



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
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December 16, 2014

Mr. David Spicer
President, STORM-OV
P.O. Box 278
Beatty, NV 89003

Subject: The Nature Conservancy Support for STORM-OV's Beatty Trails Project

Dear Mr. Spicer:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Nevada, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for STORM-OV's vision of creating a network of well-planned trails for running, mountain biking, and horseback riding that would ultimately link the town of Beatty with Death Valley and Rhyolite.

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada has worked to conserve the State's lands and waters for the last 30 years. We take pride in our history of working with local communities to find lasting, on-the-ground solutions that benefit both people and nature. Our collaboration with local stakeholders in Beatty to conserve the Amargosa Toad with the goal of preventing the need to place it on the endangered species list stands as testimony to our approach.

Nestled in the Oasis Valley, Beatty is the gateway to some of the most unique geological and biological wonders to be found in the American West—indeed on the planet. Desert hot springs, the iconic Death Valley, and a host of species found nowhere else in the world, all lie just a short bike-ride away from this gateway town. For birdwatchers, Beatty sits at the heart of an internationally recognized *Important Bird Area* by the Audubon Society and BirdLife International. A well-planned trail system such as the one envisioned by STORM-OV offers tremendous potential to connect people with the outdoors, allowing them to appreciate these wonders, and bring tangible, lasting benefits to the human and natural communities in Southern Nevada.

The Nature Conservancy believes nature should be experienced, enjoyed, and appreciated by all. From Red Rock Canyon to the Truckee River, the Conservancy is working to providing greater opportunities to access and enjoy the great outdoors—for both today's and tomorrow's generations. The Beatty Trails project will provide another opportunity for people to connect with nature while growing Nevada's economy, safeguarding our natural heritage, and improving the health and well-being of our communities. The Conservancy looks forward to furthering our partnership with STORM-OV. In addition to our general support, we are excited to explore opportunities to utilize our Torrance Ranch and Parker Ranch nature preserves, as well as our restoration projects in the Oasis Valley, to enhance STORM-OV's efforts to help benefit the economy and conservation in Beatty. As just one example of potential collaboration, we could provide the opportunity for visitors to Oasis Valley to take guided nature walks, bird-watch, or lend their hand on volunteer projects.

As the Conservancy's Mojave Desert Program Director, and on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Nevada, I offer my personal commitment to helping support this valuable effort.

Sincerely,

John A. Zablocki
Mojave Program Director, The Nature Conservancy