



***Sierra Nevada Unit, WBCCI***

PO Box 21481, Reno, NV 89515  
SierraNevadaAirstreams.org

June 2, 2004

Nevada Division of State Parks - Dayton State Park  
Attention: Mary  
1300 South Curry Street  
Carson City, NV 89703-5202

The Sierra Nevada Unit (SNU), Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) is a group of Airstream recreational vehicle owners who live in Northern Nevada. We enjoy camping in areas with limited facilities and unstructured parking. We spent a very enjoyable weekend at Dayton State Park May 28 - 30, 2004. We have also held rallies at other Nevada state parks in Northern Nevada - Ft. Churchill, Washoe Lake, and Lahontan.

The only drawback to many of the state parks including Dayton, is lack of an unstructured parking group camping area designated for recreational vehicles. SNU would strongly encourage the Nevada State Parks Department to begin developing such areas as we feel that there are numerous RV groups both in Nevada and neighboring states that would utilize a group camping area that can accommodate from five to fifteen or so rigs.

Beach 7 at Lahontan is a good example of the type of area that the SNU prefers. The group area Davis Creek Regional Park in Washoe Valley is another example. Lahontan Beach 7 provides an example of a group camping area where no special site preparation is needed. Water and restroom facilities are accessible both to individual campers and group camping participants. Lahontan also maintains a dump station for all RV campers. Davis Creek provides a separate and distinct area for group camping. This area includes its own restrooms, access to water, picnic tables, and a fire pit. There is also a dump station at the entrance to the park.

The basic needs for group camping as envisioned by the SNU would be a fairly level cleared area for parking with a gravel or other solid driving surface and a central single source of water. This type of area would require the least expenditure of resources while facilitating further development in the future. It could also be implemented in the least amount of time. Restrooms, tables, and firepits are nice additions that could all be added at a later time and would increase the usability of the area.



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Dayton, as with several of the other parks, has an advantage of being close to numerous historic places of interest. It has great hiking paths along the river which provide bird watching opportunities. These and other assets make Dayton a very desirable place for groups who like to include day trips and other activities in their rally agenda. They appreciate the opportunity to explore the history of Nevada while being camped in a central location that does not require driving long distances. Dayton's location also makes camping in the state park more likely all year including during the winter. With all these assets I think occupancy rates would probably be fairly high for a group area.

From what we understand there is already an item in the master plan to include a group area at Dayton. The area behind the established group day use area would make an ideal unstructured group RV campground. This area is also further from the highway which is a definite asset. The area would require minimal effort to set up. There is already a dump station at the entrance to the park. In addition, site 10 that currently exists, could easily be expanded to provide limited group camping to four to eight RV's.

A group area could provide a tremendous boost to Dayton State Park as well as the state parks system as a whole. We feel that use of this area would soon offset costs involved in it's development.

The SNU hopes that the Nevada State Park Division will seriously consider establishing a group area at Dayton State park in the next year or so. I know that we would definitely utilize the area if it was available and I have no doubts that other RV groups would also utilize a group area at the park.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Diane L Leipper, President SNU

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cc: Director, Nevada State Parks