



- It has been well documented over the past few years that children have become increasingly detached from outdoor activities and are less physically active. In his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv coined the term, “nature deficit disorder,” to describe this growing disconnect between children and the outdoors. Some of the problems arising from this phenomenon include increased rates of childhood obesity and diabetes; poor development of social skills; higher occurrences of attention deficit disorder; poor classroom performance; and vitamin-D deficiency.
- Some states and communities have responded by creating Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights as a tool to communicate the benefits of being outside and physically active. Outdoor Bill of Rights Initiatives have taken place in California, Maryland, Colorado, Florida, Chicago, IL and Lansing, MI.
- Nevada has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest rate of overweight youth in the nation, according to a 2009 report by Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It found that 34.2 percent of Nevada’s youth between the ages of 10 and 17 were overweight.
- The ***Nevada Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights*** is being created to serve as a shared vision for improving the health and quality of life for our children by getting them physically active and connecting/reconnecting them to nature and the outdoors. It features a list of activities that every child in Nevada would benefit from experiencing.

***The children of Nevada have the right to discover and experience the outdoors through the following activities:***

- ***Create an outdoor adventure***
  - ***Explore a trail***
  - ***Camp under the stars***
  - ***Go fishing***
  - ***Discover nature***
  - ***Explore Nevada’s heritage***
  - ***Go on a picnic***
  - ***Play in a park; in the water; in the snow; on the rocks***
- The Las Vegas Valley is surrounded by seven million acres of public lands managed by four federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are eight national conservation and recreation areas, as well as 19 congressionally designated wilderness areas. These public lands offer outstanding recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, boating, kayaking, OHV riding, fishing, and much more. A number of significant archeological and cultural sites are also located on these public lands.
  - This new initiative brings together a collaborative partnership to develop and implement the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights. The Nevada Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance (COBRA)



includes such groups as the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP); Parks and Recreation Departments of Clark County, City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas and City of North Las Vegas; Nevada Department of Wildlife; Southern Nevada Health District; Outside Las Vegas Foundation; REI, Inc.; Clark County School District; Nevada Division of State Parks; and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Public Lands Institute. Other members include:

Afternoon All Stars  
American Cancer Society  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
Boys and Girls Club  
CHOLLA  
Claim Jumper Restaurants  
Cooperative Extension, UNR  
Forever Resorts  
Friends of Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Nevada Cancer Institute  
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association

- COBRA's goals are to:
  - Increase participation of all children in outdoor activities
  - Promote the health benefits of being active outdoors
  - Increase understanding of Nevada's heritage and support for outdoor recreation opportunities
  - Promote stewardship of public lands, community environments, and our diverse ecosystems
  - Enhance outdoor safety awareness
  
- SNAP, consisting of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, is sponsoring the collaboration. The UNLV Public Lands Institute is organizing the initiative. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is facilitating the process.
  
- The Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights will be presented to the community during the National Trails Day event on October 9.