

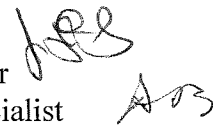
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3L

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist



REQUEST: Discussion Only regarding other projects –Andersen/Lloyd's Diversion, Ducks Unlimited, fuels reduction, Federal Lands Bill, NDEP grant for Ash Canyon Road, NRCS grant for Silver Saddle Ranch irrigation and pasture, and volunteers.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Andersen/Lloyd's Diversion:

Paul Pugsley is the leader for this project. He continues to negotiate in order to transfer the water Rights appurtenant to the ponding caused by the diversion. His next window to work the river given the low flows will be towards the end of June. However, until the water rights item is resolved with Chris MacKenzie, the project cannot proceed.

Ducks Unlimited:

John Ranlett is the project leader for this effort with Ducks Unlimited. The grant nomination was submitted. It includes a proposal to provide for irrigation and wetlands enhancements at Buzzy's Ranch. Staff submitted letters of support for the project. It will be nearly a year before we have a grant response.

Federal Lands Bill:

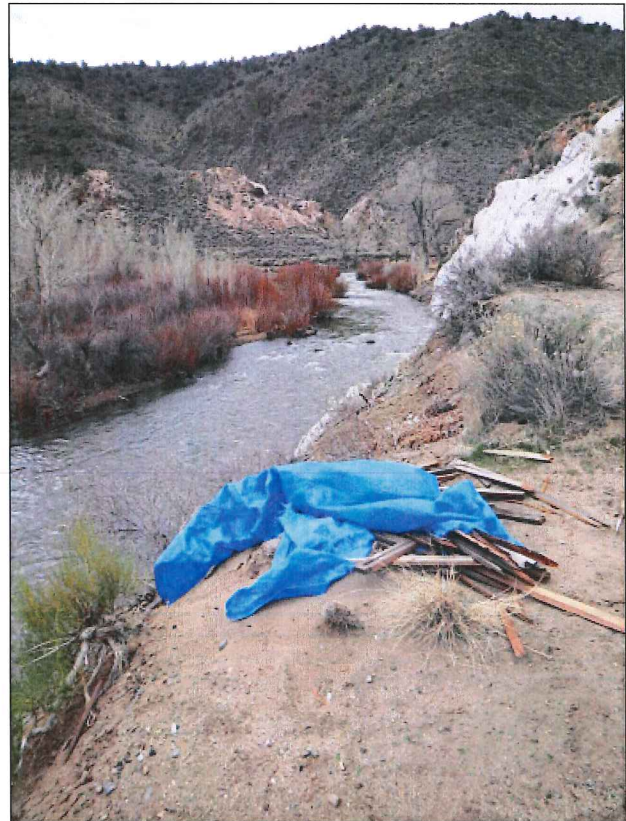
Staff met with Leon Thomas, Director of the BLM Sierra Front District. Currently, they are waiting for some of the property descriptions that are being generated from the surveying of the lands. They anticipate to begin drafting deed patents and other required documents within months. We agreed that Carson City will initiate the payment towards the establishment of the Stewardship Account for the Conservation Easement Areas.

NDEP grant for Ash Canyon Road:

The \$10,000 funding agreement has been executed. The development of the best management practices plan is the responsibility of Lynn Zonge with Resource Concepts, Inc. The implementation and grading of the road will be conducted through our maintenance contract with Horizon Construction for the maintenance of Ash Canyon Road west of the water tanks. It is expected to complete this project by mid-summer.

Volunteers:

Two new volunteers, Paul Sinnott and Ernest Stevenson, have recently joined our Open Space program. Volunteer Ranger Paul Schmidt remains extremely active with patrolling and clean-up of our properties. The following photos illustrate the dumping epidemic in our area and primarily located near the river. BLM has also expressed an interest in finding ways to reduce the desert dumping problem.



Fuels reduction:

The fine fuels reduction with sheep will continue again in 2013. Due to the drought conditions, just one band will be grazing in our area. Staff has also been reviewing fuels prescriptions and coordinating with the fire department on mastication projects throughout open space and park properties.

NRCS grant for Silver Saddle Ranch irrigation and pasture:

Michael Andersen, the pasture lessee/contractor at Silver Saddle Ranch, has submitted a funding assistance request to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for irrigation and fencing improvements. NRCS conducted a cultural review survey and request review by Carson City and the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch. Staff has also corresponded and received approval from BLM office. It is anticipated that the improvements will begin this summer.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion only. No action may be taken.