



# Division Update and Trailhead in Every Park

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**Presented by:**

Matthew Weintraub, Deputy Administrator  
Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation  
[mweintraub@ndor.nv.gov](mailto:mweintraub@ndor.nv.gov)





## DIVISIONS



NEVADA DIVISION OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**



Nevada Division of  
**STATE LANDS**



**NEVADA**  
DIVISION OF  
**OUTDOOR RECREATION**



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE**



State of Nevada  
Division of Water Resources



**NEVADA**  
DIVISION OF  
**NATURAL HERITAGE**

## PROGRAMS



**NEVADA**  
DIVISION OF  
**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

- Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR)
- 1 of 8 divisions under the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR)
- NDOR was created in 2019 through legislation
- Funded by the General Fund

# NEVADA DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION (NDOR)

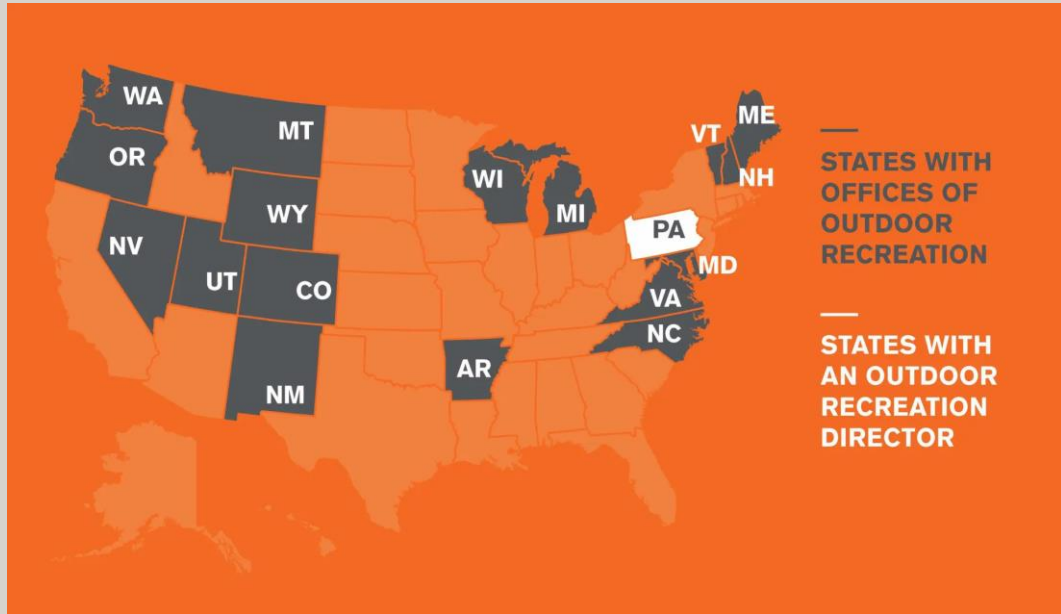


Image: Outdoor Industry Association

## Offices of Outdoor Recreation (OREC)

- NDOR is 1 of 18 states that have created offices of outdoor recreation, task forces, or policy advisors
- Quickly growing movement towards realizing the importance of outdoor recreation to the health and economic growth of a state
- ORECs serve as central champions for the outdoor recreation economy and its associated benefits within a state.

## Confluence of States

- Formed in 2018
- A bipartisan organization developing a national platform to grow the outdoor recreation industry, protect our nation's wild places and transform conservation into a driver for economic prosperity.
- Started with 8 states, now up to 16 and growing.





## NEVADA DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

**MISSION:** *To promote Nevada's outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities and the conservation of its natural environment, grow Nevada's economy through outdoor recreation, and educate the public about responsible recreation and healthy and active lives enriched by the outdoors*

### GOALS:

- Support Nevada's outdoor recreation economy
- Establish Nevada as a home for world-class outdoor recreation
- Outdoor recreation is seen as essential to improving community wellness and public health
- Conservation and stewardship are at the forefront of outdoor recreation development
- NDOR is run as an effective agency

# NEVADA DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION – WHO WE ARE



- NDOR is currently made up of 4 team members

**Colin Robertson**  
Administrator



- Hiking
- Fly fishing
- Camping
- Skiing
- Aspiring aviator

**Matthew Weintraub**  
Deputy Administrator



- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- Fly fishing
- Hot springing
- Skiing
- Surfing
- Trail Ranging

**Elisabeth Johnson**  
Program Officer



- Mountain biking
- Trail Running
- Backcountry skiing
- Hot springing
- Camping
- Trail Finding

**Kendal Scott**  
Grants & Projects Analyst



- Snowboarding
- Hunting wildflowers
- Soaking in hot springs
- XC skiing
- Backpacking
- Paddling rivers
- Swimming in alpine lakes

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

- Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program
- Co-developed Toiyabe Trails Institute Proposal for EDA technical and planning assistance
- Collaborating with the southern Nevada Regional Open Space and Trails initiative to map and promote accessibility to regional trails and open space
- SB-52 Nevada Starry Sky Designation Legislation
- Authored EDA grant for \$1.9 million lighting retrofit for Boulder City
- Led development of the Nevada Agreement for Recreation Shared Stewardship



## WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON

- Facilitate greater awareness of outdoor recreation resource needs among elected officials
- Support community outdoor recreation development with technical assistance
- Continue to establish the Division as a trusted partner of land managers and recreation providers around the state at every level of government.
- Elevate awareness of the impact of the outdoor recreation economy throughout Nevada
- Promote a culture of responsible recreation across Nevada
- Support other state and local agencies in incorporating outdoor recreation needs and actions into planning processes
- Affirm the need for additional outdoor recreation elements to be included within K-12 curriculums across Nevada



## WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON

- Division Strategic Plan
- Collaboration with FHWA on Nevada FLAP Needs Assessment
- Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship
- Development of local recreation networks across Nevada
- Support National Park Service RTCA program funded projects across Nevada
- Exploring how to support the inclusion of outdoor recreation in post-secondary education programs, both new and existing



## NEVADA DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION – PROGRAMS

- Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program
- Nevada Starry Sky Destination Program
- Nevada Outdoor Recreation Planning Choice Point Guide (in progress)
- Outdoor Recreation Industry Business Directory
- Non-motorized Trail Organization Resource Hub



# **A Trailhead in Every Park**

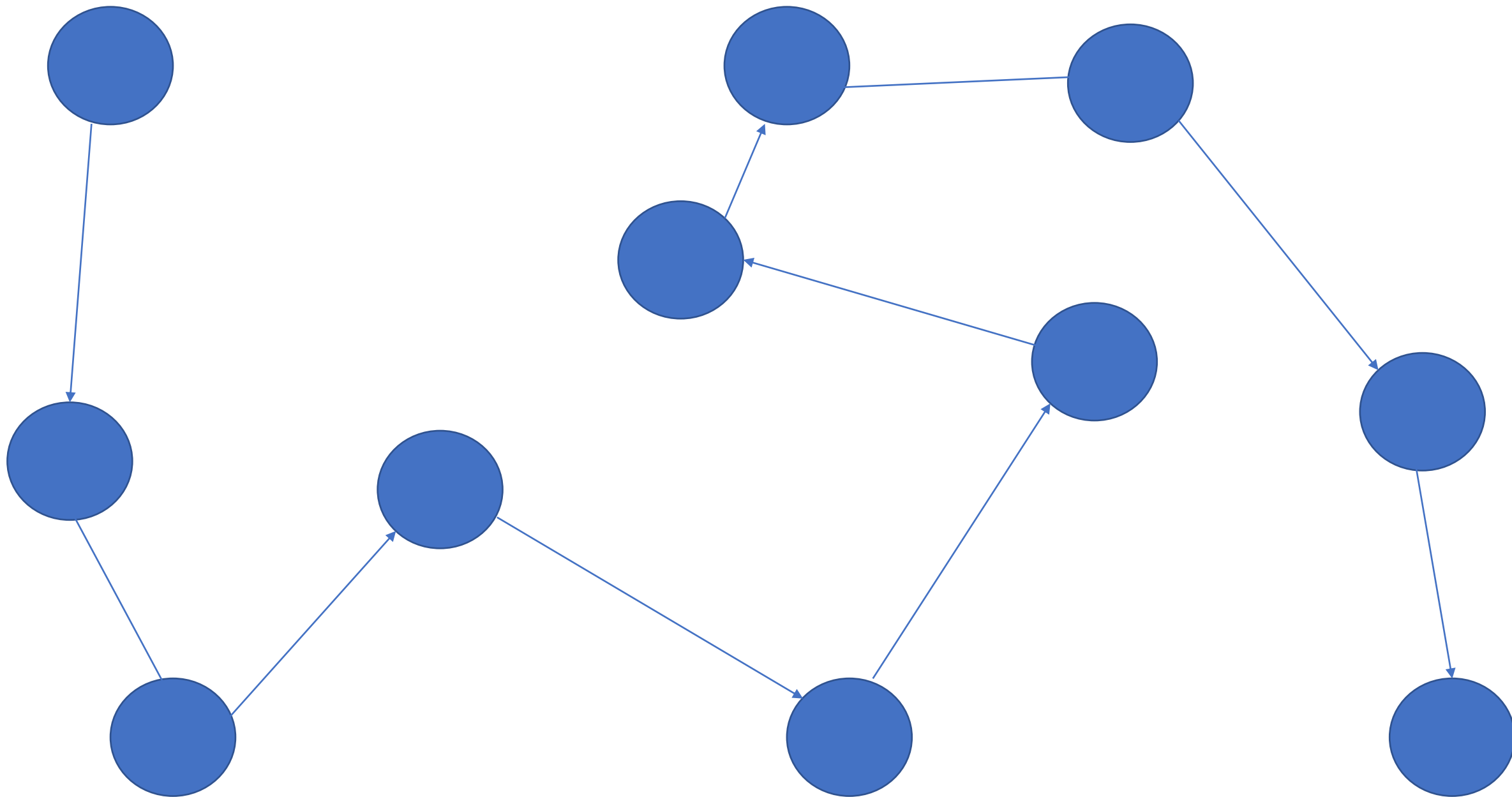
Matthew Weintraub

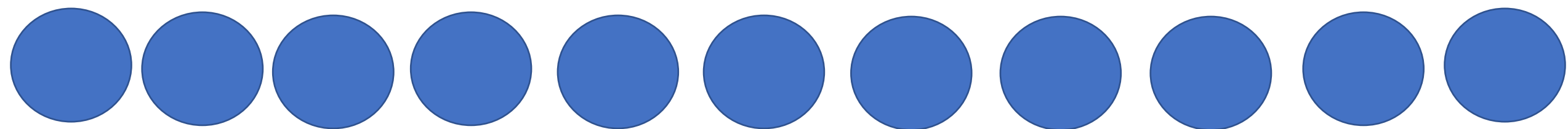
Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation



Let's talk  
about bikes









# Mountain Biking – A Brief History



- Existed in various iterations for over two centuries
- Origins of modern mountain biking can be traced to Marin, CA during the 1960's
- Now features a robust diversity of users, bicycle types, and emerging trends

# **MTB Advocacy – In a nutshell**

- Emerged during the 1980's in response to trail various trail access restrictions
- Has mostly focused on the needs of a dominant user type
- Tends to be reactionary
- Often volunteer based vs. industry led

# Types of Mountain Bike Facilities

- Trail-based riding

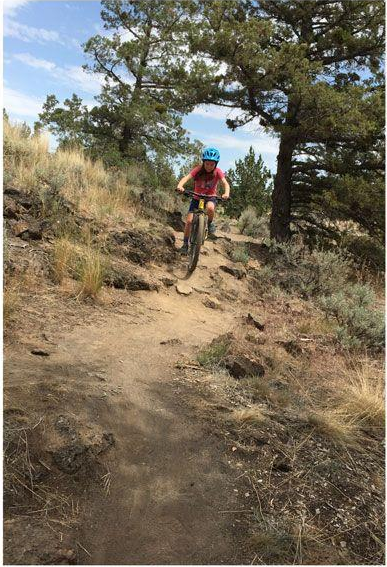
- Cross Country
- All Mountain
- Freeride
- Downhill

- Park-based riding

- Pump Tracks
- Dirt Jumps
- Skills Parks
- Skills Trails

# Mountain Biking and Youth

- Kids Parks, Tracks, and Trails
  - Format: Typically designed to be very accessible, low to the ground and safe for smaller younger riders.
  - Construction: Kids parks can be built with dirt, natural materials like rocks and logs, and/or prefabricated features.
  - Skill Level: Kids parks are designed specifically for kids and the smaller-sized bikes that kids ride.



# Cost of Youth-Focused Bike Facilities

- Smaller in scale than large bike parks and trail systems
- Can be modular or included in many smaller neighborhood parks
- \$100,000-\$300,000



# Why These Facilities Matter

- Allow children to build lifelong skills
  - Can lead to reduced traffic stress for adult users.
- Cycling is a form of play, not just transportation
- We need to think 20 years down the road...more in toolkit



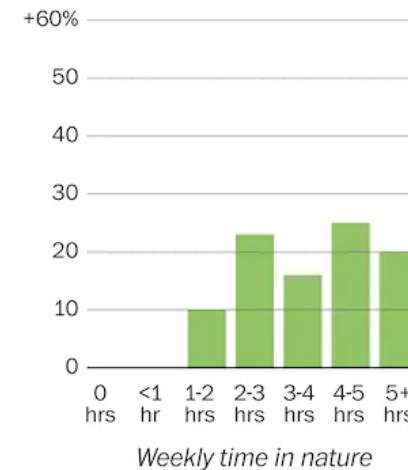
# Beyond Just “I Like Bikes”

- It's healthier for children to be outside
  - Builds confidence
  - Promotes creativity
  - Teaches responsibility
  - Provides a different form of stimulation
  - Reduces stress and fatigue

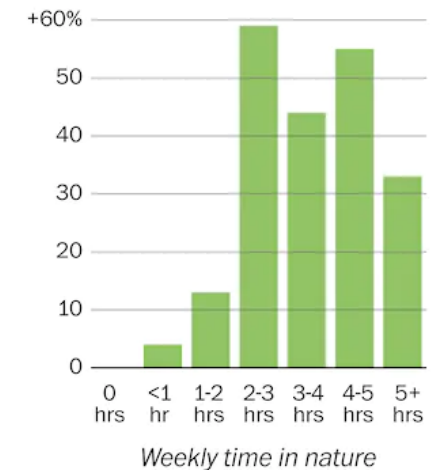
## Go outside

Increased likelihood of reporting happiness and good health for people who spend time in nature, relative to those who don't spend any time in nature at all

### Happiness



### Good health



*Note: Figures are adjusted for respondents' urbanicity, neighborhood greenspace, neighborhood characteristics, air pollution, sex, age, socio-economic status, restricted functioning, physical activity, employment status, relationship status, ethnicity, children in household, dog ownership and year.*

Source: White et al., 2019

THE WASHINGTON POST

# Let's Look at Some Data

- Wait. What Data?
  - Accessed user demand data from the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plans (SCORP) in Nevada, Oregon and Washington
  - Examined park facility and development data for Reno, Portland and Seattle
- Population
    - Reno – 268,000
    - Portland – 641,000
    - Seattle – 734,00

# SCORP Findings

- 2022 Nevada SCOPRP – 34% of users had participated in mountain biking over the past 12 months.
- 2017 Oregon SCORP– 14.9% of population participates in bicycling on unpaved trails
- 2018 WA SCORP – 16% of respondents/population engages in mountain biking in the previous year

# Park development data

	<u>Facility Data</u>		
	Reno	Portland	Seattle*
\$ invested in park capital improvements (10 years)	92,000,000	207,361,063	25,000,000
# of parks developed/redeveloped (10 years)	137	50	330
# of MTB facilities	1	5	2
# of youth-specific MTB facilities	1	1	0
# of tennis facilities	17	38	37
# of off-leash dog facilities	3	38	14

# We know\* that mountain biking can lead to healthier communities

## Cost of Illness Savings via Oregon Health Impacts Estimator

(Multnomah County)

	# of users	Deaths	COI
Mountain Biking	119,971	-19	(\$19,180,391)
Dog Park	281,338	-18	(\$18,126,758)
Tennis	56,344	-8.5	(\$8,607,175)

# Guide for park providers

- Utilize existing user demand data
- Understand where recreation is going, not where it has been
- Give yourselves permission
  - “What could we do...?” vs. “what is probably expected...?”
- Think small
  - Literally and figuratively
- Plan for incremental growth

# Advice for Advocates

- Understand your own goals
- Develop your *why*
  - Proactive advocacy
- Articulate the process
  - Set internal and external expectations
- Develop relationships at multiple levels within your park providers organization
  - Line staff, planning departments, policy development
- Think 'mother' not 'other'

# Think 'mother' not 'other'



# Advice for Advocates

- Identify potential allies or cultivate new champions
  - Education professionals, healthcare providers, civic leaders
- Seek to influence change
  - Park boards, advisory councils, budget and planning committees
  - Triangulate!
  - Shape the path
- Have patience!