

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager



REQUEST: Discussion only regarding the increase of motorized use within non-motorized areas of the Vicee Canyon and the V&T Trail between Combs Canyon Road and Ash Canyon Road.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Staff has recently received reports from Mr. Jeff Potter and other users of the single-track bicycle trails in the vicinity of Ash Canyon that there has been an increase of motorized use of those trails, including the V&T paved trail. Within Ash Canyon there are adopted designated motorized routes approved as part of the U.S. Forest Service motorized plan for the area and the Unified Pathways Mater Plan. The motorized route includes Ash Canyon Road itself but does not include the trails that extend beyond the proper road. The area has not been marked with signs indicating where the motorized road is in a specific format. There are general signs indicating for vehicles to stay within Ash Canyon Road towards the entrance, but nowhere else.

Staff will recommend that a signage program be initiated that clearly marks the motorized route along Ash Canyon Road. That work can be easily incorporated into the present Nevada Department of Environmental Protection 319 grant effort towards a management plan for alleviating erosion along Ash Canyon. Improvements and signage can be implemented as part of the routine maintenance and improvements on Ash Canyon Road.

It is also recommended that staff initiates the necessary code amendments in order to establish clearly that the provisions of Chapter 13.02 of the Carson City Municipal Code also apply to the Open Space properties obtained through the Open Space Program. The clarification of the code issues is essential towards the enforcement of regulations within open space and public lands.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This item is for discussion only and no action may be taken by the Committee.

Juan Guzman

From: jhall.gnomon@gmail.com on behalf of Jeremy Hall <jhall@gnomon.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 5:11 PM
To: Juan Guzman
Subject: Re: ATVs in Ash Canyon

Hi Juan,

I can imagine you are a busy guy but have you had a chance to discuss the issue of ATV use along Ash Canyon bike paths with your office mates yet? Just wanting to get the ball rolling on a solution.

Thanks,
Jeremy

On Fri, Apr 12, 2013 at 4:48 PM, Juan Guzman <JGuzman@carson.org> wrote:

Hi Jeremy:

I want to share your mail with others in my office, before responding to you. We have had a few discussions about ATV use in non-motorized areas recently.

From: jhall.gnomon@gmail.com [mailto:jhall.gnomon@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Jeremy Hall
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:49 PM
To: Juan Guzman
Cc: Jeff Potter; Toby Welborn
Subject: ATVs in Ash Canyon

Hi Juan,

I work with Mike Drews but I don't think you and I have met yet. Both him and Jeff Potter recommended that I contact you about this issue.

Last night I took a bike ride up Ash Canyon and noticed, much to my irritation, a set of quad tracks along the Jackrabbit trail (the lower ash canyon multi-use trail that extends west from the college along the south side of Vicee Creek). I've been using this trail for several years now and actively participate in trail maintenance and approved trail building efforts with Muscle Powered. To say the least, I absolutely cherish this little piece of open space that Carson City provides and am growing concerned about the increase of ATV activity in the area. This is despite the multiple "no motorized vehicle signs" posted along the paved trail.

Jeff pointed out that there never seems to be a trailer parked in the parking areas, so it is likely that local residents from the Silver Oak, Vicee Canyon, or Lakeview residential areas are the perpetrators.

I know ATV activity has increased overall in the Carson area and this issue permeates more than just Ash Canyon, but I'm wanting to know if me/you/us/Muscle Powered can do something to stop these ATVs from using the Ash Canyon trail. My concern is that if something isn't done to address the issue soon, our single track is going to become a road and then all of a sudden, the whole area will be trashed with quad tracks. These people obviously don't care about the visible signage and therefore their ethics are such that, burning in a fresh set of tracks across the desert isn't beyond possibility.

What can we do to improve the situation? I'm open to any suggestion you may have. Would it be possible to set up a meeting with the Open Space Committee and/or Parks and Rec? I have a few ideas but I'll wait to hear back from you first, to hear what you think.

Thanks for your time and consideration of this issue,

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Gnomon, Inc.

Juan Guzman

From: Lee Plemel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 12:24 PM
To: Robb Fellows
Cc: Juan Guzman
Subject: Motocross at WNC basins

Robb,

If you're interested in know who's tearing up the detention basins at WNC on motorcycles, it's two teenagers associated with a green Jeep, NV license plate 639TKH. I was up there walking my dogs at about 11:30 this morning and saw them riding around with someone who may be their mom by the Jeep watching them, then they were all hanging out together by the Jeep as I walked by. They're riding all over the place tearing up new paths through the sagebrush, and they were riding on the mountain bike trails nearby, too. With all the open area, one of them managed to come riding within a few feet of me, which was quite annoying. I can find out who the Jeep belongs to, if you need it.

Lee

Juan Guzman

From: Roger Moellendorf
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 7:51 AM
To: 'Jeff Potter'
Cc: Juan Guzman; Scott Fahrenbruch; Ann Bollinger
Subject: RE: Motorized use on the Ash/Kings Trail

Jeff,

Your suggested language may be a little wordy for a sign, but I'll get with Juan when he gets back and we'll put something together.

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Potter [<mailto:jeffpotter@musclepowered.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 6:52 AM
To: Roger Moellendorf
Cc: Toby Welborn
Subject: Re: Motorized use on the Ash/Kings Trail

Hi Roger,

Thank you for your quick response.

A lot of people use the trail now, and I don't mind as long as the barriers are left in place. We've actually picked up a few volunteers because they discovered the new trail. Perhaps a sign that listed the partners and how to get involved would be more appropriate:

Trail Under Construction

The Ash Cyn to Kings Cyn Trail is a non-motorized use trail that is made possible through a partnership with Muscle Powered, Carson City, USFS, GBI and Nevada St Parks. Completion is expected in the fall of 2014. If you would like to get involved contact Jeff Potter at jeffpotter@musclepowered.org. Please leave barriers in place. Thank you!

We could also add the Sheriff's non emergency dispatch number to report illegal activities.

Thank you,
Jeff

On Jul 1, 2013, at 8:35 AM, Roger Moellendorf <RMoellendorf@carson.org> wrote:

> Jeff,

>

> Thanks for letting us know about this and the oil change incident. We'll get some signs made and posted. I definitely think we need "no motorized" signs posted at the trail head or trail access areas. What are your thoughts about posting a "Trail closed for construction" sign at the access point of the Ash to Kings Canyon trail; or do you feel this will draw too much attention to the trail.

> Again, thanks for keeping an eye out.

>
> Roger
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jeff Potter [<mailto:jeffpotter@musclepowered.org>]
> Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 5:19 PM
> To: Roger Moellendorf; Juan Guzman
> Cc: Toby Welborn; Jeremy Hall; Oliver Lieder
> Subject: Motorized use on the Ash/Kings Trail
>
> Hi Roger and Juan,
>
> Unfortunately there has been a lot of motorcycle activity recently on the Creek Trail. And while hiking up for Sunday's trail work we noticed a motorcycle had climbed over or rode around all of our barriers. Not an easy thing to do on a big bike unless the person is a skilled rider.
>
> I'm under no illusion that we can keep motorized use from occurring on the trail once it's finished. We can only do what we can to discourage their use and hope they will all be respectful of the trail's non-motorized designation. But the effort that it took for the motorcyclist to go out of his way to get to an obviously closed trail is a total disrespect for any other users but himself. It really crushed our motivation to work. He also entered the trail by riding to the west of the BMP that was placed in front of the new trailhead.
>
> Those of us on Sunday's trail crew discussed what we could do to prevent this from happening again. We all agreed that signing the area would be a good first step. However, a "no motorized use" sign at the Ash Creek Trail entrance, or at the start of the Ash/Kings Trail, would send a mixed message i.e., Motorized use is not permitted on the above mentioned trails but, because it is not signed elsewhere, it must be allowed on all other trails? If possible, we thought it would be best if any signs were to be posted that they read as such: "Motorized use permitted on Ash Cyn Rd only. All other areas motorized use prohibited".
>
> We all realize that signs will not stop unauthorized motorized use, but signage does give non-motorized users rules and or laws to back us up. Most motorized users I've encountered are respectful, it's only a few that make them all look bad. The new off road vehicle registration goes into effect on Monday. Perhaps this and signage will help us keep the area under control.
>
> I know you're both very busy and it pains me to make your lives more difficult. Managing user conflict has to be one of the worst things about your job. Please let me know what I can do help make this situation better.
>
> Thank you,
> Jeff
>
>
> --
> BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS
> -----
>
> Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 02JT3ArGB) is spam:
> Spam: <https://antispam.roaringpenguin.com/canit/b.php?i=02JT3ArGB&m=54a1fcd4734e&t=20130701&c=s>
> Not spam: <https://antispam.roaringpenguin.com/canit/b.php?i=02JT3ArGB&m=54a1fcd4734e&t=20130701&c=n>
> Forget vote: <https://antispam.roaringpenguin.com/canit/b.php?i=02JT3ArGB&m=54a1fcd4734e&t=20130701&c=f>
> -----
> END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS
>

Juan Guzman

From: Jeff Potter <jeffpotter@musclepowered.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 8:47 PM
To: Roger Moellendorf; Juan Guzman; Toby Welborn; Jeremy Hall
Subject: Follow up

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Due By: Sunday, June 30, 2013 9:17 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi all,

I took Amy and the pups for a hike on the new trail this evening to measure our construction progress for the month. While I was there I snapped a couple of pics of where the moto entered the trail. See attached.

Also, along the way to the trailhead I noticed a trash pile (could have been there this morning but I didn't notice it) that looked like someone had changed their vehicle oil. You may remember in early June that someone had changed their oil in Vicee Cyn and left their trash too. If you look at the photo closely you will notice and empty oil container, an empty oil filter box, a surgical glove and an empty PBR. I think the surgical glove was so our perp wouldn't get his hands dirty during the oil change, not for the PBR as I originally suspected.







Juan Guzman

From: Jeff Potter <6dogs@pyramid.net>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 7:00 AM
To: Juan Guzman
Subject: Moto

Hi Juan,

I took this photo on Saturday. After Toby informed them that motorized use is not allowed, and posted, the motos proceeded to ride on the bike path and past the next "no motorized use" sign. Sorry to be a pain about this but these riders are now using the north facing slope, up to Jackrabbit trail, causing more issues.

Jeff

