

# OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** November 16, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 4B


**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator  
Richard Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

**REQUEST:** Discussion only regarding activities, projects, and grants located on the west side of Carson City.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

There has been a lot of activity occurring within the west side of Carson City. Staff has been busy planning and implementing activities throughout the past few months.

## **Activities and Events:**

- **Ash to Kings Trail:**  
On Saturday, August 29, the official ribbon-cutting event was held on the Ash to Kings Trail. Approximately, 100 people participated in the event, most of whom arrived by mountain bike. Emceed by Roger Moellendorf, speeches were given by Mayor Cowell, Ann Bollinger, Chas Macquarie – retired from Lumos & Associates, Dan Morris – U.S. Forest Service, Donna Inversin – Muscle Powered President, Jeff Potter –Muscle Powered Trail Crew Leader and recipient of the American Trails 2015 Trail Worker Award, Kevin Dose – Great Basin Institute, and Jenny Scanland – Nevada State Parks Recreational Trails Director. The ceremony concluded with cutting a unique “ribbon” made of old tire tubes strung between two mountain bike tires.  

- **Epic Bike Rides**  
In June 2016, Epic Bike Rides will hold their inaugural event in Carson City. The event is a primarily a mountain bike race with three categories and distances for competitors. The race courses will be in the Carson Range and at least one course will occur on the Ash to Kings Trail.
- **Marshall Property Acquisition:**  
Throughout recent years, staff has provided updates to the Committee regarding the Marshall property located in the upper Ash Canyon area, adjacent to the Wilson acquisition and to the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. The Open Space Division did not have the funding to purchase the property so had inquired with Nevada State Parks and

Nevada Land Trust about alternative options. With a grant award from the Desert Terminal Lakes Program to partially fund the acquisition, staff is proud to inform the Committee that Nevada Land Trust just closed on the purchase of 45.5 acres on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the cost of \$205,000. The transaction will be complete after the property is transferred to Nevada State Parks in a few months.



- **Quill Ranch with Carson High School:**  
Staff continues to work with Ms. Julie Koop, Honors Biology Teacher at Carson High School on the vegetation monitoring project at Quill Ranch. High school students are learning about invasive weeds, water quality, wildlife habitat, native vegetation and monitoring techniques. Included with this project is the herbicide application of Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle and perennial pepperweed and revegetation. This fall, staff will work on project sites with the students to conduct monitoring on line transects to determine if the invasive weed treatments and re-seeding efforts are working. In the spring, staff will participate in the education component by helping teach students in the classroom about the Quill Ranch project. Ms. Koop has expressed an interest in expanding her science program to Silver Saddle Ranch.

### **Projects:**

- **Michael Fagen:**  
Staff continues to work with Mr. Fagen to identify and evaluate potential disposal/exchange properties around Carson City. While one or two properties might have potential, the anticipated value may fall short of the anticipated value of Mr. Fagen's parcel on Highway 50. Mr. Fagen remains interested in selling or trading to the Open Space Division and has encouraged grant opportunities; however, past grant programs are either no longer available (State of Nevada Question 1 Program) or are not relevant to this property (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Legacy, or SNPLMA). Staff will continue the conversation.
- **Old Woods Ranch:**  
In August, the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) hosted a meeting of various parties to discuss the opportunities for a conservation easement on The Old Woods Ranch (the southern portion of the meadow shared by Mr. Fagen/Horsecreek Ranch). In attendance were NDF, Carson City, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Nevada Land Trust, Mr. Steve Walker who wrote the initial Baseline Condition Report and assisted with the previous application to the NRCS, and several members of the Shultz Family. Two relevant programs were reviewed – the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) overseen by NDF and the Farm and Ranch Protection Program overseen by NRCS. The FLP has a 25% match requirement compared to the NRCS 50% match requirement. One of the requirements of the FLP is a Forest Stewardship Plan, which the family has already started due to the mistletoe concerns within the forest component. The family is quite

serious about completing a conservation easement that they are also working to complete various legal documents for the family trust. If Carson City is interested, the family would like to encourage a grant application is the next calendar year – with the understanding that a transaction may still take a few years to complete. Similar to other acquisitions, perhaps the most significant constraint is financial limitations of the Open Space Division. Staff will return to the Committee with this item during the budget process.

**Grants:**

- Ash Canyon Road:

Staff worked with Lynn Zonge with Resource Concepts, Inc. to submit a grant application to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for continued funding towards erosion control along Ash Canyon Road and watershed improvements in Ash Canyon. The funding request was for \$10,000 and we received the full funding amount. The Open Space program has committed \$10,000 per year to maintain the Ash Canyon Road which will work as cash match toward the grant. With last year's funding, three water bars were repaired and three additional water bars were installed. The grant helped regrade the Ash to Kings Trail access area, install road base, shape and rip-rap the edge of the parking area and install a boundary fence. This year, several areas will be reseeded and two social trails that are eroding with every rain event will be closed. This work all falls under the Ash Canyon Maintenance and Erosion Control Plan for Carson City.

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