

NEVADA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES PROGRAM
2020 GRANT APPLICATION
Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

This application has FIVE sections which are all REQUIRED to be filled out in full. To avoid disqualification, all application areas must be concise and complete; certifications must be signed and dated. Denied applications: correspondence will be sent to applicant by email describing the reason for declaring the application incomplete.

SECTION I - PROJECT AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

- 1. Project Name:** Nevada Citizen Science Network – Pilot Project
- 2. Project Dates:** *Expected Start:* March 1, 2020 *Expected Completion:* December 31, 2021
- 3. Applicant Name:** Kristin Szabo, Nevada Division of Natural Heritage

Mailing address: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002, Carson City, NV 89701


Phone: 775-684-2901

Email: kszabo@heritage.nv.gov

- 4. Classification of Applicant:** *(check one)*

☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local/Municipal ☐ Other: _____
☐ Partnership ☐ Non-profit ☐ for Profit ☐ Individual

If the applicant is a corporate or legal entity, proof of good standing in the entity's state of incorporation is required. NAC 490.1345 (Note: grantees must have the capacity to implement and accomplish proposed project and properly administer awarded funds).



Applicant Signature
(Chairperson/President/Authorized Official)

November 8, 2019
Date

5. Project Manager: Janel Johnson, Nevada Division of Natural Heritage

Mailing address: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002, Carson City, NV 89701

Phone: 775-684-2911

Email: jdjohnson@heritage.nv.gov

6. Classification of Land Control: *(check all that apply)*

☐ Federally managed public land ☐ Private Land ☐ County ☐ City

☒ Other: The exact location of the events and self-tours proposed in this project will be determined during the first phase of the project. No lands will be impacted by the proposed project, and when the locations are determined, the landowner(s) will be notified prior to the occurrence of any public events.

☐ Lease; Attach copy of lease with expiration date.

☐ R&PP; Attach copy of lease with expiration date.

If the proposed project is to be carried out on public land, attach any applicable written agreement with any government entity having jurisdiction over that land, including permits, leases, easements, and rights-of-way. NAC 490.135

7. Landowner: N/A See explanation above in #6

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

8. THE LANDOWNER MUST PROVIDE A LETTER STATING THAT:

(See example Appendix B)

- a) Landowner has read the Request for Grant Application package;
- b) Landowner agrees with the application and the terms of the grant;
- c) Landowner holds an interest in the subject land that is sufficient in scope and authority to allow the applicant to complete the proposed project and operate and maintain the proposed project after its completion;
- d) Landowner is legally committing to maintain the trail/facility and will allow public motorized access to such trail/facilities for 25 years or the normal life of the project; and
- e) Landowner agrees to provide any match or other tasks in the application that are assigned to Landowner.

The State may require the landowner/agency to be co-grantee on the grant agreement/contract.

9. Project Costs: (Please do not submit match not directly related to the project)

State OHV Grant Request: \$55,177
Other Funds: \$11,184
Total Project Amount \$66,361 100%

What are the sources or Partners for your leveraged (other) funds?

☐ Federal ☐ Private ☒ In-kind ☐ City/County ☐ Other

Type here: The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage (NDNH) will provide matching funds for personnel and operating costs. The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director's Office will provide matching funds for Public Information Officer assistance with communications during the length of the project. We also plan to use volunteers (OHV Program staff) to assist with Task 2: Citizen Science Training Video, and Task 4B: Ground-truthing "The Off-road Naturalist" self-tours.

Please describe additional funding source(s):

10. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS are required:

- a) Confirming they agree to the terms of the grant; and
- b) That they are committed to providing match/cash or other tasks in the application that are assigned to them.

Other letters of support are limited to three (3). Please attach them to the application.

Letters of support from Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Nevada State Parks are attached.

11. Project Type(s) (NRS 490.069 Sec.2c) check all that apply:

- ☐ Studies or planning for trails and facilities;
 - ☐ Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Studies.
 - ☐ Other studies _____
- ☐ Acquisition of land for trails and facilities
- ☐ Mapping and signing of trails and facilities
- ☐ Reconstruction, enhancement or maintenance of existing trails and facilities
- ☐ Construction of new trails and facilities
- ☐ Restoration of areas that have been damaged by the use of off-highway vehicles.

☐ The construction of trail features, trailheads, parking, or other ancillary facilities which minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or important wildlife habitat areas.

☒ Safety training and education related to the use of off highway vehicles and registration

☐ Compliance and enforcement (See Appendix C, Enforcement Strategy example)

Note: Operations & management, and purchase or lease of equipment associated directly with a project are eligible.

12. All Trail USERS: *(check all that apply)*

☒ Mountain Biking

☒ Hiking/Backpacking

☒ Equestrian

☒ Single track motorcycle

☒ Snowmobiling

☒ Snowshoe/ski

☒ ATV quads

☒ Dune buggy

☒ UTV Side by side

☐ Race Course

☐ Skills riding course

Please explain how you intend to manage user interactions: NDNH will coordinate with OHV user groups and local land managers to schedule in-person training events. NDNH will develop a curriculum and instructional materials to present to the groups. The training video and downloadable trails/self-tours will be self-service (possibly through a mobile app).

13. Scope of Work: Please describe *exactly* what work will be completed. Programs, planning, NEPA, surveys, mapping, include miles of trail, trail type and other quantitative goals including a timeline for completing the work. NAC 490.1375. If purchase of equipment is included, please explain where/how it will be housed and maintained. (In order to avoid duplication, **do not include** justification or narrative in this section; refer to Section V, Scoring Narrative).

Citizen science: scientific research conducted by volunteer, amateur scientists in collaboration with professional scientists. This citizen science project will be completed through five tasks:

Task 1) Three events will be held in three different regions of the state to educate OHV users and the public about the biodiversity in Nevada and NDNH's mission, to train

participants on the use of the citizen science app iNaturalist for collecting biodiversity data, and to raise awareness of other citizen science apps available to the public.

Task 2) Themed “contests” will be held quarterly to encourage citizen scientists to gather data when they are outside. These contests are meant to encourage participation in iNaturalist, and a prize will be given to a randomly chosen individual that participated in the contest.

Task 3) A citizen science training video will be produced to explain to OHV users and the public what a citizen scientist is, how they can participate in the collection of scientific data, why it is important, and what impact the data they collect has on conservation.

Task 4) Four OHV trails will be chosen in four regions of the state where we will create a self-tour with points of interest about the natural world along the trail. Tentatively named “The Off-road Naturalist,” these self-tours will be housed in a platform to be determined—possibly an app that can be downloaded to a mobile device prior to heading out on the trail.

Task 5) The progress and results of the project will be presented at the 2020 and 2021 OHV summit to inform attendees about the project, its successes and challenges, and encourage engagement in the use of iNaturalist. In addition, a summary report of the project will be prepared at the end of the project period.

14. Standards/Guidelines that will be applied to your project: N/A

- ☐ Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation - A Design Guide
- ☐ USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails
- ☐ BLM Handbook 9114-1 Trails
- ☐ NOHVCC Handbooks

Other: _____

15. Has the applicant received funding from the OHV Program in the past?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Number of projects funded: _____

Amount of funding Received: \$_____

Number of projects Completed: _____

SECTION II – LOCATION, MAPS, PHOTOS

Project Location:

County: The project will occur in multiple counties.

Nearest Municipality/Town/City: Unknown, the project is proposed to occur in multiple locations that will be determined during initial stages of the project.

Center of project: Latitude: N/A Longitude: N/A

If the shape-files for the trail system are available, please submit them in the e-file. The shape-files of the trail will be required at project end. Program will assist in the collection of the data if needed.

MAPS ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE APPLICATION. THEY ARE REQUIRED AND CONSIDERED PART OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IF FUNDED. PLEASE PROVIDE READABLE, PROFICIENT MAPS.

Required Maps: for all maps please include a legend, north arrow, scale, and map name.

Topographic maps preferred. You may include *additional* aerial/google maps.

- ☐ General location map (showing project area within the state or county)
- ☐ Topographic map (7.5 minute series quadrangle, 1:24,000 scale) with project boundary and map name Township:_____ Range:_____ Sections_____
- ☐ Detail map indicating specific project elements (e.g., structures, trail alignment)
 - Maps larger than 11x17 will not be accepted

Please attach the following photographs:

- ☐ *At least two (2) overviews of the project area from different angles and distances. (Good photographs at trail level and google aeriels help the scoring committee to understand the location, depth and breadth of your project.)*

The proposed project will occur in multiple areas of the state, and based on the nature of the project, locations will be determined during the initial phase of the project.

SECTION III - Federal Lands or Other

Federal Environmental Compliance

A. If Federal funds or Land are a part of the project and NEPA was completed, indicate which document was produced, and **please attach the decision document to this application:**

- ☐ Record of Decision (ROD)
- ☐ Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- ☐ Categorical Exclusion (CX)
- ☐ SHPO 106 compliance/concurrence letter.
- ☐ Other compliance documents already completed. (do not attached the EA or EIS)
- ☒ Not applicable

If NEPA or planning is a part of the project describe the steps in the Scope Section I, #13.

SECTION IV - BUDGET

Proposed Budget: Provide your budget details to include at a minimum the items in the following table. You may create your own spreadsheet.

- Your budget must align clearly with your scope of work from #13. Be specific, as your application will rate higher.
- Reminder: Include all sources of funds for the completion of the project including federal, in-kind, private/city/county and state funds.
- ***It is recommended that you attach copies of estimates to support your budget, and identify what each contract will include.***

Nevada Division of Natural Heritage
Nevada Citizen Science Network - Pilot Project

Task	Item	Item Description	Staff	Price/Unit	Quantity	OHV Grant Request	Match	Total Cost	
1. Citizen Science education and training events	Salary+Fringe	Staff time to prepare presentation,handouts, display, event summary, and organize and book travel. Staff time to travel to and host events. Staff time to advertise events.	Biologist III	\$45.50	80	\$3,640		\$3,640	
			Acct.Asst. III	\$29.69	80	\$2,375		\$2,375	
			Public Information Officer II	\$32.96	12		\$396	\$396	
			Oversight, project management, meetings	Administrator	\$56.05	8		\$448	\$448
		Supplies	Display, handouts, brochures, and promotional items				\$250	\$250	\$500
	Travel	Travel for Biologist and Acct.Asst III; one trip to Elko area and one trip to Las Vegas area.				\$2,253		\$2,253	
TASK 1 TOTAL						\$8,518	\$1,094	\$9,612	
2. Citizen Science training video	Salary+Fringe	Staff time for planning, storyboarding, coordinating with videographer, gathering footage, and reviewing drafts; advertising and public outreach.	Biologist III	\$45.50	40	\$1,820		\$1,820	
			Public Information Officer II	\$32.96	8		\$264	\$264	
			Oversight, project management, meetings	Administrator	\$56.05	8		\$448	\$448
			Volunteer time to gather training video footage.	Volunteer	\$24.14	8		\$193	\$193
		Contractual	Contract with video production consultant.				\$10,000		\$10,000
	TASK 2 TOTAL						\$11,820	\$905	\$12,725
3. Citizen Science themed contests	Salary+Fringe	Staff time to determine quarterly contest theme and advertise. Staff time to track iNaturalist projects and check for posts related to the themed contest,	Biologist III	\$45.50	32	\$1,456		\$1,456	
			Public Information Officer II	\$32.96	8		\$264	\$264	
		Supplies	Specialized swag or gift cards for prizes.					\$400	\$400
TASK 3 TOTAL						\$1,456	\$664	\$2,120	
4. "The Off-road Naturalist" downloadable self-tours	Salary+Fringe	SUBTASK A: In office work. Staff time for data gathering, GIS analyses, and meetings; research, writing narrative for points of interest, incorporating data into app; app proofreading and testing, distribution, advertising.							
			Biologist III	\$45.50	48	\$2,184		\$2,184	
			Public Information Officer II	\$32.96	4		\$132	\$132	
			Oversight, project management, meetings	Administrator	\$56.05	8		\$448	\$448
		Supplies	Web platform hosting/subscription.				\$400		\$400
	Subtask Total:					\$2,584	\$580	\$3,164	
		Salary+Fringe	SUBTASK B: Staff time and travel to ground-truth each track and process data in GIS after field work is complete.	Biologist III	\$45.50	136	\$6,188		\$6,188
		Biologist III		\$47.34	128	\$3,030	\$3,030	\$6,060	
			Volunteer time to assist with ground-truthing self-tours	Volunteer	\$24.14	32		\$772	\$772
		Travel	Four sites, 2 biologists, 4 days each site.				\$9,218	\$3,802	\$13,020
	Equipment	OHV daily rental to drive each track if not accessible with fleet services vehicle and state OHV is unavailable. Includes Fleet Services SUV rental.				\$3,500		\$3,500	
Subtask Total:						\$21,936	7604.96	\$29,541	
TASK 4 TOTAL						\$24,520	\$8,185	\$32,705	
5. Summary report and presentations at 2020 and 2021 OHV summits	Salary+Fringe	Staff time to prepare project summary report. Staff time to travel to and present project results at the 2020 and 2021 OHV summits.	Biologist III	\$45.50	56	\$2,548		\$2,548	
			Oversight, review report and presentation drafts	Administrator	\$56.05	6		\$336	\$336
		Travel	Travel for Biologist III; one trip to Winnemucca (2020) and and one trip to unknown location (2021).				\$1,299		\$1,299
	TASK 5 TOTAL						\$3,847	\$336	\$4,183
TOTAL DIRECT COST						\$50,161		\$50,161	
INDIRECT COST (10%)						\$5,016		\$5,016	
TOTAL PROJECT COST						\$55,177	\$11,184	\$66,361	

SECTION V – PRIORITIES AND SCORING NARRATIVE

THE SCORING PRIORITIES ARE LISTED IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

Address the following eleven (11) criteria in the order listed below.

- Please tell us how your project/program meets each criteria.
- Be specific and concise with your answers.
- Please submit no more than five (5) double-sided pages for your Narrative.
- If attached additional pages, ensure the question being answered is referenced. (If not applicable, answer N/A.)

1. Law Enforcement Strategy that addresses registration enforcement, including Public Education & Outreach aimed at increasing renewals and new registrations:

Please describe how your project will increase the number of OHV registrations on the district. How will the equipment and time be used to increase OHV safety and awareness? What is your department's history of patrolling for safe OHV Recreation?

The primary goal of this citizen science project is to increase public education, outreach, and engagement related to the natural world. Each event and product will include a summary of the OHV program and instructions on how and why participants should register their OHVs. The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage (NDNH) will coordinate with the OHV Program Manager to create a script that can be used at all events to ensure the appropriate message is delivered before and/or after each event. Outreach materials provided to participants can also include safety, awareness, and registration messaging as advised by OHV Program staff.

2. Enhancement or Maintenance of existing trails and facilities: *Describe the maintenance intervals for your project. How will maintenance needs be prioritized and how often will your project hold a maintenance/ trails enhancement event? HOW will your project be maintained and WHO has committed to the ongoing maintenance of the facility or trail.(note: a minimum of 2 maintenance/ trail events are required per year)*

Citizen scientists will be encouraged to report any maintenance needs to the OHV Program Manager. This message will be included in live presentations and on printed and digital media as appropriate. NDNH staff will report any maintenance needs while in the field at citizen science training events or while ground-truthing “The Off-road Naturalist” self-tours.

3. Training: *Please describe the goals and objectives of your public training program, i.e., Public Education, Rider Classes, Safety, Trail Building, or Outdoor Ethics. Number of people trained, contacts made, etc.*

There are several widely available, free programs for collecting natural science data, and NDNH has been promoting the use of one called iNaturalist. This app and website allow users to document plants, animals, insects, fungi, and any other living organism with little training, expertise, or equipment. A brief training session allows users who visit remote

areas to document species that are important for the state's conservation goals in places where the state's own employees may not have time to visit in person.

We feel that an increased awareness of the native plants and animals that live near recreational trails will encourage ethical behavior, reduce the public perception of Nevada's deserts as "empty" and "wasteland," and improve the OHV experience. By encouraging users to look more closely at the smaller organisms in our ecosystems, such as insects and wildflowers, we hope to increase awareness of Nevada's amazing biodiversity and encourage advocacy for protecting our wild places.

Goals:

- Increase public awareness and appreciation of Nevada's natural world, especially Nevada's biodiversity and unique ecological communities.
- Train citizen scientists to collect data to support conservation and informed decision-making
- Train the public about ethical behavior when out in nature

The goals will be met through the following tasks:

- Three citizen science in-person training events
- A citizen science training video
- Quarterly citizen science contests to encourage participation
- Four OHV self-tours with points of interest about the natural world for "The Off-road Naturalist"

As detailed further in #4, below, there will also be opportunities for cross-training between the OHV Program staff and NDNH staff while in the field ground-truthing "The Off-road Naturalist" self-tours.

4. Trail mapping and signing of existing trails and facilities: *If a mapping component is included in the grant, please describe how it will be integrated with the current web mapping application found on OHV.NV.GOV*

The proposed project includes the mapping of points of interest about the natural world to include in a downloadable self-tour to be used by the OHV community. Initially titled "The Off-road Naturalist" these self-tours will point out unique features of the natural world along an OHV trail (e.g., unique vegetation, rare plant species, significant geological feature, etc.) and provide a narrative, photos, and sounds to educate the public about Nevada's biodiversity and unique natural features.

We are proposing to do four self-tours in four different regions of the state (northwest, northeast, central, and south), but the final locations, length of the tours, and number of points of interest along each tour will be determined during the initial stages of the project. We intend to solicit input from the OHV Program staff, OHV community groups, and conduct a GIS analysis to determine the best locations (i.e., often used trails with many points of interest). We also hope that OHV Program staff or OHV community volunteers will help us ground-truth the self-tours in the field. If the chosen locations are

not accessible for us to ground-truth using a state fleet services SUV, then the Department-owned OHV will be used. If neither of those options is feasible, we will need to rent an OHV.

Having OHV Program staff join us in the field will also allow for cross-training opportunities between the OHV Program and NDNH.

- 5. Connectivity/Loops:** *Please describe the increase in connectivity between trails, facilities and other locations that your project/program would provide or enhance when completed. Attach maps if necessary, i.e., towns, parks, areas, trails, etc.*

Not applicable

- 6. Planning, Environmental Studies, Conservation:** *Describe how the environmental studies, conservation and/or planning will mitigate resources impacted by OHV recreation. How will your project contribute to the conservation of our natural resources?*

Citizen-based science is crucial for both informing the planning process for land management and fostering interest in protecting our natural resources. Nevada has very few biologists and botanists spread across a huge land area with much of their time devoted to database management and writing environmental analyses and planning documents, which leaves little opportunity to document species on the ground. Nevada also has a large and active outdoor recreation community who spend a significant amount of time visiting areas where rare plants and animals live. By teaching that community how to document these species, they can provide data to NDNH to help further our mission and help land managers make the best conservation and land use planning decisions.

As an example of the power of the citizen scientist, in 2016, two botanists from NDNH had the task of walking through the foothills surrounding Carson City and Carson Valley, looking for a tiny plant called the Carson Valley monkeyflower. Since two people can only survey about 50-100 acres per day and there is only a 20- to 30-day survey window most years, we could not survey the tens of thousands of acres of potential habitat by ourselves. We published a news release asking residents to send in photos and locations of the yellow flowers to help direct our searches. The press release was picked up by KTVN 2 News, who did a [story](#) about it. Tips from residents led us to several large new populations, including one from an OHV user who found the plant far outside the areas we were searching, in the hills between Carson City and Washoe Valley. We had not considered sites at this elevation before and with this new knowledge, we were able to identify three more populations near Washoe Valley and Mound House. The net result was a substantial increase in the known populations of the species and a decision not to pursue listing it as a State Critically Endangered Species, which saved the state the significant amount of time and effort required for the listing process.

As stated under #3, Training, promoting awareness of Nevada's biodiversity will encourage more ethical behavior by OHV users. If they understand that the desert is more than just rocks and tumbleweeds, they may be more careful about staying on trails, littering, and other actions that increase OHV impacts.

- 7. Access:** *Please describe how your project/program ensures protection of access. Explain what access/opportunities would be lost or restricted if the project doesn't occur.*

Not applicable

- 8. Partnering and Leverage:** *Please describe coordination that has occurred with stakeholders, partners and the public in which all interests have had an opportunity to be heard related directly to this project/program.*

During the preparation of this application, we reached out to potential partners whose lands we may use for "The Off-road Naturalist" self-tours and to conduct the citizen science training events. These partners include Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Nevada Division of State Parks; Bureau of Land Management; and USDA Forest Service. A letter of support from Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space is included with this application. Although we did not receive a response from the BLM or USFS, these are regular partners of ours and we anticipate their interest and cooperation during this project. Similarly, Nevada Division of State Parks is a sister agency within our Department. Although we do not have a written letter of support, we did receive verbal support that they would waive filming fees if we choose to use a state park (with proper acknowledgements in the credits) in our training video.

- 9. Economic Integration:** *Please describe how your project/program increasing Off Highway Motorized recreation in the develops outdoor recreation opportunities that help local, regional, or state economies grow (e.g., economic impact, additional OHV funding sources, improved user or business group participation, Road use resolutions and OHV friendly Communities.)*

Nevada is looking ahead toward a future with a diverse and sustainable economy that includes outdoor recreation, eco-tourism, and volunteering. Nevada recently joined the [Confluence of States](#), a growing coalition of states dedicated to advancing outdoor recreation through the four [Confluence Accords](#): Conservation and Stewardship, Education and Workforce Training, Economic Development, and Public Health and Wellness. We hope that as the Nevada Citizen Science Network grows, it will spark an interest in our great state's biodiversity and encourage visitors to venture outside of the urban areas and spend extra time getting to know our amazing deserts. These visitors will need lodging, food, gear, and gas and they will be spending it in the rural areas that offer access to the outdoors. "The Off-road Naturalist" self-tours will attract OHV users to new areas, diversifying the recreational opportunities in those areas. People also visit our state to see rare species in their habitat, such as birds, pupfish, and endangered wildflowers, and as a citizen scientist, they can contribute to the conservation of these species.

10. Demand for New Facilities: *Please provide justification for NEW facility/program development: restrooms, trails, signs, and other amenities.*

Not applicable



CARSON CITY, NEVADA
CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITOL

November 7, 2019

Kristin Szabo
Nevada Division of Natural Heritage
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Nevada Division of Natural Heritage's Application for 2020 Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program Grant Funds

Dear Ms. Szabo:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program 2020 Grant proposal entitled "Nevada Community Science Network - Pilot Project." I understand that this project aims to engage Nevada's community of outdoor recreation enthusiasts through in-person trainings and online videos to collect information about our state's native plants and animals. The information collected will help state and local land managers conserve our local flora and fauna and increase awareness of Nevada's natural resources.

Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department provides diverse recreational opportunities, including motorized trails on portions of Prison Hill. We support the Division's proposal to hold in-person trainings at the Prison Hill Motorized Recreation Area and will assist with publicizing the event and its results through our community network. We look forward to providing input in the planning process to maximize the benefits to both the City, the Division, and the Off-Highway Vehicles Program.

Nevada boasts a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities and a large, active group of outdoor enthusiasts. Teaching existing users to observe the natural world and share those observations with other users and local experts will benefit our users, agencies, and outdoor spaces.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Budge, CPRP
Director



STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

BRADLEY CROWELL
Director

Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

ROBERT MERGELL
Administrator

STATE OF NEVADA



901 S. Stewart Street,
Suite 5005
Carson City, NV
89701-5248

Phone: (775) 684-2770
Fax: (775) 684-2777
<http://parks.nv.gov>

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

Kristin Szabo
Nevada Division of Natural Heritage
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Nevada Division of Natural Heritage's Application for 2020 Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles
Program Grant Funds

Dear Ms. Szabo:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program 2020 Grant proposal entitled "Nevada Community Science Network - Pilot Project." I understand that this project aims to engage Nevada's community of outdoor recreation enthusiasts through in-person trainings and online videos to collect information about our state's native plants and animals. The information collected will help state and local land managers conserve our local flora and fauna and increase awareness of Nevada's natural resources.

Nevada Division of State Parks provides diverse recreational opportunities, including access to motorized trails. We support the Natural Heritage Division's proposal to film an educational video on State Park lands and will assist with publicizing the finished video through our community network. We look forward to providing input in the planning process to maximize the benefits to both the City, the Division, and the Off-Highway Vehicles Program.

Nevada's State Parks boast a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities and a large, active group of outdoor enthusiasts. Teaching existing users to observe the natural world and share those observations with other users and local experts will benefit Nevada residents, visitors, wildlife, and the invaluable resources found in our State Parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Mergell", followed by a horizontal line.

Bob Mergell
Administrator

Nevada Division of State Parks