to make the site a State Historic Park that could be managed by several entities. The entire site should be designated a National Registered Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Engines represent two periods of History, Steam & diesel. Both can be interpreted and preserved as a point in history. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) does not address historical needs within the management districts. The Nevada Northern Maintenance Complex is a blend of history and architectural styles/methods from the early 1900's through the 1950's. Historical developmental themes are significant.

### **Land Use Trends**

Ownership of the entire properties is held by the City of Ely. Property is adjacent to private lands on three sides with one private in-holding (a private residence). Property is also adjacent to the George Town Ranch and the Community Golf Course on the North end of the property. Property is currently zoned as commercial/industrial.



## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

Access is from Ave F north onto 11th Street west. The property skirts what would be considered Ely Proper. A detracting feature is the western view over-looking the City owned municipal properties (sewer plant, dog retention facility, and a privately owned auto dismantling yard).

Local utilities are available on site: Sewer, water, and Power.

Other Factors: All indicators point towards agreed preservation of the historical facilities and equipment. It is supported by the City of Ely, the City Council, and the County Commissioners. The community is supportive of development and preservation. It appears as though there is also Legislative interest at this time to provide some funds for preservation of the engine maintenance buildings and an additional feasibility study and/or a master plan.

### III. SITE RESOURCE INVENTORY

The City of Ely is within the Great Basin vegetative community. The vegetation qualities are relatively insignificant. The site is predominantly flat with drainage adjacent to the properties on the west and north. The elevation of Ely is 6,253 feet above sea level with an average 9.17 inches of precipitation. Average temperature in August is 65.5 and 23.9 in January.

The area is made up of tertiary and quaternary alluvium, consisting principally of unconsolidated silty sands and gravel.

Water Resources: The properties are hooked into the City Water System. No other information is available.

Wildlife: No known or threatened species exist. European Pigeons are abundant on properties, Great Horned Owls are known to nest on the property.

Perceptual Attributes/Detriments: The primary attributes are the various historical construction styles of facilities and the various vintage railroad equipment on site. The past is most apparent!

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

On site detriments include various scrap piles scattered throughout the grounds and in facilities. Overall, the property is in need of general cleaning and maintenance to bring facility to standards and up to the codes and standards of OSHA. Adjacent municipal properties could detract from site (see previous section of Land Use Trends).

### **Cultural Resources**

Archeological: No known archeological resources exist. Those which may have existed were probably obliterated by rail road activities over the years.

Historical: Many. Neither the City of Ely nor the Foundation has made a complete inventory and analysis of properties. The history of the area is documented. Inventories of buildings, equipment, maintenance supplies and tools are significant.

Facilities: The 30 different facilities on site are significant. Machine shop, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, etc., are all complete (both materials and equipment). Facilities are in various states of disrepair. Immediate attention is necessary to assure preservation.

### **Boundaries/In-holding**

The City of Ely retains all easements for utility hook-ups on the property. One private in-holding exists within the property (Wicker Property).

### **Existing Facilities/Uses**

See Attached feasibility study for foundation.

## **IV. NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS ANALYSIS/CLASSIFICATION**

### **Cultural Features**

The facility meets the requirements for designation as a State Historic Park. The historical significance to the community and state are great. The area includes a group of historical buildings associated with a significant period of history in the State of Nevada. The site has many complementary visitor facilities. Management emphasis should be on the historical and cultural influences of the development and operations of the railroad and the impact of the mining industry on the state and area.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

The City owned properties are adequate in size and have appropriate boundaries for the continued protection and preservation of the facilities and rail lines. With adequate fencing and signs, the site can be protected. The site would be complemented by the development of interpretive displays, tours, and day use facilities.

### **Existing Development**

The feasibility study completed for the Foundation lists the primary and secondary facilities located throughout the properties. It must be emphasized that the facilities and equipment on site compliment each other. In essence, it is a 'turn-key' railroad operation representing the steam and diesel engine periods of railroad history. The maintenance facility to keep and maintain the railroad already exists on site. It is a part of history that could become a living part of the past with funding and attention. Interpretive emphasis could be on a variety of topics including but not limited to: origins of the mining local industry, early impact of mining on the local and state economy, labor management relationships in a company town, a typical working day in 1910 as opposed to 1940 as opposed to 1970 (changes in general work conditions), safety and environmental pollution, significant incidents in the history of the industry, ie. strikes, disasters, lay-off.

### **Carrying Capacity**

Analysis to date has not set a designated carrying capacity for the facility. The train tours have the current ability to handle up to 200 people per trip. A guided tour could be set-up every 30 minutes with 10-15 people on each tour (the tours could last about 1 1/2 hours). This would require three staff members for tours. Tours would run from May 15 - Sept 15. The two building now in use as museums could handle 15-30 people at a time. Self-guided tours are not recommended at facilities other than the depot and transportation buildings due to potential safety hazards, vandalism, and/or theft of artifacts.

### **Relation to Resource Management Objectives**

The site should be developed and managed to place emphasis on protection and interpretation of the historical facilities and equipment. Continuation of scenic railroad rides should be a part of the program. Future development should place emphasis on site, facilities, and equipment preservation. Day Use development for picnicking is necessary, but secondary to primary purpose.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

A management team of involved local and state agencies should be developed, and the Nevada Northern Railroad Foundation retained. Agencies which may consider involvement would include: City of Ely, State Museums, State Historic Preservation & Archaeology, Division of State Lands, and the Division of State Parks. Charges and responsibilities of each entity would need to be outlined.

### Site Size

The main historical section of the complex includes 45 acres of land currently owned by the City of Ely. Additional responsibility and management areas includes 19 miles of roadbed away from principle property and 45 miles of track.

### Location

The location of the site is within driving distance of two major metropolitan centers: Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. A current survey of ridership shows that 45% of visitors are from Nevada, 24% from California, and 11% from Utah. Ely is a four-hour drive from Las Vegas, and a six-hour drive from Carson City at posted speed limits.

### Visitor Services

Current services provided by the Foundation include rail excursions and limited tours of facilities, and mini-museum housed in the depot building. There are food concessions at depot and on train. Rail charters are available for groups of 20 or more.

If the Division of State Parks is included in the management of the facility, it is envisioned that its role would be as guardian of the facilities and active participant in the development, management, and presentation of interpretive programs and services. In all probability, State Parks would also be responsible for development and management of day use facilities, security and law enforcement.

### Significance

The site is significant from the standpoint of the historic development of structures, utilities, and equipment. Several buildings are still equipped with an old Delco lighting systems, 1920's era office equipment (roll-top desks, solid oak filing systems, etc.), belt driven machinery, coal and oil fired engines, carbon welding systems, and coal fired forges.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

The site and equipment would compliment other State owned railroad museums, and would allow the State to the use facilities for the restoration of other vintage railway cars and equipment located throughout its system. The Northern Railroad System facility has maintenance and repair capability on site using the old "company owned" equipment and facilities. The repair shops could be used to do restoration work on the Nevada Northern and all other rolling stock within the State Museum system.

### **Ownership**

The Foundation and the City of Ely are looking for assistance from the State of Nevada. The State Museum has one building on site, but no staff. To maintain, protect, and keep the facilities and equipment operational, funding is necessary. At the time of this writing, the City intends to give all title/deeds to the State. The Foundation, and Friends of the Ghost Train should be kept abreast of the management of the program. The Foundation could retain concession and operation of railroad excursions.

### **V. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative 1: Continue management by the City of Ely by and through the Foundation. The Foundation is currently seeking funds for an additional feasibility study and repairs to the engine house facility. This alternative would: 1) give funding support to the City of Ely to maintain facilities and operate railroad; 2) use the most recent feasibility study to phase in funding needed for the repair of existing facilities; and, 3) fund additional master planning that includes the additional properties acquired since the last feasibility study was completed.

Alternative 2: Facilities would be acquired and maintained as a Nevada State Museum and managed cooperatively with the Foundation. This alternative would need adequate funding for the staffing, operations, and extensive master planning effort. The current State Museum budget account title for the facility is the "White Pine Historical Industrial Site".

Alternative 3: The entire site would be acquired by the state and managed by the Division of State Parks as a State Historic Park. Alternative 3 would require adequate funding for the staffing, operations, and extensive master planning effort.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

Alternative 4: State agencies which have an interest and expertise in the project, would work together with the City of Ely and the Foundation, through a cooperative management agreement, to develop a State Historic Park. The talents and expertise of various state agencies such as the State Museum System, Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, and the Division of State Parks would be beneficial to drafting such an agreement. Facility operation, maintenance, and interpretative responsibilities would need to be clearly delineated and secure funding sources found. This alternative would require adequate funding for the staffing, operations, and extensive master planning effort.

### Cost Estimates:

The original feasibility study must be updated to reflect current cost projections and for an extensive master plan. The master plan would need to include an architectural study of existing buildings/structures, equipment, inventories, and support facilities, with recommendations for their preservation and maintenance. This effort must be completed using outside consultants, since none of the state agencies have the manpower to accomplish the task.

### Operating Costs

The original feasibility study estimated the annual operating cost would be \$450,900 per year (Table 20). The salary scales are very low, and in fact, salaries would be double what the feasibility study suggest. The initial cost for Phase I was \$675,515 (table 17/page 75), however, this figure does not include the costs to repair the machine shop or other structures considered in critical need of repair and renovation. The structural integrity of all the structures needs to be determined by a qualified engineer.

An accurate budget can not be developed without knowing the Legislative expectations and the extent of State responsibility. At minimum we would need a District Ranger I, a Park Supervisor II, two Park Interpreters, two Park Rangers, three to four Park Maintenance Specialists, two Exhibits Specialist, a Curator of Manuscripts, a Curator of History, and an undetermined number of seasonal staff.

## Feasibility Study - Nevada Northern Railroad

### VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nevada Northern Railroad Complex deserves consideration for funding for preservation, protection, and interpretation. The facilities and equipment under public ownership should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. This park project would present a unique opportunity for the Division of State Parks to become involved in the management of a significant Historic Park.

The park would require a significantly large amount of money to operate and maintain. Capitol outlays significant enough to restore and maintain facilities, equipment, and railroad rolling stock are needed. Development of this one park could equal all funding made available from the 1990 Question 5 Bond Issue plus the current operating budget for the entire Division. The first feasibility study indicated that the operation would reach a point where it would be self-supporting, but additional research is needed to determine the accuracy of this statement. Due to the number of facilities and maintenance required, this is most likely not be case.

#### Preferred Alternative

The development and maintenance of this historic facility will cost a significant amount of money. The City of Ely can not fund it with its limited tax base revenue alone. The State Museum System does not have the expertise to maintain the facilities or grounds alone. The Division of State Parks does not have the expertise to do the historical research and documentation, and the Division of Historical Preservation and Archaeology is without field capabilities. All agencies are without sufficient staff and the funding needed to tackle this project without major funding and assistance from the Legislature. No one agency can handle the scope of this project, for this reason the Preferred Alternative is #4.

It cannot be over stressed the importance of significant architectural, engineering and master plan work needed if the State is to commit itself to this massive undertaking. This planning work must be performed by outside consultants. It would be nearly impossible for the agencies cited to take on this work considering their current workloads. Although they have the know-how to manage and operate the facility they have neither the financial capabilities or the manpower for such an undertaking.





## APPENDIX G

### Suggested Legislation

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SUMMARY--Expands exemption from requirement that state public works board furnish engineering and architectural services for certain buildings. (BDR 28-265)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to the state public works board; revising the requirement that the state public works board furnish engineering and architectural services for buildings constructed on state property or with legislative appropriation by expanding the exemption for improvements made by the state department of conservation and natural resources; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 341.141 is hereby amended to read as follows:

341.141 1. The board shall furnish engineering and architectural services to the University of Nevada and all other state departments, boards or commissions charged with the construction of any building constructed on state property or for which the money is appropriated by the legislature, except:

- (a) Buildings used in maintaining highways;
- (b) Improvements [, other than buildings,] made in state parks by the state department of conservation and natural resources; and
- (c) Buildings on property controlled by other state agencies if the board has delegated its authority in accordance with NRS 341.119.

The board of regents of the University of Nevada and all other state departments, boards or commissions shall use those services.

2. The services must consist of:

- (a) Preliminary planning;
- (b) Designing;
- (c) Estimating of costs; and
- (d) Preparation of detailed plans and specifications.

SUMMARY--Eliminates requirement that state treasurer allocate to wildlife account in state general fund portion of tax on motor vehicle fuel used in watercraft. (BDR 32-272)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

AN ACT relating to taxes on motor vehicle fuel; eliminating the requirement that the state treasurer allocate to the wildlife account in the state general fund a portion of the excise taxes paid on motor vehicle fuel used in watercraft for recreational purposes; revising the provisions governing expenditures from the parks marina development fund; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 365.535 is hereby amended to read as follows:

365.535 1. It is declared to be the policy of the State of Nevada to apply the tax on motor vehicle fuel paid on fuel used in watercraft for recreational purposes during each calendar year, which is hereby declared to be not refundable to the consumer, for the improvement *and maintenance* of boating *facilities* and the improvement [, operation] and maintenance of other outdoor

recreational facilities associated with boating . [and for the payment of the costs incurred, in part, for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of chapter 488 of NRS.]

2. The amount of excise taxes paid on all motor vehicle fuel used in watercraft for recreational purposes must be determined annually by the department by use of the following formula:

(a) Multiplying the total boats with motors registered the previous calendar year, pursuant to *the* provisions of chapter 488 of NRS, times 220.76 gallons average fuel purchased per boat;

(b) Adding 566,771 gallons of fuel purchased by out-of-state boaters as determined through a study conducted during 1969-1970 by the division of agricultural and resource economics, Max C. Fleischmann college of agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno; and

(c) Multiplying the total gallons determined by adding the total obtained under paragraph (a) to the figure in paragraph (b) times the rate of tax, per gallon, imposed on motor vehicle fuel used in watercraft for recreational purposes, less the percentage of the tax authorized to be deducted by the dealer pursuant to NRS 365.330.

3. The department of wildlife shall submit annually to the department, on or before April 1, the number of boats with motors registered in the previous calendar year. On or before June 1, the department, using that data, shall compute the amount of excise taxes paid on all motor vehicle fuel used in watercraft for recreational purposes based on the formula set forth in

subsection 2, and shall certify the ratio for apportionment and distribution, in writing, [to the department of wildlife and] to the division of state parks of the state department of conservation and natural resources for the next fiscal year.

4. In each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall, upon receipt of the tax money from the department collected pursuant to the provisions of NRS 365.170 to 365.190, inclusive, [allocate] *deposit* the amount determined pursuant to subsection 2 [, in proportions directed by the legislature, to:

(a) The wildlife account in the state general fund. This money may be expended only for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of chapter 488 of NRS and for the improvement, operation and maintenance of boating facilities and other outdoor recreational facilities associated with boating on state-owned wildlife management areas. Any of this money declared by the department of wildlife to be in excess of its immediate requirements for these purposes may be transferred to the credit of the parks marina development fund for use by the division of state parks of the state department of conservation and natural resources in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b).

(b) The] *in the* parks marina development fund which is hereby created as a special revenue fund for use by the division of state parks of the state department of conservation and natural resources. All money so deposited to the credit of the division of state parks may be expended only as authorized by the legislature for the improvement [, operation] and maintenance of boating

facilities and *the improvement and maintenance of* other outdoor recreational facilities associated with boating.

5. Money that the state treasurer is required to [allocate] *deposit in the parks marina development fund* pursuant to [the provisions of] subsection 4 may be paid quarterly or [oftener] *more often* if convenient to the state treasurer.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 407.069 is hereby amended to read as follows:

407.069 In the utilization of the money received pursuant to the provisions of NRS 365.535, the administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may execute agreements with federal and state agencies, counties and special districts for the [development, improvement, operation] *improvement* and maintenance of boating facilities and *the improvement and maintenance of* other outdoor recreational facilities associated with boating.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 501.356 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.356 1. Money received by the department from:

- (a) The sale of licenses;
- (b) Fees pursuant to the provisions of NRS 488.075 and 488.1795;
- (c) [Remittances from the state treasurer pursuant to the provisions of NRS 365.535;
- (d)] Appropriations made by the legislature; and
- [(e)] (d) All other sources, except money derived from the forfeiture of any property described in NRS 501.3857,



must be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the wildlife account in the state general fund.

2. The interest and income earned on the money in the wildlife account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.

3. The department may use money in the wildlife account only to carry out the provisions of this Title and chapter 488 of NRS , [and as provided in NRS 365.535,] and the money must not be diverted to any other use.

**Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1993.



SUMMARY--Eliminates requirements concerning notice of meetings of state park advisory commission which conflict with requirements of open meeting law. (BDR 35-263)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to the state park advisory commission; eliminating provisions concerning the notice required for meetings of the commission which conflict with provisions of general applicability concerning the notice required for meetings of public bodies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 407.033 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. The members of the commission may meet at such times and at such places as are specified by the call of the chairman or a majority of the commission and a meeting of the commission may be held at least quarterly. In case of emergency, special meetings may be called by the chairman or by the administrator.

2. [The commission shall give notice of any proposed meeting, other than an emergency meeting, at least 30 days before the meeting. The notice must contain an agenda of all matters to be considered, including without limitation any matter involving a change in any fee permitted to be charged under this chapter. The commission shall send a copy of each notice to every member of the legislature.

3.] Four members of the commission constitute a quorum. A quorum may exercise all the power and authority conferred on the commission.

[4.] 3. Minutes of each meeting, regular or special, must be filed in the office of the division and are public records.

SUMMARY--Creates account for division of state parks and authorizes expenditures to repair and maintain state parks, monuments and recreational areas. (BDR 35-267)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to state parks; creating an account for the division of state parks; authorizing the administrator of the division to expend the money in the account to repair and maintain state parks, monuments and recreational areas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 407 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The account for the division of state parks is hereby created in the state general fund. Any amount of fees collected pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 407.065 in a calendar year, which is in excess of the amounts authorized for expenditure from that revenue source in the division's budget for the fiscal year beginning in that calendar year, must be deposited in the account for the*

*division of state parks. The interest and income earned on the money in the account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.*

*2. The money in the account for the division of state parks does not lapse to the state general fund at the end of any fiscal year.*

*3. The money in the account for the division of state parks must only be used to repair and maintain state parks, monuments and recreational areas.*

*4. Before the administrator may expend money pursuant to subsection 3:*

*(a) For emergency repairs, he must first receive the approval of the director.*

*(b) For purposes other than emergency repairs, he must first receive the approval of the director and of the interim finance committee.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 407.065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

407.065 The administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may:

1. Designate, establish, name, plan, operate, control, protect, develop and maintain state parks, monuments and [recreation] *recreational* areas for the use of the general public.

2. Protect state parks and property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* from misuse or damage and preserve the peace within those areas. At the discretion of the administrator, rangers and employees of the division have the same power to make arrests as any other peace officer for violations of law committed inside the boundaries of state parks or real property controlled or administered by the division. The administrator may appoint or designate

certain employees of the division to have the general authority of peace officers.

3. Allow multiple use of state parks and real property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to, grazing, mining, development of natural resources, hunting and fishing, and subject to such regulations as may be adopted in furtherance of the purposes of the division.

4. Conduct and operate such special services as may be necessary for the comfort and convenience of the general public, and collect reasonable fees for them . [, which] *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1 of section 1 of this act, the fees collected pursuant to this subsection* must be deposited in the state general fund. No fees for special services may be collected from bona fide residents of this state who are more than 60 years old. Reasonable proof of age and residence may be required for free use of special services.

5. Rent or lease concessions located within the boundaries of state parks or of real property controlled or administered by the division to public or private corporations, to groups of natural persons, or to natural persons for a valuable consideration upon such terms and conditions as the division deems fit and proper, but no concessionaire may dominate any state park operation. Rental and lease payments must be deposited in the state general fund.

6. Establish such capital projects construction funds as are necessary to account for the parks improvements program approved by the legislature. The

money in these funds must be used for the construction and improvement of those parks which are under the supervision of the administrator.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 218.6825 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218.6825 1. There is hereby created in the legislative counsel bureau an interim finance committee composed of the members of the assembly standing committee on ways and means and the senate standing committee on finance during the current or immediately preceding session of the legislature. The immediate past chairman of the senate standing committee on finance is the chairman of the interim finance committee for the period ending with the convening of each even-numbered regular session of the legislature. The immediate past chairman of the assembly standing committee on ways and means is the chairman of the interim finance committee during the next legislative interim, and the chairmanship alternates between the houses of the legislature according to this pattern.

2. If any regular member of the committee informs the secretary that he will be unable to attend a particular meeting, the secretary shall notify the speaker of the assembly or the majority leader of the senate, as the case may be, to appoint an alternate for that meeting from the same house and political party as the absent member.

3. The interim finance committee, except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, may exercise the powers conferred upon it by law only when the legislature is not in regular or special session. The membership of any member



who does not become a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues until the next session of the legislature is convened.

4. During a regular session the interim finance committee may also perform the duties imposed on it by subsection 5 of NRS 284.115, subsection 3 of NRS 328.480, subsection 1 of NRS 341.145 and NRS 353.220, 353.224, 353.335 and 428.375, subsection 6 of NRS 445.700 , [and] NRS 538.650 [*and paragraph (b) of subsection 4 of section 1 of this act.* In performing those duties, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means may meet separately and transmit the results of their respective votes to the chairman of the interim finance committee to determine the action of the interim finance committee as a whole.

5. The director of the legislative counsel bureau shall act as the secretary of the interim finance committee.

6. A majority of the members of the assembly standing committee on ways and means and a majority of the members of the senate standing committee on finance, jointly, may call a meeting of the interim finance committee if the chairman does not do so.

7. In all matters requiring action by the interim finance committee, the vote of the assembly and senate members must be taken separately. An action must not be taken unless it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the assembly members and a majority of the senate members.

8. Except during a regular or special session of the legislature, each member of the interim finance committee and appointed alternate is entitled to

receive the compensation provided for a majority of the members of the legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session for each day or portion of a day during which he attends a committee meeting or is otherwise engaged in committee work plus the per diem allowance provided for state officers and employees generally and the travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207. All such compensation must be paid from the contingency fund in the state treasury.

**Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1993.

SUMMARY--Creates account for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park and authorizes expenditures for sewer and water systems.  
(BDR 35-269)

FISCAL NOTE:           Effect on Local Government: No.  
                                  Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

AN ACT relating to state parks; creating an account for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park; authorizing the administrator of the division of state parks to expend the money in the account for the repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems in the park; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 407 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The account for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park is hereby created in the state general fund. Any fees collected at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 407.065 for the repair and maintenance of sewer and water systems must be deposited in the account. The interest and income earned*

*on the money in the account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.*

*2. The money in the account does not lapse to the state general fund at the end of any fiscal year.*

*3. The money in the account must only be used for the repair and maintenance of the sewer and water systems in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.*

*4. The administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may expend money pursuant to subsection 3.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 407.065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

407.065 The administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may:

1. Designate, establish, name, plan, operate, control, protect, develop and maintain state parks, monuments and [recreation] *recreational* areas for the use of the general public.

2. Protect state parks and property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* from misuse or damage and preserve the peace within those areas. At the discretion of the administrator, rangers and employees of the division have the same power to make arrests as any other peace officer for violations of law committed inside the boundaries of state parks or real property controlled or administered by the division. The administrator may appoint or designate certain employees of the division to have the general authority of peace officers.

3. Allow multiple use of state parks and real property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* for any lawful purpose, including but not

limited to, grazing, mining, development of natural resources, hunting and fishing, and subject to such regulations as may be adopted in furtherance of the purposes of the division.

4. Conduct and operate such special services as may be necessary for the comfort and convenience of the general public, and collect reasonable fees for them . [, which] *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1 of section 1 of this act, any fees collected pursuant to this subsection* must be deposited in the state general fund. No fees for special services may be collected from bona fide residents of this state who are more than 60 years old. Reasonable proof of age and residence may be required for free use of special services.

5. Rent or lease concessions located within the boundaries of state parks or of real property controlled or administered by the division to public or private corporations, to groups of natural persons, or to natural persons for a valuable consideration upon such terms and conditions as the division deems fit and proper, but no concessionaire may dominate any state park operation. Rental and lease payments must be deposited in the state general fund.

6. Establish such capital projects construction funds as are necessary to account for the parks improvements program approved by the legislature. The money in these funds must be used for the construction and improvement of those parks which are under the supervision of the administrator.



SUMMARY--Authorizes administrator of division of state parks of state department of conservation and natural resources to collect fees from senior citizens for special services. (BDR 35-270)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to state parks; authorizing the administrator of the division of state parks of the state department of conservation and natural resources to impose and collect fees from senior citizens for special services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 407.065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

407.065 The administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may:

1. Designate, establish, name, plan, operate, control, protect, develop and maintain state parks, monuments and recreation areas for the use of the general public.

2. Protect state parks and property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* from misuse or damage and preserve the peace within those areas. At the discretion of the administrator, rangers and employees of the division have

the same power to make arrests as any other peace officer for violations of law committed inside the boundaries of state parks or real property controlled or administered by the division. The administrator may appoint or designate certain employees of the division to have the general authority of peace officers.

3. Allow multiple use of state parks and real property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to, grazing, mining, development of natural resources, hunting and fishing, and subject to such regulations as may be adopted in furtherance of the purposes of the division.

4. Conduct and operate such special services as may be necessary for the comfort and convenience of the general public, and *impose and* collect reasonable fees for them, which must be deposited in the state general fund. [No fees for special services may be collected from] *The administrator shall, by regulation, adopt a schedule of fees for the use of the special services. He may adopt a separate schedule, for the use of the special services by bona fide residents of this state who are more than 60 years old [.] , in which one or more of the fees are waived entirely or reduced below the fee otherwise set for use of the service.* Reasonable proof of age and residence may be required [for free use of special services.] *to qualify for the reduced or waived fees.*

5. Rent or lease concessions located within the boundaries of state parks or of real property controlled or administered by the division to public or private corporations, to groups of natural persons, or to natural persons for a valuable



consideration upon such terms and conditions as the division deems fit and proper, but no concessionaire may dominate any state park operation. Rental and lease payments must be deposited in the state general fund.

6. Establish such capital projects construction funds as are necessary to account for the parks improvements program approved by the legislature. The money in these funds must be used for the construction and improvement of those parks which are under the supervision of the administrator.



SUMMARY--Imposes additional fee on registration of recreational vehicle and creates account for roads in state highway fund. (BDR 43-268)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to vehicles; imposing an additional fee on the registration of a recreational vehicle; creating an account for roads in state parks in the state highway fund; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 482 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. In addition to any other applicable fee listed in NRS 482.480 or 482.483, there must be paid to the department for the registration of every recreational vehicle a fee of \$20.*

*2. The fees collected pursuant to subsection 1 must be deposited in the account for roads in state parks created pursuant to subsection 1 of section 4 of this act.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 482.483 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.483 In addition to any other applicable fee listed in NRS 482.480 [.] *or section 1 of this act*, there must be paid to the department:

1. For every trailer or semitrailer having an unladen weight of 1,000 pounds or less, a flat registration fee of \$12.

2. For every trailer having an unladen weight of more than 1,000 pounds, a flat registration fee of \$24.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 218.6825 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218.6825 1. There is hereby created in the legislative counsel bureau an interim finance committee composed of the members of the assembly standing committee on ways and means and the senate standing committee on finance during the current or immediately preceding session of the legislature. The immediate past chairman of the senate standing committee on finance is the chairman of the interim finance committee for the period ending with the convening of each even-numbered regular session of the legislature. The immediate past chairman of the assembly standing committee on ways and means is the chairman of the interim finance committee during the next legislative interim, and the chairmanship alternates between the houses of the legislature according to this pattern.

2. If any regular member of the committee informs the secretary that he will be unable to attend a particular meeting, the secretary shall notify the speaker of the assembly or the majority leader of the senate, as the case may be, to appoint an alternate for that meeting from the same house and political party as the absent member.

3. The interim finance committee, except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, may exercise the powers conferred upon it by law only when the legislature is not in regular or special session. The membership of any member who does not become a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues until the next session of the legislature is convened.

4. During a regular session the interim finance committee may also perform the duties imposed on it by subsection 5 of NRS 284.115, subsection 3 of NRS 328.480, subsection 1 of NRS 341.145 and NRS 353.220, 353.224, 353.335 and 428.375, subsection 6 of NRS 445.700 and NRS 538.650 *[.] and subsection 5 of section 4 of this act.* In performing those duties, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means may meet separately and transmit the results of their respective votes to the chairman of the interim finance committee to determine the action of the interim finance committee as a whole.

5. The director of the legislative counsel bureau shall act as the secretary of the interim finance committee.

6. A majority of the members of the assembly standing committee on ways and means and a majority of the members of the senate standing committee on finance, jointly, may call a meeting of the interim finance committee if the chairman does not do so.

7. In all matters requiring action by the interim finance committee, the vote of the assembly and senate members must be taken separately. An action must

not be taken unless it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the assembly members and a majority of the senate members.

8. Except during a regular or special session of the legislature, each member of the interim finance committee and appointed alternate is entitled to receive the compensation provided for a majority of the members of the legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session for each day or portion of a day during which he attends a committee meeting or is otherwise engaged in committee work plus the per diem allowance provided for state officers and employees generally and the travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207. All such compensation must be paid from the contingency fund in the state treasury.

**Sec. 4.** Chapter 407 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The account for roads in state parks is hereby created in the state highway fund.*

*2. The interest and income earned on the money in the account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.*

*3. The money in the account does not lapse to the state highway fund at the end of any fiscal year.*

*4. The administrator shall administer the account.*

*5. The money deposited in the account pursuant to section 1 of this act must only be used for the development, maintenance or renovation of roads in state*

*parks. Before the administrator may expend money in the account pursuant to this subsection, he must obtain the approval of the interim finance committee.*

**Sec. 5.** NRS 408.235 is hereby amended to read as follows:

408.235 1. There is hereby created the state highway fund.

2. [The] *Except as otherwise provided in sections 1 and 4 of this act, the proceeds from the imposition of any license or registration fee and other charges with respect to the operation of any motor vehicle upon any public highway, city, town or county road, street, alley or highway in this state and the proceeds from the imposition of any excise tax on gasoline or other motor vehicle fuel must be deposited in the state highway fund and must, except for costs of administering the collection thereof, be used exclusively for administration, construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of highways as provided for in this chapter.*

3. The interest and income earned on the money in the state highway fund, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the fund.

4. Costs of administration for the collection of the proceeds for any license or registration fees and other charges with respect to the operation of any motor vehicle must be limited to a sum not to exceed 22 percent of the total proceeds so collected.

5. Costs of administration for the collection of any excise tax on gasoline or other motor vehicle fuel must be limited to a sum not to exceed 1 percent of the total proceeds so collected.

6. All bills and charges against the state highway fund for administration, construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of highways under the provisions of this chapter must be certified by the director and must be presented to and examined by the state board of examiners. When allowed by the state board of examiners and upon being audited by the state controller, the state controller shall draw his warrant therefor upon the state treasurer.

**Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1993.



SUMMARY--Directs Division of State Parks of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish plans relating to state parks. (BDR R-264)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION--Directing the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish two plans to determine the order of priority for projects relating to the development and maintenance of state parks.

WHEREAS, Nevada has experienced a dramatic increase in population during the last two decades; and

WHEREAS, As a result, the state parks have experienced a substantial increase in use; and

WHEREAS, Many of the state parks require substantial renovation and improvements to accommodate the increased recreational needs of visitors and residents of this state; and

WHEREAS, The expansion and creation of state parks is a critical element in the management of the state parks; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of plans to determine the order of priority for projects relating to the renovation, improvement, expansion and creation of state parks is essential for the efficient management of the state parks and for

assisting the Legislature in determining the amount of the appropriation for state parks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE

CONCURRING, That the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is hereby directed to establish:

1. A plan to determine the order of priority for the development and completion of projects relating to the renovation and improvement of state parks; and

2. A plan to determine the order of priority for the development and completion of projects relating to the expansion and creation of state parks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of each plan be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 68th session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

SUMMARY--Directs Division of State Parks of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to take certain actions concerning use and improvement of Steamboat Ditch Trail in Washoe County. (BDR R-266)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION--Directing the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist organizations dedicated to ensuring the continued public use of the Steamboat Ditch Trail in Washoe County and to consider using a portion of the money the State of Nevada may receive pursuant to the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991, for improvements to the Steamboat Ditch Trail.

WHEREAS, The Steamboat Ditch Trail was constructed approximately 100 years ago, is approximately 45 miles long and traverses Washoe County from Verdi in the west to the Steamboat area south of Reno; and

WHEREAS, The Steamboat Ditch Trail has been a source of recreation for thousands of residents of Washoe County for many years; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Washoe County consider the Steamboat Ditch Trail to be an integral part of the history of Washoe County; and

WHEREAS, During the past year, the Steamboat Ditch Trail has become a center of controversy in Washoe County; and

WHEREAS, A number of organizations in Washoe County are dedicated to ensuring the continued use of the Steamboat Ditch Trail by members of the public; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada may receive money pursuant to the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1261 and 1262) which may be used for improvements to the Steamboat Ditch Trail; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
CONCURRING, That the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is hereby directed to assist organizations dedicated to ensuring the continued use of the Steamboat Ditch Trail by the members of the general public; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is designated by the Governor to administer the money the State of Nevada may receive pursuant to the Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991, the administrator of the division shall consider allocating a portion of that money for improvements to the Steamboat Ditch Trail; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

SUMMARY--Directs Division of State Parks of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist persons and organizations interested in establishing nonprofit foundation for state parks. (BDR R-271)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION--Directing the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist persons and organizations interested in establishing a nonprofit foundation for state parks.

WHEREAS, Nevada has experienced a dramatic increase in population during the last two decades; and

WHEREAS, As a result, the state parks have experienced a substantial increase in use; and

WHEREAS, Many of the state parks require substantial renovation and improvements to accommodate the increased recreational needs of visitors and residents of this state; and

WHEREAS, Many state parks in other states have been supported, in part, by foundations created as nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Certain persons and organizations in this state have expressed interest in establishing a nonprofit foundation to maintain and improve the state parks in this state; and

WHEREAS, Such a foundation would provide invaluable assistance in the development and improvement of state parks; and

WHEREAS, Such a foundation would increase the general public's awareness of the programs and facilities available in the state parks and encourage the residents of this state to provide personal and financial support for the preservation of areas and structures of historic or cultural significance within this state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
CONCURRING, That the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is hereby directed to assist persons and organizations interested in establishing a foundation for state parks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

SUMMARY--Makes appropriation to department of museums and history for employment of technical services unit. (BDR S-273)

FISCAL NOTE:           Effect on Local Government: No.  
                              Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains  
                              Appropriation.

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of museums and history for the employment of a technical services unit; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to the department of museums and history the sum of \$360,000 to employ a technical services unit to assist state agencies in activities which are related to the cultural resources of this state, including archaeological surveys, the preparation of environmental impact assessments, the preservation of artifacts and the design, construction and installation of exhibits.

**Sec. 2.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by section 1 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 1995, and reverts

to the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have been made.

**Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1993.