

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3C

**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

**REQUEST:** Presentation and discussion only regarding a research project by students in the Wilderness Ethics class at Sierra Nevada College on the Carson River Canyon Open Space.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** On December 4, 2014, for the second year, Ms. Rosie Hackett incorporated Carson City into her Wilderness Ethics class at Sierra Nevada College. A description of the class project is attached.

Mr. Mark Kimbrough worked with the students on real recreation projects in the community, including a tour of various open space properties. One of the research projects included a visit to the Carson River Canyon Open Space. Mark will share a summary of the students' experience and observations.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No formal action can be taken at this time.

## The Program:

### What:

Carson City "Landfull" Project: Balancing Recreation, Land Ethics, and Resource Management

### Why:

To connect "professionals" and "young users" through an interactive question and answer session. This is an incredible opportunity for SNC students to learn from you all, the professionals in the field. The students are poised to soak up knowledge, passion and expertise on everything involving resource and recreation management. As well...this is an incredible opportunity for you all to be inspired by the next generation, who truly care about open spaces.

### Comments and Directions:

It was clear that you all put on your boots and gloves for this project. In other words, you went out and got dirty! You immersed yourselves in the open spaces, connected with the land, and then started to tackle the "real" issues...recreation and resource management! This is not easy stuff! You all are applying your land ethics in impressive ways.

Here are a few logistics and reminders to ensure a "stylish" performance for everyone:

- **Vision / Theme** for your specific "land", i.e. education, history, recreation, etc.
- **Background and passion** for your project. Why you are doing what you are doing....Open Space, Carson City Parks and Recreation, etc.
- Identify the **issues / problems** (overview and then drawing on specific examples)
- Identify your proposed **solutions** (overview and then drawing on specific examples, i.e. give an example of the proposed signage or new picnic table or new trash can. This is the meat of your presentation)
- Remind them of why your solutions are important on a larger scale, i.e. **land ethic**...connecting ALL users to the land.
- **Future implications**. What can be done beyond your solutions?

Please include your final take away messages from this Carson Landfull Project. Really question your applied learning on this project.

- Has your land ethic evolved or changed due to this experience?
- Do all land issues come back to \$ and funding?
- Is more signage always the answer for land management issues? Or isn't it?
- Is some land more loved than other land? Why? How? Unfair?
- Does land stewardship always come back to a connection with the land...a love for the land?
- How can you connect ALL kinds of users to the land?
- Does the land or do the people have more rights?
- How do non-profits help or harm land management? Can they get too involved?

Please be poised to take advantage of presenting to land management professionals. Be ready to engage. Be professional. This is meant to be a collaborative meeting to inspire all parties involved. What questions do you have for them?