

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3E

**STAFF:** Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

**REQUEST:** **For Possible Action:** To authorize the Chairman's signature and to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for the Mayor's signature on a letter of support for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes grant submitted by the Nevada Land Trust for the acquisition of the Benna-Marshall 45-acre parcel located at the top of Ash Canyon Road.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Attached for your review, find a letter directed to the Nevada Land Trust in support of a grant nomination submitted by them to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes to purchase the Benna-Marshall Property. The property is located at the crest of the Carson Range, top of Ash Canyon Road, and is adjacent to Carson City Open Space, Lake Tahoe State Park, and U.S. Forest Service lands. The Nevada Land Trust would be interested in making arrangements for Carson City to become the long-term owner of this environmentally sensitive and scenic property. The property was designated in the Open Space Plan for potential acquisition.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to authorize the Chairman's signature and to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for the Mayor's signature on a letter of support for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes grant submitted by the Nevada Land Trust for the acquisition of the Benna-Marshall 45-acre parcel located at the top of Ash Canyon Road.

April 14, 2014

Chuck Pope, Co-President  
Nevada Land Trust  
P.O. Box 20288  
5655 Morgan Mill Road  
Reno, NV 89515

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On behalf of the Carson City Board of Supervisors and the Open Space Program we write to lend support to your effort to acquire the environmentally sensitive and scenic 45-acre parcel on the Carson Range above Washoe Valley near Hobart Reservoir. This parcel is surrounded by public land – Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Carson City Open Space and U.S. Forest Service lands. We wish to convey our sentiment of support to your efforts and grant nomination to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes grant nomination.

The parcel is critical for Carson City's water supply and is situated in the headwaters of Ash Canyon and McEwen drainages and on the divide between two Desert Terminal Lakes Basins – the Carson River and the Truckee River. Approximately 1/3 of Carson City's municipal water originates in the Carson Range.

This application is unique in that it incorporates riparian areas, pristine mountain meadow, aspen stands and mixed conifer forest creating key wildlife corridors for hundreds of bird species including the goshawk, mule deer, black bear and flying squirrel.

In addition to habitat protection, this acquisition will protect access on Ash Canyon Road which is the only public road into the backcountry of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

This National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant builds upon and strengthens Nevada's first and only Forest Legacy project that protected 111 adjacent acres in 2009 (Ash Canyon). These lands are managed as part of our Open Space Program for the benefit of generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important acquisition for Carson City and the multitude of benefits this will bring in terms of improved water quality, wildlife habitat and preservation of access.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Crowell  
Mayor of Carson City

Bruce Scott  
Chairman  
Open Space Advisory Committee