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Nevada Division of State Parks
Position Statement
BDR 35-493

1. 407.068 currently allows the administrator of the Division of State Parks to enter into cooperative agreements for the operation of locally owned parks as a state facility. However, there are no provisions for the reverse situation. The proposed BDR will provide the additional flexibility of allowing political subdivisions to develop, operate and maintain a state owned park or facility under agreement with the state. Such a scenario would most likely arise when the majority of the park's users are residents of a particular political subdivision, or where growth creates a demand for urban type recreational facilities that are not typically provided in a state park. This would benefit both the state and the local jurisdiction.

2. NRS 407.205 allows the administrator of the Division of State Parks to "accept, administer and disburse to other state agencies and political subdivisions money paid by the Federal Government to the State of Nevada as financial assistance for planning, acquisition or development of outdoor recreation projects. " Within the last three years, Nevada's allocation of Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) grant monies has increased from \$0 to \$1.7 million, half of which is disbursed to the political subdivisions under a competitive grant program, with the balance retained by State Parks for its own capital improvements program. However, State Parks has no budget or staffing to administer this program. Given the dearth of General Fund dollars available, an alternative means to fund the necessary administrative and staffing costs would be to charge grant recipients for direct costs and/or a surcharge in an amount proportionate to any project awards granted, not to exceed 10% of the total cost of individual projects. Thus, the second part of BDR 493 would authorize such charges to grant recipients, without which it will not be possible to continue administering this beneficial grant program. At the same time, the proposed legislation will explicitly allow State Parks to contribute a portion of its available state match for individual grant projects, regardless of the source of the state funds (general fund, bonds, tourism funds, etc.), at the same rate charged to political subdivisions towards administration of the program.