

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3E

**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator  
Rich Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resources Specialist

**REQUEST:** **For Discussion and Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors the transmittal of a letter to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and related Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late 2014, and they have conducted several public presentations throughout the region. The document is extensive, and staff would like extend many thanks and appreciation to the OSAC members who assisted with review and comments – including many questions. Due to the complexity, this staff report and attachments are organized in the following sequence:

- 1) Comments and questions as submitted by the OSAC members.
- 2) The DRAFT comments on the Carson City District Draft RMP and EIS. The comments include suggested changes, sources, and/or methodologies and may or may not include comments previously submitted during the scoping period in 2012. The topics follow the same order as listed and described in the RMP / EIS. If a subject is not addressed in this comment form, staff either has no comment or agrees with the action(s) identified in Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative.
- 3) Several documents related to past meetings and minutes including a copy of the letter and comments submitted during the scoping period in 2012.

The deadline for comments has been extended to April 27, 2015.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the transmittal of a letter to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Carson City Comments Regarding the  
Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District  
Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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Introduction:

Several subjects are not addressed in this comment letter. Carson City either has no comment or agrees with the action(s) identified in Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative.

The best written plan will only be as good as the funding provided to put that plan into action. It is hoped that Congress will see the wisdom in providing the necessary funding to enact this plan and project these lands.

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### Soils and Water Resources

Page 2-23, Goal: Manage soils and water resources to maintain watershed health, enhance ecosystem health, and provide for public uses while insuring ecological diversity and sustainability. Objective: Reduce soil loss and associated flood and sediment damage caused by accelerated wind and water erosion due to ground-disturbing activity.

- Carson City recommends adding the following action to the above objective, “Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails in areas of severe erosion hazard susceptibility and in watersheds where OHV use is causing flood and sediment problems.” This is a particular concern in the canyons and drainages along Sierra Vista Lane where OHVs have impacted vegetation and soils on steep slopes, resulting in flooding and increased sediment deposition into the Carson River (a priority watershed).

### Vegetation

#### *Forest and Woodlands / Rangelands / Restoration and Rehabilitation / Riparian Wetlands*

- In the above sections, the City encourages and supports Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative. In the Forest and Woodlands, this includes removal, the creation of diverse stand ages, extraction for personal use, using the full suite of treatment methods, etc.

#### *Vegetation – Invasive, Nonnative Species, and Noxious Weeds*

Page 2-47, Goal: Prevent and minimize the introduction and spread of invasive and noxious plants with an emphasis on collaboration with federal, tribal, state, county governments, permitted land users and conservation groups. Objective: Use ecologically based invasive plant management practices for vegetation management efforts across resource programs for the States of Nevada and California-listed noxious weed and invasive annual species.

- Alternatives B, D, and E allow the utilization of appropriate control methods including mechanical, biological and chemical to eradicate or control invasive, nonnative species and noxious weeds; and Carson City supports this. Throughout the last few years, however, the Carson City District has not treated weeds on federal lands. Recently, BLM has stated that the EIS is out-of-date. In the meantime, weed densities have increased; thereby increasing the seed source and the potential of spread to non-federal lands. Some noxious weeds, such as *Lepidium latifolium* / perennial pepperweed with its deep and aggressive root system, will not be eradicated without the use of herbicides. Additionally, BLM staff should be informed regarding new herbicides and make efforts towards their use on lands throughout the region.

Page 2-48, Objective: Prioritize weed management areas based on location and degree of infestation district-wide.

- Unlike the other alternatives, Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative, does not identify a focus area i.e. fish and wildlife habitat or the interface and urban areas. While Carson City understands there are various factors to consider, we would like to emphasize that the interface and urban areas with road and trails are significant transportation vectors for the spread of weeds. If weeds are controlled in these areas, then fewer weeds would be transported to the more rural areas – and likely, the more desirable wildlife habitat areas. Addition priority areas should be those adjacent to non-federal lands where weed treatments are occurring, and small infestations where a goal towards eradication may be feasible. Therefore, Carson City recommends the above changes to Alternative E.

### **Species Status Species**

Page 2-61, Greater Sage-Grouse

- While a federal listing as a threatened and endangered species has not yet been determined and the Draft Final EIS for the Bi-State distinct population segment (DPS) did not identify high priority within Carson City political boundary, sage-grouse are recognized as a species that could have far reaching consequences across the public and private rangeland areas if listed. Through the Carson City Open Space Program, the City owns and manages large areas of undeveloped, natural landscapes and agricultural lands along the Carson River. There may be other areas as well that can be cooperatively improved to entice sage-grouse use and help to avert a listing of the Bi State DPS. The City supports all reasonable approaches, in balance with multiple use and industry, directed toward the conservation of sage-grouse.

### **Wild Horse and Burros**

Page 2-72, Goal: Manage healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat within Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

- The City supports the careful and ongoing management of wild horses where the public can enjoy these animals in a safe, managed environment. Therefore, Carson City supports Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative, which among other actions, includes:
  - Manage HMAs where habitat conditions (forage, water, cover, space) are adequate to support healthy populations and where a thriving natural ecological balances and multiple-use relationship can be achieved and maintained;
  - Maintain HMAs and Herd Areas (Has), including the Pine Nut HA/HMA located within Carson City;
  - Manage wild horses and burros at identified Appropriate Management Levels (AML) range. When populations approach the upper AML level and monitoring data supports that excess animals are present, gather wild horses and burros to reduce numbers to the lower limit of AML range.

### **Cultural Resources**

Page 2-81, Goal: Preserve and protect cultural resources ensuring respectful and appropriate use by present and future generations.

- As previously submitted, Carson City requests a proactive action by BLM to inventory and clear the WUI to allow for fuels management and timely rehabilitation should a wildfire occur in this area. The time required for cultural clearances can greatly impact burn area rehabilitation success and the optimal timeframe for seeding treatments including drill seeding.
- Carson City supports protection and judicious public access enjoyment of any and all cultural resources within its boundaries, both those sites already identified and those sites not yet identified; for example, the Marlette Lake Water System is an identified site. For potential sites not yet identified, for example the Bidwell and Bunker Hill Mine sites in the Pine Nut Mountains, Carson City wishes to be kept apprised and advised of any possible developments in those areas.
- Carson City, the BLM, and the Nevada State Office of Historic Preservation have entered into a Programmatic Agreement identifying the procedures to be used for the management of cultural resources on areas approved to be transferred to Carson City through the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009. One of those areas includes Silver Saddle Ranch.

### **Visual Resources**

Page 3-121, Current Conditions, Visual Resource Management (VRM)

- “The majority of the decision area does not have an assigned VRM classification. A partial VRM classification was completed in the mid-1980s, mostly in the areas of public interface and greater population densities on lands that now fall within the Sierra Front Field Office. Lands on the eastern side of the planning area were, for the most part, never assigned a VRM classification. Currently, standard operating procedures in the

Consolidated RMP call for the establishment of interim VRM objectives where a project is proposed and where there are no approved VRM objectives.”

- Almost no BLM land within the Carson City boundary has been inventoried or assigned a VRM classification. Is there potential that pressure might be applied to classify any such area to allow for the project to move forward? Carson City has various standards for hillsides, viewsheds, etc. and wishes to be kept apprised of any possible developments in those areas.

### **Geology and Minerals**

- Please note that the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009 provides for the withdrawal of mining uses within the urban interface.

### **Recreation and Visitor Services**

Page ES-12, Table ES-2, Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs)

- Based on the definitions for Alternative C (develops management strategies to preserve and protect ecosystem health and resource values across the planning area, while providing multiple use and sustained yield) and Alternative D (emphasizes the increased demand on BLM-administered lands within the urban interface area), the desired alternative for Virginia Range may be Alternative D. With that said, the Virginia Range is identified in the Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative, as an ERMA.

Page 2-173, Virginia Range ERMA, Alternative E

- “Objective: Virginia Range ERMA for recreation opportunities that emphasize both motorized and nonmotorized recreation uses. Emphasize equestrian use east of Washoe Lake, mountain biking north of Centennial Park, and OHV touring and trail riding east of Jumbo staging area.”
- Carson City’s Unified Pathways Master Plan identifies motorized and nonmotorized uses north of Centennial Park. Carson City offers to partner with BLM to identify and map the various trails, including education and signage to inform the public.

### **Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management**

Page 2-175, Table 2-2, Description of Alternatives A, B, C, D, and E

- In Carson City, all areas are identified as “limited to existing routes.” What defines an existing route and how is this effectively communicated to users? Will maps be provided to the public; and if so, can this be a coordinated effort with Carson City?

Page 2-184, Table 2-2, Description of Alternatives A, B, C, D, and E, Travel Management Areas (TMAs)

- In Carson City, there is TMA designation under Alternatives B, C, and D. Why isn't there a TMA designation under Alternative E, the agency preferred alternative? As a WUI and an area of potential conflicts between user groups, this does not seem like a viable option.
- Carson City acknowledges there will subsequent travel management planning in which an interdisciplinary review team will analyze each route and recommend designations based on various criteria.

Page 3-174

- 'In BLM Manual 1626, Travel and Transportation Management, (BLM 2011d) requires the establishment of a long-term, sustainable, multi-modal transportation system of open areas, roads, primitive roads, and trails that addresses public and administrative access needs to and across BLM-administered lands and related waters.' What defines a transportation system as long-term and sustainable?

Page 3-176

- Concerning areas classified as Open, Limited, or Closed to motorized travel: How will users know they are traveling between areas? If an area changes from one classification to another, will there be an education period? How will this be enforced?
- Please note that the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009 states that OHV use is limited to designated trails and roads in existence at the time of adoption of the lands bill until superseded by a vehicle management plan.

## **Lands and Realty**

Page 2-195, Land Tenure Adjustments – Disposals

- Carson City recently completed a thorough, public process to identify land acquisitions from the BLM, which culminated with the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 by the U.S. Congress. As previously submitted, the City wishes to complete the transfers of land and "clean up" some of the remaining issues.
  - There are two encroachments from the State of Nevada previously authorized by the BLM into areas designated as part of the transfers to Carson City.
  - Additionally, there is an approximately 38-acre parcel at Koontz and Edmonds that should also be transferred to Carson City.
  - Approximately 58 acres of Silver Saddle Ranch should be transferred to Carson City. They were inadvertently missed as part of the mapping for the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009.
- Alternative E, the preferred agency alternative, identifies 200 acres for disposal in Carson City. Does the BLM have more information regarding the location of these acres? The

City would like to confirm that the properties are the same as requested above and to review any other areas.

Figure 2-73, Page A-73, Alternative E – Land Tenure

- The map does not identify the 200 acres for disposal in Carson City. Perhaps the map scale is too large for such small parcels?

#### *Land Use Authorizations*

Figure 2-79, Page A-79, Alternative E – Right-Of-Way (ROW) Exclusion Areas

- No ROW Exclusion Areas are shown in Carson City. Does this infer that all other BLM lands are eligible for disposal for ROW and/or Public Purposes?

Figure 2-83, Page A-83, Alternative E – ROW Avoidance Areas

- Some areas look to be lands scheduled for transfer from BLM to Carson City (Prison Hill Recreation Area, Silver Saddle Ranch, Ambrose Carson River Natural Area, the Highway 50 East corridor, and the landfill area). Should some of these areas be identified as Exclusion Areas? Does this infer that all other BLM lands are eligible for disposal for ROW and/or Public Purposes?

#### **Renewable Energy**

Figure 2-89, Page A-89, Alternative E – ROW Utility-scale Solar Development Variance

- Multiple small parcels in eastern Pine Nut Range are identified. Does this infer that all other BLM lands would be eligible for Solar Energy ROW use?

Figure 2-93, Page A-93, Alternative E – ROW Exclusion and Avoidance Wind

- There are some exclusion areas in the southeast corner of county. The avoidance areas appear to be the same as Figure -83. Does this infer that all other BLM lands would be eligible for wind energy?

### **Section 3.2.9 Cultural Resources**

Carson City supports protection and judicious public access enjoyment of any and all Cultural Resources within its boundaries, both those sites already identified and those sites not yet identified, for example the Marlette Lake Water System is an identified site. For potential sites not yet identified, for example the Bidwell and Bunker Hill Mine sites in the Pine Nut Mountains, Carson City wishes to be kept apprised and advised of any possible developments in those areas.

### **Section 3.2.10 Paleontological Resources**

There are currently no identified Paleontological Resources within the Carson City Boundaries. Should any such sites be found within the city boundaries, Carson City wishes to be kept apprised and advised of any possible developments in those areas.

### **Section 3.2.11 Visual Resources**

As per page 3-121 *“The majority of the decision area does not have an assigned VRM classification. A partial VRM classification was completed in the mid-1980s, mostly in the areas of public interface and greater population densities on lands that now fall within the Sierra Front Field Office. Lands on the eastern side of the planning area were, for the most part, never assigned a VRM classification. Currently, standard operating procedures in the Consolidated RMP call for the establishment of interim VRM objectives where a project is proposed and where there are no approved VRM objectives.”* This could be of concern to Carson City, as currently almost no BLM land within Carson City boundary have been inventoried or assigned a VRM classification. Should that wait for a project proposal? There is the potential that excess pressure might be applied to classify any such area to allow for the project to move forward.

**Note of General Concern:** The best written plan will only be as good as the funding provided to put that plan into action. It is hoped that the current Congress will see the wisdom in providing the necessary funding to enact this plan and project these lands.

## Lands & Realty

Note Alt E BLM Preferred Alternative "...a mix of management actions that best resolve the issues and identified from the assessment of need for changing management concerns raised during public scoping and management considerations"

### Volume 1, Section 3.3.6

1. BLM –administered lands, 54% of all surface lands in planning area (BLM & other Federal Lands 80%)
2. Figure 2-73, Alt E shows lands in planning area designated for disposal. Land Tenure Designations
  - a. FLPMA: Actions usually in response to public request or application, and BLM generated. Parcels meeting certain criteria (difficult or uneconomical to manage and serving important public objectives such as community expansion). Through sales or exchange, Section 203 of the FLPMA. Lands determined suitable for a FLPMA sale must be identified in the RMP. Any lands to be disposed of by sale that are not identified in the current RMP require a plan amendment before a sale can occur.
  - b. Recreation and Public Purposes Act Disposal: Patent or leasing. Limited to non-profit or local governments. Fair market value or free.
  - c. Retention: Continue to be managed by BLM for multiple use and sustained yield.
3. Current Wind Testing Projects in the Planning Area: NVN090984, Comstock Wind Energy, LLC, SW Virginia Range, Testing Type 2. Set to expire end of 2015.

### Volume 2, Section 4.4.6

1. Summary: Alt A would have the least impact on the lands and realty program by allowing for the most new ROW development. " Land disposals would be most likely to occur under Alt E; however, management of one third of the planning area as ROW avoidance or exclusion criteria could diminish the BLM's ability to meet future ROW demand"

Lands and Realty (acres)	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E
ROW Exclusion Areas	564,100	580,000	2,675,800	564,100	605,900
ROW Avoidance Areas	N/A	1,195,800	396,300	1,226,100	1,448,200
Identified for Disposal	179,700	273,500	0	332,500	267,200

2. ROW Exclusion: Not available of new ROW under any conditions
3. ROW Avoidance: ROW applications could be submitted, but subject to additional requirements.

## Volume 4, Review of Figures

1. Figure 2-73, Alt E Land Tenure: Looks like a parcel up Goni Canyon identified for Disposal (rock pit?). Appears Washoe County has some land on the Washoe Lake side of Duck Hill designated for Recreational Purposes (Washoe Lake State Park perhaps). Parcel near Topsy/395 in Douglas Co, identified for Disposal.
2. Figure 2-74 Right of Way Energy Corridors: None shown in Carson or west of Dayton.
3. Figure 2-79 Alt E ROW Exclusion Areas: None shown in Carson. Does this infer that all other BLM lands are eligible for disposal for ROW/Public Purposes?
4. Figure 2-83 Alt E ROW Avoidance Areas: Prison Hill area, Silver Saddle, Carson River adjacent to Deer Run, Carson River Canyon, Some up Brunswick Canyon, Pine Nuts (SE corner of County), and hillside between Deer Run Road and Mound House. Some areas look to be lands now being transferred from BLM to Carson (Prison Hill/Silver Saddle). Shouldn't some of these be identified as Exclusion areas? Does this infer that all other BLM lands are eligible for disposal for ROW/Public Purposes?
5. Figure 2-89, Alt E ROW Utility –scale Solar Development Variance: Multiple small parcels in eastern Pine Nut range. Infer all other BLM lands would be eligible for Solar Energy ROW use?
6. Figure 2-93, Alt E ROW Exclusion and Avoidance Wind: Some Exclusion area in S/E corner of County. Avoidance areas appear to be the same as Figure -83. Infer all other BLM lands would be eligible for Wind Energy ROW use?

## Volume 5, Appendices

1. B.2.18, Best Management Practices & SOP's, Resources, Land and Realty
  - a. Standard Operating Procedures
    - i. Power lines constructed iaw Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines
    - ii. RPW's and other lands and realty authorization would contain noxious/invasive plant management terms or stipulation for all ground-disturbing actions.
  - b. Best Management Practice: Coordinate with NDOW early in the sale process on proposals to dispose of public land encumbered by a small or large capacity wildlife water development. If permitted water development is sufficiently mitigated.
2. F. Existing and Proposed Land Withdrawals
  - a. Includes Carson City Protective Withdrawal for Viewshed, watershed, and open spaces. Authority PLO 7348; 63FR40307, expiration 7/27/2018, 18,595 acres.
  - b. Includes Carson City Protect open spaces. Authority Omnibus Lands Bill of 2009, PL111-11. Expiration Perpetuity, 19747 acres.
  - c. Includes Carson City Protect open spaces. Authority Omnibus Lands Bill of 2009, PL 111-11. Expiration Perpetuity, 158 acres.

## General Question

Are there specific reasons why the Carson City area is not considered a wildland-urban interface when several of the local issues are the same as in the Reno wildland-urban interface?

## Virginia Range ERMA (2-173)

- Preferred Alternative E describes an emphasis for motorized and nonmotorized recreation uses. Could Carson City work with BLM in recognizing and mapping mountain biking (and equestrian, hiking, and running) opportunities North of Centennial Park? What kind of education campaign and signage plan would be necessary to inform the public of potential changes to routes in the area?
- This would be a benefit for the community and help further the goals of Open Space.

## Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management (2-175)

- What defines an existing route for preferred alternative and how is this effectively communicated to users? Figure 2-66 (on A66) shows this as the majority of land around Carson City. Will maps be provided to the public and if so, can this be a coordinated effort with Carson City and/or Open Space?

## Travel Management Areas (2-184)

- No TMA for Carson City in the preferred Alternative E? As an urban interface and an area of potential conflicts between user groups, this does not seem like a viable option (there is a TMA designation for Carson City in Alternatives B-D).
- There appears to be a lot of overlap between the monitoring needs and the regional goals of Open Space with the TMA process. Though boundary lines exist with ownership, this appears to be an opportunity to save tax payer money.
- It needs to be clear to the public that unauthorized routes, etc. will be addressed during the travel management planning process when a TMA is established.

In BLM Manual 1626, Travel and Transportation Management, (BLM 2011d) requires the establishment of a long-term, sustainable, multi-modal transportation system of open areas, roads, primitive roads, and trails that addresses public and administrative access needs to and across BLM-administered lands and related waters. (3-174)

- What defines a transportation system as long-term and sustainable?

*Carson City Lands Bill (BLM 2009)*: Restricted the use of motorized and mechanical vehicles on federal lands within the city as limited to roads and trails in existence at the time of passage of the act. (3-175)

- Is there an inventory of roads and routes that were in existence in 2009?
- If these roads and routes have increased, is the city responsible for closure and remediation of roads and routes?

- Is there a maintenance requirement for existing roads and trails?
- If the 2009 routes are unsustainable, are there mechanisms for rerouting or route replacement?

Concerning areas classified as Open, Limited, or Closed to motorized travel (3-176)

- How will users know they are traveling between areas?
- If an area changes from one classification to another, will there be an education period?
- How will this be enforced?

Table 3-35 (3-177)

- If an area is limited to existing roads and trails, how are users to know if a route is existing or if it has just been created (either by recent vehicles driving through an area over the past few months or by the building of social trails)?

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation (4-523)

- Nice description of methods, assumptions, and effects of alternatives. May be useful for future public discussions (providing choice options when available versus outright closures).

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Supervisor McKenna welcomed Mr. Thomas to Carson City and advised that the Board and City management consider the Bureau of Land Management as a partner. In response to a question, Mr. Thomas advised that he is currently residing in an apartment and looking for a home in South Reno or in Carson City.

Mayor Crowell entertained public comment. (9:02:25) In reference to the Waterfall Fire, Tom Leahy inquired as to the Carson City Fire Department having access to Bureau of Land Management property. Mayor Crowell advised of memoranda of understanding between the City and various federal agencies which describe first responder responsibilities. Mr. Burnham acknowledged that the Carson City Fire Department has access to Bureau of Land Management properties to extinguish fire. Mayor Crowell entertained additional Board member or public comments and, when none were forthcoming, thanked Mr. Thomas and welcomed him to Carson City.

**18(B) POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING THE STATUS OF CARSON CITY DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION, ISSUES IDENTIFIED, TIME LINES, AND ASSOCIATED COOPERATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (9:04:40) - Mayor Crowell introduced this item and Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda report. (9:05:29) BLM Resource Management Plan Project Manager Colleen Sievers introduced herself for the record and described her responsibilities relative to the resource management plan. She narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the same, copies of which were included in the agenda materials. Supervisor Walt inquired as to the possibility of adding a provision relative to the prohibition of dumping on BLM land. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Sievers advised that there are three BLM law enforcement officers to cover five million acres, and expressed appreciation for the partners who assist in cleanup efforts. She further advised that the resource management plan may consider the dumping issue, but that "some of it is more of an enforcement issue." Additional discussion followed and, in response to a question, Ms. Sievers was uncertain as to the civil penalty for dumping on federal lands. Supervisor Aldean suggested that the civil penalty is likely more expensive than the landfill fee, and further suggested including the information in the resource management plan outreach program.

Ms. Sievers advised that the resource management plan will consider travel and transportation planning. "That has been a challenge for law enforcement because a lot of the roads have not been designated and that may, in part, help with some of the non-permitted activities that are occurring ..." At Mayor Crowell's request, Ms. Sievers described the location of BLM property in Carson City. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that Prison Hill will be transferred to Carson City as part of the federal lands bill.

In response to a question, Ms. Sievers described the various methods by which public input will be received during the resource management plan update process. She reviewed the time lines associated with publication of the resource management plan. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman expressed the belief that the resource management plan update process will provide the opportunity to address specific problems "such as the 40-acre parcel ... or maybe talk a little more about wild horses and our parks, about the management of recreation vehicles on designated roads." He anticipates that the policies formulated as part of the resource management plan update will be more general and applicable to many acres of land. "And then, here and there, we may be able to do something for Carson City, but in general it's big." Mr. Guzman

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noted that the lands bill has restrictions such as conservation easements, which provide for land use. The City is required to develop a management plan, and Mr. Guzman anticipates that the many questions will be answered prior to completion of the BLM's resource management plan.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that funding for Carson City's participation in the resource management plan and the environmental impact statement development process will be allocated from the Open Space Program. He clarified that the Memorandum of Understanding specifies Carson City is not financially responsible for the environmental impact statement. The City has simply committed to the time necessary to review the document, to present information to the Board, etc. (9:19:53) Sheriff Ken Furlong advised that the Sheriff's Department annually renews a cooperative agreement with the BLM which includes the BLM providing additional patrol coverage over certain areas.

In response to a previous question, Ms. Sievers again provided the BLM website information, and encouraged any interested citizen to visit and provide feedback on the resource management plan. Mr. Guzman advised that public meeting items will be published on the Carson River Advisory Committee and Open Space Advisory Committee agendas. He further advised that any public comment received during these advisory committee meetings will be forwarded to the BLM. Ms. Sievers advised of having recently provided a presentation to the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Mayor Crowell entertained public comment. (9:22:50) Bill Prowse inquired as to the City's financial obligation relative to the federal lands bill. Mayor Crowell assured Mr. Prowse that the Board members are "very cognizant of the potential costs of maintenance of lands we're taking over." Mr. Prowse expressed support for the federal lands bill.

Mayor Crowell entertained additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Supervisor Aldean moved to receive and transmit to the Bureau of Land Management public testimony regarding the status of Carson City District Resource Management Plan revision, issues identified, time lines, and associated cooperating agency memorandum of understanding. Supervisor McKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**18(C) POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT, BETWEEN CARSON CITY AND MUSCLE POWERED, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING FOR A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF NON-MOTORIZED MULTI-USE TRAILS IN CARSON CITY (9:24:50)** - Mayor Crowell introduced this item, and Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda materials. He advised that the agreement provides for Muscle Powered to cover liability insurance and, according to the law, for Carson City to cover workman's compensation insurance. He invited Muscle Powered representatives Jeff Potter and Donna Inversin to join him at the meeting table, and narrated slides of a trail project.

At Mr. Guzman's request, Mr. Potter and Ms. Inversin reviewed the process for initiating volunteers into project work. In response to a comment, Mr. Potter advised of a volunteer agreement signed by each member of each trail crew. In response to a further comment, he advised that no volunteer works on their own; specific work days are scheduled. Ms. Inversin further clarified that all volunteers are required to register and sign the necessary agreements and waivers. Supervisor Aldean requested staff to ensure that

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to a question, Chairperson Scott clarified his intent relative to “establish[ing] a range of money that’s available for items this [committee] determines to be priorities and we would talk about priorities and we would ask staff to give us, in discussion, their priorities so we can talk about it ...” Mr. Guzman acknowledged understanding of the committee’s direction. Member Fitzsimmons requested staff to include historic revenue streams, reserves, and prior commitments in order to establish a forecast relative to priorities. Mr. Moellendorf explained the City’s budget system relative to Question #18 funds, and advised that more comprehensive information would be available for the December committee meeting. He suggested agendizing discussion for the October committee meeting “to talk about the areas where we think we need to focus our attention budget-wise. And then, at the December meeting, we can look at ... available funding ...” A brief discussion followed.

Chairperson Scott entertained additional committee member comments and, when none were forthcoming, expressed a preference for the report to continue to be agendized on a monthly basis. Chairperson Scott entertained public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

**3-G. POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE TRANSMITTAL OF A LETTER TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROVIDING COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE CARSON CITY DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION** (7:10:57) - Chairperson Scott introduced this item. Mr. Guzman introduced BLM Resource Management Plan Project Manager Colleen Sievers, and provided background information on this item. (7:12:20) Ms. Sievers narrated a PowerPoint presentation, copies of which were included in the agenda materials. She advised that the same presentation was provided to the Carson River Advisory Committee and the Carson City Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Scott thanked Ms. Sievers for her presentation, noting the importance of the resource management plan “as a compliment to the lands act and some of our open space activities.” In response to a question, Mr. Guzman explained that the Prison Hill Management Plan is “considerably more specific.” It will coincide with the subject resource management plan in terms of fuels management and OHV access. Mr. Guzman provided an overview of concerns expressed by the Carson River Advisory Committee members. Ms. Sievers provided additional clarification, and suggested considering the subject resource management plan as “from the 30,000 foot level.”

Chairperson Scott discussed the importance of working with the BLM to encourage development of alternative locations for target practice and OHV use. At Chairperson Scott’s request, Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda materials relative to the recommended action. Member Inversin suggested adding fire as a potential issue associated with OHV use. Member Evans suggested the possibility of allowing grazing as a fuels reduction measure, and Ms. Sievers offered to look into it. Member Evans further suggested the possibility of urging the BLM to continue reviewing the use of chemicals for weed abatement.

Mr. Guzman advised of having received e-mail correspondence relative to the subject resource management plan. He offered to forward the correspondence to the committee members, advised that he had provided it to Ms. Sievers. He provided an overview of the same. Discussion took place with regard to the method by which additional committee member and public comments could be provided on the resource management plan. Chairperson Scott entertained a motion. **Member Riedl moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors transmittal of a letter to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments related to the Carson City District Resource Management Plan. Member Evans seconded the motion.** Chairperson Scott entertained additional committee member comments and public comments. When none were forthcoming, he called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0-1,**

**CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 24, 2012 Meeting**  
**Page 5**

**DRAFT**

**Chairperson Scott abstaining.** Chairperson Scott thanked Ms. Sievers for her presentation, and requested her to bring to the committee's attention any issue of importance. Ms. Sievers noted the advantage of Carson City having been designated a cooperating agency as the resource management plan moves through the alternatives development process.

**3-H. POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT AND SPONSOR THE EFFORTS OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY FOR APPLICATION FOR A FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SARBANES GRANT FOR APPROXIMATELY \$3 MILLION (7:34:34)** - Chairperson Scott introduced this item. Mr. Guzman provided background information and reviewed the agenda materials. Member Riedl provided background information on FTA grants, and expressed support. Chairperson Scott entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Lincoln moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to support and sponsor the efforts of the Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway for application for a Federal Transit Administration Sarbanes Grant for approximately \$3 million. Member Riedl seconded the motion.** Chairperson Scott entertained additional committee member comments and public comments. When none were forthcoming, he called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**3-I. POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND STAFF TO SUPPORT THE PARTNERSHIP WITH AND GRANT APPLICATION BY BENEFICIAL DESIGNS, INC. AND GREAT BASIN INSTITUTE TO THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS FOR TRAIL ASSESSMENTS AND MAPPING OF THE MOTORIZED SECTION WITHIN THE PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA (7:39:12)** - Chairperson Scott introduced this item, and Ms. Bollinger reviewed the agenda materials. In response to a question, Ms. Bollinger advised that Great Basin Institute can assist staff with clearly designating boundaries between OHV and non-motorized uses. The committee members expressed support for the partnership.

Chairperson Scott entertained public comments and, when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Member Evans moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and staff to support the partnership with and grant application by Beneficial Designs, Inc. and Great Basin Institute to the Recreational Trails Program administered through the Nevada Division of State Parks for trail assessments and mapping of the motorized section within the Prison Hill Recreation Area. Vice Chairperson Lincoln seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

**3-J. POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND STAFF REGARDING THE POTENTIAL NOMINATIONS FOR PROJECTS TO BE DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT, ROUND 14 PROCESS (7:46:11)** - Chairperson Scott introduced this item, and Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda materials. At Chairperson Scott's request, Mr. Guzman provided an overview of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, Round 13 process. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the Round 14 PTNA Ranking Criteria included in the agenda materials.

Chairperson Scott entertained committee member and public comments and, when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Member Inversin moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and staff the nomination of the lower Centennial Park conversion project to be developed as part of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, Round 14 grant process. Member Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

**City of Carson City  
Agenda Report**

**Date Submitted:** November 21, 2012

**Agenda Date Requested:** December 6, 2012

**Time Requested:** 15 Minutes

**To:** Mayor and Supervisors

**From:** Parks and Recreation Department – Open Space Division

**Subject Title:** For possible action to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter directed to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments for the Resource Management Plan Update. (Juan F. Guzman)

**Staff Summary:** Staff, with the assistance of Resource Concepts, Incorporated, has prepared draft comments for the consideration of the Bureau of Land Management pertinent to the Resource Management Plan Update. The comments refer to 16 general subjects consistent with the Bureau of Land Management survey of issues generated through the scoping sessions.

**Type of Action Requested:** (check one)

- Resolution                       Ordinance  
 Formal Action/Motion    Other (Specify)

**Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement:**    Yes    No

**Recommended Board Action:** I move to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter directed to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments for the Resource Management Plan Update.

**Explanation for Recommended Board Action:** The Resource Management Plan is the tool used by the Bureau of Land Management to guide direction and provide policy towards the management of lands under the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction. The attached comments were prepared through the use of Resource Concepts, Inc., and were discussed in public meetings with the Carson River Advisory Committee and the Open Space Advisory Committee. The Board of Supervisors may instruct staff to revise comments as deemed necessary.

On April 19, 2012, the Board of Supervisors authorized the City Manager to execute documents designating Carson City as a cooperating agency on the revised Resource Management Plan. On August 2, 2012, Ms. Colleen J. Sievers from the Bureau of Land Management presented the revision process subjects and Carson City's role as a cooperating agency. Carson City staff continues to attend public and agency meetings and will strive to keep the Board informed regarding updates.

**Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:**

Carson City adopted plans  
Bureau of Land Management – Management Plan Update Process

**Fiscal Impact:** Impact cannot be assessed at this time in the plan update process.

**Explanation of Impact:** N/A

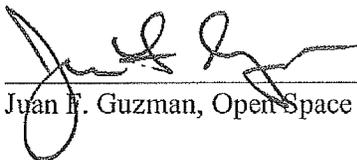
**Funding Source:** N/A

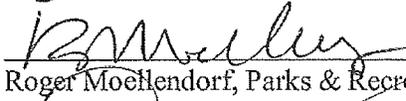
**Alternatives:**

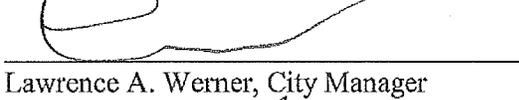
- Not to submit comments
- Direct staff to revise the comments

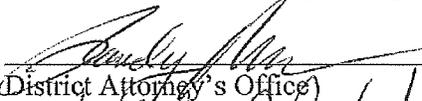
**Supporting Material:**

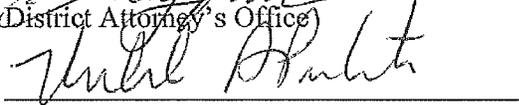
Draft of Carson City's comments  
Minutes of August 2, 2012, Board of Supervisors meeting

Prepared By:  Date: 11/20/12  
Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

Reviewed By:  Date: 11/21/12  
Roger Moehlendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

 Date: 11/27/12  
Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

 Date: 11/28/12  
(District Attorney's Office)

 Date: 11/27/12  
Finance Department

**Board Action Taken:**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Aye/Nay

2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Vote Recorded By)

LATE MATERIAL  
MEETING DATE 12-6-12  
ITEM # 20B.

December 6, 2012

Ms. Colleen Sievers  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Revision of the 2001 Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. Sievers,

Carson City has agreed to participate in the Bureau of Land Management, Consolidated Resource Management Plan Update planning process as a cooperating agency. In addition to our staff's continued participation at meetings, Carson City submits the attached comments addressing several of the issues that have been identified through the scoping sessions and our advisory boards. We look forward to this collaborative effort and further discussion as it relates to Carson City. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Crowell  
Mayor

Carson City Concerns and Needs  
Regarding  
Carson BLM RMP/EIS

1. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – Carson has aggressively planned for and carried out an ongoing fuels management program at the WUI where threat of wildfire is constantly an issue. To continue active treatment of fuels and assure safe conditions around the City, it is imperative that the BLM and City work closely to bring sound science, updated planning and timely treatment to areas identified as threats. BLM manages significant acreage within Carson City, both at the interface and in the remote areas. Both areas are of concern, but the interface represents an area where the two entities can accomplish the greatest need at the present time. Provisions should be made to allow for cooperative plans and ongoing maintenance for brush and invasive weed control by using all potential tools (grazing, mechanical, herbicides, etc). Plans should include seeding selected areas to fire resistant species such as crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, Sandberg's bluegrass, and forage kochia. While several of these are exotic species, they have shown to be competitive with cheatgrass and can stop wildfires when managed properly.
  
2. Fire – The City is sensitive to the growing number of wildfires on public lands in our region that have not only devastated resources and watershed, but also private properties, including some loss of life. For example, the Pine nut Mountains have experienced several wildfires this year with a loss of public land and some private property. Also, two wildfires devastated areas on the west side of Reno while destroying several homes last December. The ongoing drought conditions further exacerbate an already brittle and dry fuel laden rangeland in our region and thus warrant the City and BLM meeting to discuss and strategize alternative approaches to reduce rangeland fuels on BLM lands in the region. Because Carson City has an active and much valued Open Space program, recreationists (i.e. hiking, trail biking, running, etc.) are at continual risk from threat of wildfires during the fire season when the back trails are used the most. As such, the City requests provisions for close coordination and aggressive initial attack on fires that start on BLM lands and that have the potential to burn into the WUI. In addition, developing more remote water sources for fire suppression support should be a consideration. Spring developments might well serve as backup waters for this purpose. Where possible, providing large diameter water tanks, and/or impoundments that can be utilized for fire suppression (drafting water for engines and helicopter dips) could prove beneficial to help protect rangeland resources. Also, some ranchers owning private stockwater on the public lands might also be interested in cooperating on some of these types of developments.
  
3. Upland Recreation – As recreation grows in the area, the City wants to continue coordinating with BLM to plan for additional trails, access areas, and means of dispersing recreation in a manner that minimizes conflict between users and to avoid future resource problems. Examples of conflicts might include bikes on jogging /hiking trails, horseback riding in inappropriate areas, or ATV / motorcycle use in areas not

suitable or designated for these activities. OHVs can often become the source of active erosion, also in recruiting invasive species unless carefully directed to area of suitable soils and monitored regularly. In Carson City, specific examples include multiple user-built routes on steep hillsides leading to the Carson River as well as the problem of OHVs driving in the riverbed during low-flow years. This is particularly important for BLM planning because almost all of the feasible OHV/ATV/ Motorcycle use is on BLM land. There is an important designated motorized-use area at the south end of Prison Hill, but in other areas the conflicts with motorized vehicles on trails are an increasing problem. Coordinated planning, signs, maps, etc. will help to avoid such conflicts.

Please note that the Carson Vitality Act of 2009 provides for the withdrawal of mining uses within the urban interface. *Similarly, OHV use is limited to designated trails and roads in existence at the time of adoption of the lands bill, until superseded by a vehicle management plan.*

The slopes and hills visible from Carson City are an important component of the scenic resource and must be managed to avoid degradation of the natural and scenic resources. This is of special significance along the Carson River.

4. Water Based Recreation – The Carson River has grown to be a very desirable focal point for recreationists, particularly with the provision of river access for hiking, rafting and kayaking. The BLM has been a good partner in efforts to identify and plan for the river recreation activities and the city wishes to build on this relationship to expand water recreation experiences for the public. Safety is an ongoing concern along the river corridor, as medical and police services are a fair distance away, affecting response time for potential emergencies. The City appreciates any opportunities to plan and cooperate with BLM regarding safety concerns along the river corridor.
5. Water Resources – The City is aware that natural springs occur on the public lands throughout the District, many of which are not presently privately owned waters. Developing these springs to allow for wildlife, wild horses, livestock, and where possible backcountry recreationists to utilize as safe water sources would greatly enhance the quality of backcountry experience and add value to our public land resources.
6. Wild Horses – The City supports careful and ongoing management of wild horses where the public can enjoy these animals in a safe, managed environment. Unfortunately, some herd stallions are known to sometimes demonstrate a threatening behavior to the *public who* recreate in the park environment along the Carson River. The City would like to work with the BLM to develop safe conditions in the park area that allows for families to recreate and enjoy the wild horses without fear of harm. Despite the ongoing controversy concerning the wild horses, they should be managed for appropriate management levels within the herd management areas and not be allowed to damage or overgraze the rangelands or riparian areas critical to wildlife, watershed, and other. The BLM should be decisive in managing wild horses and support all proposed decisions with sound monitoring data to help avoid lengthy and

costly legal challenges. Monitoring will also help to avoid conflicts with other users such as livestock grazing and wildlife. *It is the City's position that BLM must continue to manage as provided by the authority granted through the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.*

7. Livestock Grazing – Following the devastating 2004 Water Fall fire, the City worked to implement its fuels management plans to help avert a reoccurrence of this tragic event in the future. A vital component of the fuels management program has been introducing prescribed sheep grazing at the WUI, including the watershed to the west of Carson City as a biological means of reducing fuels and encouraging green conditions through the spring and early summer. The success of this program is a product of careful planning and public education. The *public* now anxiously *awaits* the arrival of the domestic sheep in the spring of the year to assist in this vital fuels reduction program. Mechanical treatment is also an essential component for brush control in combination with the grazing. Wildfires have also occurred on BLM lands near Carson City through the years with each presenting its own risks. The City is supportive of livestock grazing on public lands as a valued tool to help reduce the invasive species such as cheatgrass, an annual flashy fuel, and also to help manage perennial fuels. Carefully planned grazing can help to harvest excess fuels, reduce cheatgrass occurrences and promote conditions more conducive to less destructive natural fires. Clearly, fire is a part of the natural processes but reducing or managing the fuels is essential to help prevent catastrophic events. The City is aware that bighorn sheep have been, or planned to be introduced on private lands near Virginia City. These bighorns went in with the understanding that there would be no limitations on the existing sheep allotments around Carson City. The City *supports* the potential use of sheep grazing on these allotments and the WUI perimeter of Carson City.
8. Weed Control – The City is concerned with the occurrence of invasive species like cheatgrass and also the potential for another invasive annual grass, medussahead wildrye, to invade the area. While grazing helps to combat some invasive species, chemical herbicides sometimes are the only means of eliminating some species, such as medussahead wildrye. Livestock will not willingly graze this species. Noxious weeds remain a high priority for eradication or control and the local weed coalition works to identify and address the problem. Carson City appreciates opportunities to coordinate with BLM on weed control efforts, especially when noxious weeds are located on BLM managed lands. Similar to fuels management, the City recommends that the RMP include provisions that allows the use of multiple tools to manage noxious weeds, and when possible work collaboratively with the City to ensure infestations adjacent to City owned lands and treatments may be addressed in the most effective and efficient manner possible. BLM staff should be informed regarding new herbicides and make efforts towards their use on lands throughout the region.
9. Wildlife – Wildlife on public lands are important to Carson City and its residents. Wildfires have greatly impacted the wildlife habitat surrounding Carson City and are likely a major factor that has encouraged the presence of a resident deer herd that once was migratory. Deer now fawn in and around the City and forage on neighborhood grazes, forbs, and ornamental plants year round. This concern will further exacerbate

unless the deer can be drawn back to their natural environment. The City is anxious to explore opportunities to work with BLM and other agencies to identify cooperative habitat improvement projects on the public lands to help address this concern. Habitat improvement projects throughout the District are encouraged, and planning needs to be integrated so that wildlife values and fuels /WUI projects do not interfere (i.e. use of forage kochia in the interface areas rather than bitterbrush and sagebrush).

10. Threatened and Endangered Species – While Carson City is not aware of any endangered species on the BLM managed lands near the city, there is an ongoing concern to assure that a listing does not occur that will negatively impact multiple uses on BLM lands. Sage-grouse are recognized as a species that could have far reaching consequences across the public and private rangeland areas of the District if listed. While the City is not aware of any identified critical sage-grouse habitat within Carson City proper, there may be potential habitat areas such as stringer meadows and springs that can be cooperatively improved to entice sage-grouse use and help to avert a listing of the Bi State species. The City supports all reasonable approaches, in balance with multiple use and industry, short of listing directed toward conservation of sage-grouse. The City strongly encourages the BLM to pay heed to and utilize the recommendations recently set forth by the Nevada Governors Sage Grouse Committee.
11. Cultural Resources – Historic land occupancy by Native Americans in Nevada, and later settlements by pioneers throughout the District, is of great interest to many Carson City residents. The City supports carefully developed plans that when implemented assure protection of these resources while affording public education and enjoyment of these sites. When historic sites are identified within the Carson City proper, the City wishes to become actively involved in the planning effort to help educate and benefit the public. In addition the City requests aggressive action by BLM to inventory and clear the WUI area to allow for weed/fuels management and timely rehab should a wildfire occur in this area. The time required for cultural clearances can greatly impact critical area treatment and the window needed for treatments such as drill seeding.

Carson City, the Nevada State Office of Historic Preservation, and the Bureau of Land Management have entered into a programmatic agreement providing for the procedures to be used for the management of cultural resources on areas approved to be transferred to Carson City through the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009. These procedures also apply to the former Bently property located within the Carson River Canyon and partially acquired through funding from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas.

12. Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands – These woodlands exist in several parts of the Carson BLM district and when properly managed contribute an array of values including watershed, wildlife habitat, pine nuts, scenic, firewood, etc that are important to City residents. The BLM action to thin these woodlands and reduce the higher density stands to appropriate stages and placement on the landscape is imperative to the health of the woodlands. Treatment will help restore habitat important to sage-grouse and other species representative of the sagebrush-grass ecosystem. It is reported that 50-60,000 acres of p-j woodland is converting from phase II to phase III woodlands each year.

This means that they are crossing a threshold to a declined condition where management will be unable bring about a natural response to regain a desired seral condition. New studies underway, such as that occurring at Porter Canyon in the Desatoya Mountains suggest that it may very well be possible to release understory vegetation, free up ground water and reestablish or rejuvenate meadows and springs by p-j tree thinning in appropriate locations. The City supports this kind of research and proactive work, particularly as climate change continues to impact the West with ongoing drought. The City is also aware of and supports the statewide cooperative efforts being carried out by the Nevada Pinyon Juniper Partnership to encourage much needed treatment and utilization, wherever possible, of the pinyon-juniper woodlands. Carefully planned harvest treatments and utilization of excess biomass from these woodlands can improve rangeland and watershed health while also providing much-needed jobs and improved economies. Biofuels, wood pellets, biochar and combined heat and power (CHP) facilities are examples of the many valued uses for biomass from the pinyon- juniper woodlands which may potentially be the best form of alternative (green) energy in Nevada going forward. The City also encourages and supports the use of such activities as commercial wood cutting permits, stewardship contracts (10-20 year) etc as tools to promote necessary treatments at a cost savings to the BLM while also providing jobs.

13. Solar, Geothermal, and Wind Power Sources – The City supports alternative (green) energy when it is properly located and acceptable to the public. Energy farms (wind/solar) take considerable land area and can potentially affect other uses and/or scenic values on public lands. Proposals for such developments should be brought before the local communities early in the process and allow adequate time to assess the project and its potential impacts on the land and communities.
14. Public Education – Open space users are generally interested in their environment and the concepts of sustainable use. However, many are in need of the tools and education to become true stewards of the open space and associated resources. A comprehensive outreach program to include workshops, maps, brochures, educational programs, signage and other educational tools will help tremendously in making users knowledgeable and responsible. There will still be some enforcement needs, but the goal should be to educate as a key element in advance of enforcement.
15. Lands and Realty – The City is interested in working with the BLM through the RMP planning process to identify parcels of land that might be designated or transferred to the City from public lands for public purposes to be determined by the City.

The City wishes to complete the transfers of land approved through the Carson City Vitality Community Act of 2009. Some of the “clean up” issues that remain are:

- 1) There are two encroachments from the State of Nevada previously authorized by the Bureau of Land Management into areas designated as part of the transfers to Carson City.

- 2) Additionally, there is an approximately 38-acre parcel at Koontz and Edmonds that should also be transferred to Carson City.
  - 3) Approximately 58 acres of Silver Saddle Ranch should be transferred to Carson City. They were inadvertently missed as part of the mapping for the Community Vitality Act.
16. Special Designations – Carson City does not recommend any special designation within our jurisdiction. The Silver Saddle Ranch, Prison Hill, and the Ambrose Natural Area are being transferred to Carson City subject to a conservation easement that ensures resource protection.

**CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Minutes of the December 6, 2012 Meeting**  
**Page 7**

a PowerPoint presentation which was displayed in the meeting room. In response to a question, he advised of having discussed, with Carson Valley Trails Association representatives, their intent for trail design and project phases. In response to a comment, he advised of four loop trails, approximately three miles in length, which "come right off of the main staging and parking areas and that's where ... most of the use is going to occur." He clarified that the Carson Valley Trail Association has "this long-term vision of linking the entire trail system so, if somebody wanted to have a multi-day experience, they could."

Supervisor McKenna provided background information on the Tahoe Rim Trail, "conceived and started in 1980," and advised "we're still building new trail as of today and we've got a ways to go. It's completed; it's around the Lake but you can always improve it, you can always make it better, you can always repair what you didn't do as well." Supervisor McKenna discussed the community benefits, noting that "trails are probably the new economic development engine for this area for eco-tourism ..." and the associated health benefits of trails. He advised of a connector from Genoa to the Tahoe Rim Trail.

In response to a question, Open Space Property Manager Juan Guzman described two potential points of connection, between Carson City and the Carson Valley Discovery Trail, which have been designated in the unified pathways master plan element. Mayor Crowell expressed agreement with the benefits of trails for eco-tourism. In reference to the Tahoe Rim Trail, Supervisor McKenna discussed the benefits of working together with federal agency representatives. He commended the Bureau of Land Management on "the great job they do, especially here in Carson City, but also in Douglas County." Mayor Crowell entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, thanked Mr. Butazoni for his presentation.

**20(B) POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER DIRECTED TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, PROVIDING COMMENTS FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (9:55:34) - Mayor Crowell introduced this item.**

Mr. Guzman provided background information and reviewed the agenda materials. Supervisor Aldean advised of suggested revisions to the letter which she offered to provide to Mr. Guzman. Mr. Guzman acknowledged an existing memorandum of understanding, relative to fire suppression, between the City and the BLM. Supervisor Aldean reviewed suggested revisions to the draft comments included in the agenda materials. Mr. Werner and Mr. Guzman responded to questions of clarification. Supervisor Abowd thanked Mr. Guzman for addressing her concerns relative to wild horses. She noted the importance of ensuring that Carson City does not bear the cost burden of controlling wild horse populations. Supervisor Walt requested to include comments relative to enforcing dumping laws. Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged the ongoing problem, and agreed that comments should be included. Mr. Guzman advised of having recently met with BLM representatives and the City Manager to discuss programs to address the dumping problem. "We continue to ... weekly clean quite a bit of debris primarily out of the Carson River Canyon properties. ... On the BLM side, ... they have assigned people to work with us on this program and we have met several times discussing ideas about how to alleviate the dumping problem." Supervisor Walt encouraged clean up projects.

Mayor Crowell entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Supervisor Abowd moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter directed to the Bureau of Land Management providing comments for the Resource Management Plan update, subject to the comments on the record. Supervisor McKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Riedl
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Evans
<b>AYES:</b>	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Fitzsimmons

2. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:03:20)** – None.

3. **MEETING ITEMS**

**A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE FULSTONE WETLANDS MURAL PROJECT BY MS. ERICA GALLEGOS.**

(6:03:57) – Mr. Krahn presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record, and introduced Erica Gallegos, a Carson High School student who has chosen to paint a mural at Fulstone Wetlands as her senior project.

(6:05:05) – Ms. Gallegos delivered a PowerPoint presentation, incorporated into the record, depicting the images to be painted on walls which have been vandalized by graffiti in the past. She also noted that she has solicited donations from the community, and has the approval of the adjacent property owners to proceed with her project.

(6:11:32) – Member Lincoln was informed that the Wetlands are owned by the City. Mr. Krahn also noted that once the mural is painted, City Staff would coat the wall with a graffiti-resistant coating. Member Lincoln also suggested adding project and staff management to Ms. Gallegos' list by enlisting help from the community or her classmates.

(6:13:07) – Member Evans inquired about financial and physical assistance. Ms. Gallegos agreed to explore the financial assistance aspect and Ms. Bollinger suggested contacting Mr. Krahn to make donations. Chairperson Scott suggested Ms. Gallegos sign the mural.

There were no public comments.

**B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BY MS. COLLEEN SIEVERS.**

(6:16:33) – Ms. Bollinger introduced the item and requested input from the Committee as they reviewed the document, prior to it being heard by the Board of Supervisors.

(6:18:26) – Colleen Sievers introduced herself as the Carson City Resource Plan Project Lead for BLM, and introduced two additional BLM representatives: Ralph Thomas, Carson City District Manager and Leon Thomas, Sierra Front Field Manager. Ms. Sievers presented the Carson City District Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, incorporated into the record, comprising five alternatives.

(6:30:22) – Member Evans inquired about further detail in the option specifics such as vegetation information, and was informed that the fully-detailed document was available on the BLM website, under the Carson City documents section.

(6:31:52) – Member Inversin suggested adding a list of acronym definitions. She also received information on BLM’s data gathering methodology. Member Inversin was informed that the grazing fees were a “Washington Office decision” and outside the scope of the local BLM office.

(6:34:48) – Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that the deadline for comments was March 27, 2015.

(6:35:10) – Chairperson Scott noted that the City’s efforts should be coordinated with BLM activities and wanted “to make sure we weren’t doing something contrary”. He also encouraged Staff to make certain the Committee was aware of “the visual quality impacts” and “areas of critical environmental concern”. Ms. Sievers offered to work with Ms. Bollinger regarding these requests.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

(6:40:09) – Maurice White inquired about the BLM’s Alternative E plan and the reduction of trails. Ms. Sievers noted that the current trails allowed users to “go cross country”, and that they were collecting a partial inventory in order to allow use on existing roads and trails in the travel management plan. Mr. White suggested restrictions and penalties for driving through the sagebrush. He also stated that a resource study was required prior to deciding that resource damage would occur to the roads. Ms. Sievers clarified that the executive summary she presented was part of a 1500+ page detailed document.

(6:45:30) – Ms. Bollinger noted that a printed version of the entire document was available at the Carson City Library, in addition to it being on the BLM website.

**C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE MID-YEAR REVISIONS TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE – OPEN SPACE BUDGET.**

(6:46:22) – Ms. Bollinger presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record, and entertained Committee input. Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that “professional services” included appraisals, surveying, engineering, and consulting. Mr. Moellendorf clarified for Member Inversin that the “training” line item was for future employee training. Chairperson Scott inquired about the “undesignated” line item which, he was informed, was for unfunded expenditure; however, it was agreed that separate line items should be created for expenditures, and depending on the amount, they may need the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

There were no public comments.

**(6:53:52) – MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the mid-year revisions to the Quality of Life – Open Space Budget as presented.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Riedl
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Evans
<b>AYES:</b>	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Fitzsimmons

There were no public comments.

**B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING A REVIEW OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S BYLAWS.**

(5:39:01) – Mr. Moellendorf presented the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. He also noted that any changes to the Bylaws required a two-thirds vote of the entire commission and would need to take place on February 3, 2015.

(5:40:14) – Vice Chairperson Elect Keever inquired about the Chairperson Pro Tempore and Mr. Moellendorf explained that in the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the Commission will vote to elect a Chairperson Pro Tempore to chair the meeting. He also advised that since no changes to the Bylaws were brought forward, no action would be required at this time.

There were no public comments.

**C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE STATE OF NEVADA DIVISION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH'S OUT OF SCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAM PERMIT.**

(5:41:54) – Meagan Soracco, Recreation Program Manager, introduced herself and presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record. She also noted that Carson City was the first in the State to receive the State-regulated permit.

(5:43:24) – In response to a question by Chairperson Elect Long, Ms. Soracco explained that the State now regulated the local government-run out-of-school programs.

(5:44:05) – Commissioner Curtis inquired about the types of programs and the qualifications required for the children's participation. Jaye Phillips, Recreation Program Coordinator, noted that there were morning and afternoon programs, in addition to summer and other breaks, the Program served children of the Carson City School District, ranging between the ages of five and 13. He added that the activities extended from homework help to structured programs. Ms. Soracco explained that they were working closely with Partnership Carson City and with several other agencies and schoolteachers.

(5:49:22) – Commissioner Glenn received confirmation that this was an on-going program which was recently certified by the State. Commissioner Bagwell was informed that six sites were certified. Commissioner Cacioppo inquired about volunteer opportunities by community partners or individuals and was instructed to call Mr. Phillips. Commissioner Adams congratulated Ms. Soracco and her staff and noted that his son enjoyed being part of the programs at a younger age. Vice Chairperson Elect Keever inquired about grant funding and Ms. Soracco outlined the difficulty of obtaining grants for taxpayer-funded programs. Commissioner Curtis invited Ms. Soracco to address many of the community agencies that jointly meet at a regular time.

There were no public comments.

**D. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BY MS. COLLEEN SIEVERS.**

(5:56:33) – Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator, introduced herself, gave background, and presented the Staff Report. She also suggested appointing a PRC contact to interface with her and bring forth comments by the

Commission. Ms. Bollinger noted that the Resource Management Plan is available online and at the Carson City Library, and invited Colleen Sievers to present the Plan.

(5:59:05) – Ms. Sievers introduced herself as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City District Resource Management Plan Project Manager, Ralph Thomas, BLM District Manager, and Leon Thomas, BLM Sierra Front Field Manager. She presented the Resource Management Plan overview, including key timelines and public meeting dates, all of which are incorporated into the record.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

(6:13:50) – Maurice White inquired about the creation of the document, especially in the section on the Comprehensive Travel and Transportation. He expressed concern about the decision to reduce the “open” acreage without an inventory of the roads and requested a Staff Report on “what they have asked BLM to include in this management plan”.

(6:17:29) – Ms. Sievers noted a determination of “open, limited, and closed” roads did not require a completed route inventory. She defined “open” as the ability to “go cross-country off road”; “closed” as closed to motorized and mechanized vehicles to protect specific resource values, or closed to motorized but open to mechanized vehicles; defined “limited” as limiting the use to existing roads and trails without going cross-country, until travel management planning has been completed. She also explained to Commissioner Bagwell that this plan would set the framework for limited travel management planning, which could not be changed without going through an amendment process. Discussion ensued regarding “limited” routes.

(6:33:08) – Leon Thomas, Sierra Front Field Manager, introduced himself and clarified the difference between “open” and “limited” use, noting that the former designation allowed driving on any type of terrain versus the latter, which allowed driving only on existing roads. Commissioner Glenn received confirmation that the changing designations would not allow new roads without being permitted and without an environmental impact analysis.

(6:30:00) – Ralph Thomas, BLM District Manager, suggested looking at squares miles (open roads) versus density (no existing roads). Discussion ensued and Mr. Thomas suggested bringing specific areas to BLM’s consideration in the form of comments. Discussion ensued regarding travel management planning on a per county basis. Commissioner Glenn inquired about activities based on special recreational permits and was informed that most would typically take place on existing trails and roads which would fall under the “limited” category. Commissioner Lehmann inquired about snowmobile use and was informed most of that activity occurs on Forest Service lands. He was also informed that the Flint Drive land transfer to Carson City was a “top priority” for BLM. Chairperson Elect Long noted that enforcement was a key issue once the plans were in place.

(6:53:40) – Chairperson Elect Long recessed the meeting until 7 p.m.

(7:05:55) – Chairperson Elect Long reconvened the meeting. A quorum was still present.

#### **E. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF STAFF’S FY2015/16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET.**

(7:06:07) – Mr. Moellendorf presented a Staff Report comprising the prioritized 2015/2016 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Budget which is incorporated into the record. Discussion ensued regarding