



# CONFLUENCE OF STATES EDUCATION SERIES SUMMARY

## STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL

DECEMBER 21, 2023

Hosted by:

### Overview

Denise Beronio and Kendal Scott from the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation joined Karina Armijo of the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division and Ángel Peña of Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project to discuss strategies to promote outdoor access for all. This session comes on the heels of a new report funded by REI at the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators called the [“Outdoor Opportunity Legislative Toolkit”](#). This report, authored by Francesca Governali, MS/MBA candidate at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, outlines different strategies employed by states across the country to increase outdoor access for all their constituents.



### Take-Home Advice

*"Many of those interviewed talked about the importance of having upfront funds, rather than reimbursement, as well as having the advisory board be able to determine how much match or any match at all is required of grantees. The grantee grant amounts leave room for some flexibility in the implementation process." - Francesca Governali*

*"[Our Equity Fund] would not have been possible without the dedication of active citizens and committed organizations who recognize the importance of investing in our youth, connecting our community to the outdoors and celebrating conservation and stewardship." - Karina Armijo*

*"Not every nonprofit or on the ground organization has the cash flow to get these ideas off the ground. **Paying full grant amount up front rather than reimbursement was a real big help** including matching waivers and progress reports for site visit. This lightened the reporting load versus some big technical report that often are required." - Ángel Peña*

*"Our goals are to support Nevada's direct economy by establishing Nevada as a home for world class outdoor recreation and to affirm outdoor recreation has a role in improving public health and community wellness while increasing capacity for outdoor recreation and stewardship." - Denise Beronio*

*"Get **prepared internally**, but also **prepare your audience** to say this [grant program] is coming. Get everyone excited and ready so once that funding comes in, you can get that funding out as quickly as possible." - Kendal Scott*

*"If you're going for these [equity] programs, establish the funding off the bat in the legislative process, **unfunded programs are getting nobody outside.**" - Kendal Scott*

### Panel Speakers



**Karina Armijo**  
Executive Director for the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division



**Denise Beronio**  
Administrator for the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation



**Kendal Scott**  
Outdoor Education Lead for the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation



**Ángel Peña**  
Executive Director of Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project



**Francesca Governali**  
MS/MBA candidate at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business



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