



November 18, 2019

Mr. Jon Raby  
Nevada State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1340 Financial Blvd.  
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Mr. Raby:

As representatives of the outdoor recreation community, the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition writes to express concerns over the Bureau of Land Management's upcoming competitive oil and gas lease sale on December 17, 2019.

Specifically, several of the proposed parcels in this lease sale are clustered just a few miles west of Great Basin National Park. Designated as a national park in 1986, Great Basin received over 153,000 visitors in 2018, generating more than \$9 million in economic output.<sup>1</sup> It has 65 miles of trails, offering a chance to see glacial moraines, alpine lakes, and stunning night skies. Opportunities to hike, camp, ski and snowshoe abound in this one-of-a-kind landscape. Recently designated an International Dark Sky Park – the only one in Nevada – Great Basin boasts one of the darkest night skies in the country, and is home to an annual astronomy festival that draws stargazers from far and wide.

Oil and gas drilling in this area would threaten the wildlife that migrate in and out of the park and adversely affect visitors' outdoor recreation experience, which is based on maintaining the park's dark night skies and remote, undeveloped setting. Outdoor recreation is an important economic driver to the state of Nevada, with long-term growth potential, so it is critical to fully understand and weigh potential impacts from oil and gas lease sales on recreational experiences when evaluating whether to allow oil and gas leasing in the landscape surrounding Great Basin.

This is the last of four lease sales the Department of the Interior will hold on public lands in Nevada over the course of four short months. Ahead of this sale, BLM will have already attempted to lease more than a million acres of public lands to the oil and gas industry this year alone – in a state where there are currently no operating drill rigs but where outdoor recreation generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending and supports 87,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue.<sup>2</sup>

Outdoor recreation ranks third in jobs sustained in Nevada, and a substantial number of Nevada small business owners choose to do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands, according to a poll by Small Business Majority.<sup>3</sup> Eighty-nine percent of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://outdoorindustry.org/state/nevada/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/071112\\_NV\\_public\\_land\\_poll\\_report.pdf](https://smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/071112_NV_public_land_poll_report.pdf)

respondents agree public lands that draw visitors positively impact local businesses. We need to protect these areas from harmful drilling that would adversely impact our businesses' bottom lines.

For these reasons, we urge you to defer these parcels.

Sincerely,

**Bindlestiff Tours**  
**Bristlecone Events**  
**Coalition Snow**  
**Cowboy Trail Rides**  
**Desert Adventures**  
**Desert Sky Adventures**  
**Entersport**  
**Escape Adventures**  
**Fisher Space Pen Co.**  
**Flightlinez Bootleg Canyon**  
**Fly Sin City LLC**  
**Forever Resorts**  
**Forté PR**  
**Gaia Flowers**  
**Gear Hut**  
**Glacier Outdoor, Inc.**  
**Home Means Nevada Co.**  
**John Drakulich Farmer's**  
**Insurance**  
**Las Vegas Cyclery**  
**Laxalt and McIver**  
**Leadership Excursion Co.**  
**Lee Canyon**  
**LGA Architecture**  
**Louis Bubala, Attorney at Law**  
**Mesa Rim Climbing Centers**  
**MidTown Essential Oils**  
**National Park Express**  
**Ninja Courage**

**OUI Experience LLC**  
**Outdoor Travel Tours**  
**Paddle to the Core**  
**Patagonia**  
**Rail Explorers**  
**RE Editorial Services**  
**REI**  
**Red E Bike Tours**  
**Reno Fly Shop**  
**Renown Health**  
**Scheels**  
**SH Architecture**  
**Silver Sage Center for Family**  
**Medicine**  
**Silver Tree Films**  
**Simpson Coulter Studio**  
**Skye Canyon**  
**Sun Buggy Fun Rentals**  
**Tahoe Trail Bar**  
**The Abbi Agency**  
**The Great Basin Community Food**  
**Cooperate**  
**Laughing Planet**  
**The Tuckers Group**  
**Tom Clark Solutions**  
**Vetter PR, Inc.**  
**WashoZephyr Consulting**  
**Wild Ones Collective LLC**

**cc: The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, US Senator**  
**The Honorable Jackie Rosen, US Senator**  
**The Honorable Mark Amodei, US Representative**  
**The Honorable Steven Horsford, US Representative**