

NEVADA STATE POLICIES



The Center for Western Priorities' **Western States Conservation Scorecard** evaluates each Western state in three areas: Lands and Access, Outdoor Recreation, and Responsible Energy Development. Our aim is to illuminate best practices and gaps in state-level public lands-related policy in the West. We hope to highlight where Western states are demonstrating leadership, as well as where they can improve. Please see the full report for a breakdown of methodology and the complete grading rubrics with scores at www.westernpriorities.org/statescorecard.

NEVADA	LANDS AND ACCESS	OUTDOOR RECREATION	RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE

AVERAGE — LANDS AND ACCESS

Nevada is one of only two states to embrace a statewide **public lands day**—passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority and signed into law by Governor Brian Sandoval in June of 2017. Even though Nevada's **remaining 3,000 acres of state trust lands** are technically open to the public for some forms of recreation and camping, many prime parcels for recreation were sold long ago. Stream access is a contentious issue in Nevada, whose details remain ambiguous and undefined by Nevada law. Neither the court nor the legislature has determined whether the public trust doctrine applies to non-navigable streams or whether boaters may float or wade through private property.

Nevada voters have approved measures providing significant conservation funding; however, these measures do not automatically renew. In 2002, voters approved "**Question 1**," approving the issuance of \$200 million in bonds with proceeds going towards improvements to trails, parks, and habitat conservation. Voters also approved a bond measure in 1990, known as "Question 5," **which provided** \$47.2 million for conservation projects, the bulk of which was spent by 1994.

AVERAGE — OUTDOOR RECREATION

With many desirable outdoor destinations, the state has the opportunity to champion outdoor recreation in the future. Currently, the state does not have a dedicated office of outdoor recreation. The state has made efforts to get kids outside. In 2017, Nevada passed a **Kids in Parks** bill, providing every 5th grader in Nevada with a free pass to their state parks. Additionally, a portion of **Question 1** funding has provided grants to state agencies, local governments, and nonprofits for trail and infrastructure work.

AVERAGE — RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Nevada has a range of energy-related policies. The state has a **300 foot** setback rule for fracking, but none for conventional wells. Nevada allows blanket bonding for oil and gas well reclamation. When it comes to spill reporting and transparency, Nevada has a spills reporting hotline, and the state Department of Environmental Quality posts limited, but not comprehensive, spills data online. The state requires companies to share fracking chemicals through **FracFocus**. Nevada is the lone Western state with no royalty rate for oil and gas produced on state lands. The state charges a conservation tax on production, but no severance tax. Nevada requires pre-drill testing and two rounds of post-drill testing at four locations within a half-mile of the well. The state does not have methane capture rules.