

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3F

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman



REQUEST: For possible action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors a work program for the year 2012.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The information below summarizes and organizes projects and other tasks being conducted in order to carry out the functions and responsibilities of the Open Space Program, as outlined by the provision of Chapter 13.06 of the Carson City Municipal Code. The information is organized into four main categories: 1) Management activities, 2) Capital improvement projects, 3) Planning activities, 4) Land transaction activities. This work program outline will be used by staff as a precursor for the preparation of the budget and to provide an opportunity for the committee and Board of Supervisors to discuss and request information and provide direction on the wide range of projects we may work on in the future.

The last page of this report summarizes the properties acquired through the Question-18 Open Space Program and in City ownership and, with the Horsecreek meadow, a partial interest through a conservation easement.

Programmatic, as used in the table below, means that the substantial majority of the cost is absorbed by staff's daily routine work and existing budget line items.

1. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Volunteer opportunities / activities	Programmatic - our two ambassador volunteers are ready to start the 2012 tour. The Kiwanis Noon Club will be helping us with trail development. The Kiwanis Sunset Club will be helping us as "ambassadors" throughout the Carson River areas. Muscle-Powered will assist us with trail development. The Great Basin Institute will "train" trail on construction techniques in our lands. The Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch will assist with the river lands. We will continue our partnership to Troop 342 and other Boy Scouts.
Fuels reduction projects	Programmatic - NDF to initiate stewardship operations when road access is clear of snow at Wilson property. Sheep projects are on schedule. SNPLMA grant for west side continues to be implemented. We will cooperate with the Fire Department's efforts on the east perimeter of town.
Management of Waterfall Fire and Utility lands (NRCS grants)	Programmatic - Phase III was managed by Public Works. COMPLETED

Continue forest rehabilitation efforts	Programmatic - based on opportunities
Noxious weed control activities	We continue to collaborate with the Carson Weed Coalition towards necessary treatments.
Buzzy's Ranch - house/rock structure	With the assistance of Public Works and at a cost of \$12,000 the old house was demolished. The rock structure must be re-roofed.
Carson River Canyon properties	Provide for signs, clean up, gates and safety fencing for users. Create a presence through volunteers and staff.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

V&T Trail right-of-way, north of Combs Canyon Road	In progress. Next action is to survey the land to be used for State lease.
Fulstone/Lompa wetlands and trail enhancements	\$250,000 estimated cost (Approx \$200,000 in grants). Project in last phase landscaping and revegetation. COMPLETED
NRCS Grant - Flood and debris mitigation project at Quill Ranch / Long Ranch	Phase III NRCS grant \$360,000 COMPLETED
Mexican Ditch Trail Extension (Moffat property)	Completed through the efforts of RTC/Safe Route to Schools grants.
Kings to Ash Canyon multi-purpose trail by Muscle-Powered	Partnership with USFS and Muscle-Powered. There may be an opportunity to construct segments within City lands this spring/summer.
Waterfall Trail - Upper Trail	First leg 100% of new trail completed through Eagle Scout project by Dion Copoulos. We will finish the upper trail with the use of volunteers and crews from Great Basin Institute.
Morgan Mill to Deer Run Road Bridge, Class 3 Trail Connector	The Kiwanis Noon Club has adopted this effort with assistance of our staff and consultant Mark Kimbrough.

3. PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Tahoe Multi-Purpose Trail	Demonstration segment at south end (Douglas Co.) under construction.
Annual reports to the Board of Supervisors	To be completed around April 2012 upon OSAC review.
Federal agency plans and project reviews / AT&T cell tower at Lone Mountain	Programmatic - Cell tower at Lone Mtn ready for lease review by Board of Supervisors.

Westside bike path (Jeff Potter & Muscle-Powered initiative) (Also see a construction component under Capital Improvements)	Historic and botanic review completed - also substantial progress with USFS in NEPA process. Partial construction in City lands anticipated this summer.
Update of the Open Space Opportunities Maps for River and Carson Range	Completed
Multi-purpose freeway crossing study at Valley View Drive.	Completed
Research grants opportunities for non-motorized crossings at Eagle Creek, Silver Saddle Ranch, and Vidler/Jarrard property.	Programmatic. See Eagle Creek Crossing under Capital Improvements.
Continue to assess the critical management needs for the Serpa property and Bently once purchased.	Incorporated into the draft management plan for the Carson River.
Waterfall Fire - 5 Years After report	Originally proposed to be completed by June 2010 - postponed due to higher priorities.
Management Plan request for conservation easement with BLM. The conservation easement includes Prison Hill, Silver Saddle Ranch, and Ambrose Natural Area.	Plan to include conservation easement lands as required and adjacent open space lands. To be completed in the summer of 2012. Staff considers the draft plan to be 70% complete - all of the river lands acquisitions will be considered in the plan.
Silver Saddle Ranch - Management	Working with FOSSR towards an agreement to facilitate on-site management of Silver Saddle Ranch.
Buzzy's Ranch	Working with Ducks Unlimited towards grant request for wetlands enhancements.

4. LAND TRANSACTIONS

Benna-Marshall 45.5 acres at Carson Range / Ash Canyon	The Legacy grant project nomination did not score high enough to be funded. Staff and NVLC are considering alternatives.
Joost property	Public Works purchased 29 acres out of approximately 49 acres. The Joost Trust expects to complete a transaction with Open Space for the remaining 20 acres in 2012.
Potter property	OSAC recommended a transfer of lands with City properties. Staff and applicant have met once.
Schulz conservation easement (Woods Ranch)	NRCS grant funding not approved - awaiting other opportunities for funding.

Collard conservation easement (Kings Canyon)	On hold by proponents due to depressed economy.
Donation of property on Lompa Lane in relation to wetlands under the present ownership of Dwight Millard and Jim Bawden	31 Acres - Staff to develop agreements to facilitate transaction. The work for this transaction has been delayed due to other more urgent priorities. Staff did not work on this item during 2011.
Long, Darling, and Schulz	These properties are being transacted by the USFS. The Long and Darling acquisitions are waiting funding. Schulz is funded and the USFS anticipates purchase in 2012.
Bently property	Transaction negotiated as a joint venture with the V&T. Completed in January 2012.
Lands Bills - Transfers	A. USFS transfer - Completed in September 2011. B. BLM work in progress - transfer anticipated by summer 2012.
Hamm 186 acres property at Vicee Canyon - south of Timberline	Through the NVLC staff was approached by a broker towards the potential acquisition of this property. Staff is considering alternatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for staff to continue work as presented with acknowledgment that the primary activity of the staff relates to the management of lands as opposed to new acquisitions of property.