

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4A

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

REQUEST: Staff update on activities, projects and grants located on Open Space properties within the Carson River area.

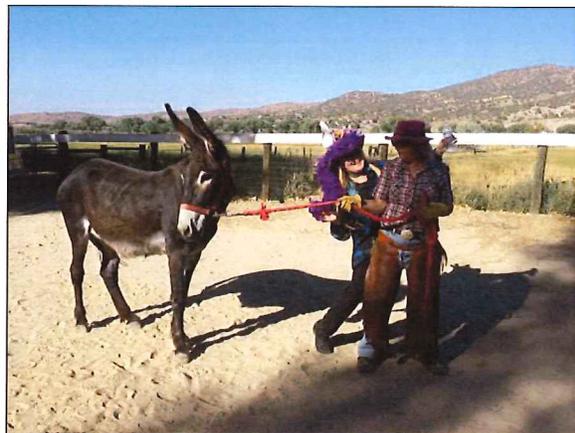
GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following provides a summary of activities throughout the last few months in the Carson River area.

Silver Saddle Ranch

The event held on August 7th hosted by the Mile High Jazz Band in conjunction with the Jazz and Beyond Music Festival and our Quality of Life Initiative 20th Anniversary Celebration was a success. The weather was sunny and in the mid-80s. Four bands played across two stages, with the main “stage” being a flatbed truck donated by Meeks Lumber and Hardware. Approximately 250 folks visited the venue throughout the day. The Wild Ass Women were present with their adopted burros and two food trucks were on-site for attendees to purchase food and drinks. Ann Bollinger and City Manager Nick Marano welcomed the audience and said a few words about the Quality of Life Initiative. Also present were Mayor Crowell, Supervisor Bagwell, and Supervisor Bonkowski.

- Upcoming events:
 - September 12 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
 - September 17 – Carson River Clean-up Event



Silver Saddle Ranch, August 7th: event hosted by the Mile High Jazz Band in conjunction with the Jazz and Beyond Music Festival and our Quality of Life Initiative 20th Anniversary

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant application

The final grant application requested \$1.8 million dollars towards several trail improvements on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Mexican Ditch Trail, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the old Buzzy's Ranch. On July 13th, staff received an email providing the preliminary recommendations from the SNPLMA Executive Committee. At that time, Carson City's project ranking was #5 out of 18 applications. The preliminary recommendation was to fund the top eight projects and one additional land acquisition in southern Nevada. A public comment period was open until July 28th. The SNPLMA Executive Committee will meet in August to review comments received and develop a final recommendation for consideration by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Carson River Canyon

The new automatic gates at Brunswick Canyon Road and the Rifle and Pistol Range will eliminate nighttime access thereby reducing the late nighttime activities such as camping, campfires, and illegal dumping. This effort to minimize negative impacts to the Carson River Canyon Open Space will help keep the area safe and clean for our daytime visitors. The gate will be in full operation sometime mid-August.

Carson River Clean-Up Day

September 17th is the next annual Carson River Clean-Up Day. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sierra Nevada and the Carson City Kiwanis, the event will be hosted at Silver Saddle Ranch again. The Carson High School Junior ROTC will assist with clean-up activities and the public is invited as well. A BBQ lunch will be provided afterwards. Staff will be working with Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada State Motorpool Division and Carson City Recreation Division on providing drivers and vehicles to transport volunteers.

Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited (DU) hopes to start and complete construction this fall although there are concerns that the area will be too wet for heavy equipment. Staff has asked DU to start installing fence first, which will allow the ability to manage cattle during the project. Staff worked with Tom Grundy at Public Works to review the final plans and participate in a pre-bid walk with contractors on July 19th. There were approximately 12 contractors present to look at the project site. DU accepted bids until August 2nd.

On August 8th, staff received an update from DU on the project. They received three bids for the project, all of which exceeded the budget by a large amount. DU will not be awarding the contract at this point. Based on the results of the bidding, they will look at conducting several minor project redesigns, basically lowering several new or existing levees/berms by around 0.50 foot. This will lower the amount of compacted fill required to construct these improvements which also lowers the amount of stripping needed to expose soil for excavation for use as compacted fill.

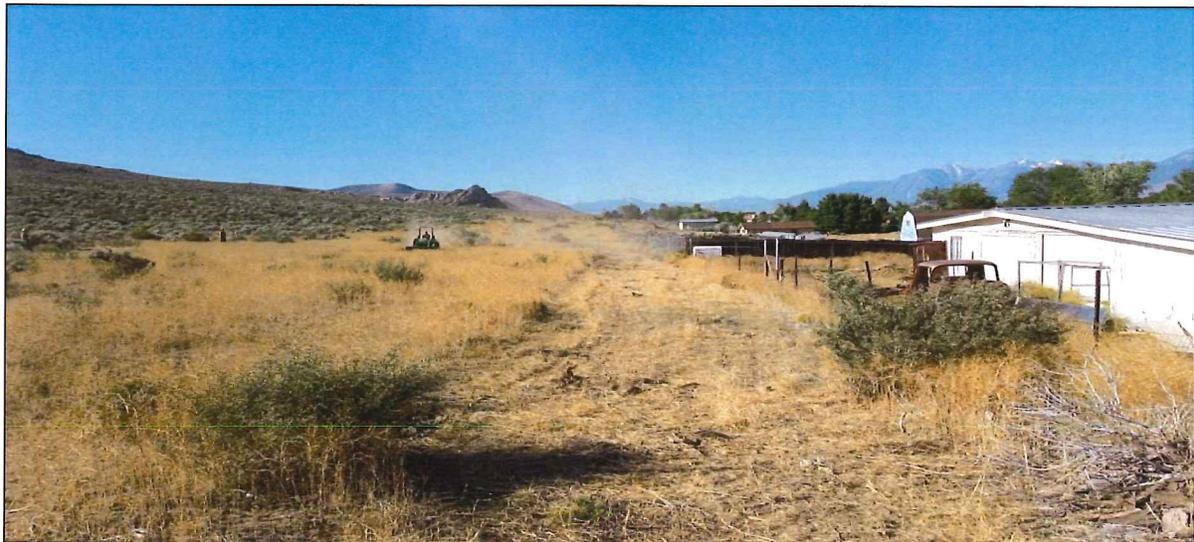
Fuels Reduction Project - Prison Hill Recreation Area

Staff worked with Rodd Rummel who is the Wildland Fuels Management Officer for the Carson City Fire Department to address fuel concerns on Open Space property. Rodd had requested staff to help reduce the fine fuels which has increased the fire threat for the Prison Hill Recreation Area. The project area was between Snyder Avenue and Clearview on the east side of the residential area. Staff worked with the Fire Department to conduct a mowing of the area that had been masticated previously by BLM while under their management. This mastication site had

accumulated substantial fine fuels such as tumble mustard, cheatgrass and foxtail. These fuels tend to dry out early and become an easy ignition source increasing the potential of fires. A local contractor was hired to mow the area which is 15 acres in size. The same contractor completed a mowing of eight acres near the residences off Kelvin Road. The Carson City Fire Department provided a fire watch and had fuel crews identify and remove hazards for the operator.

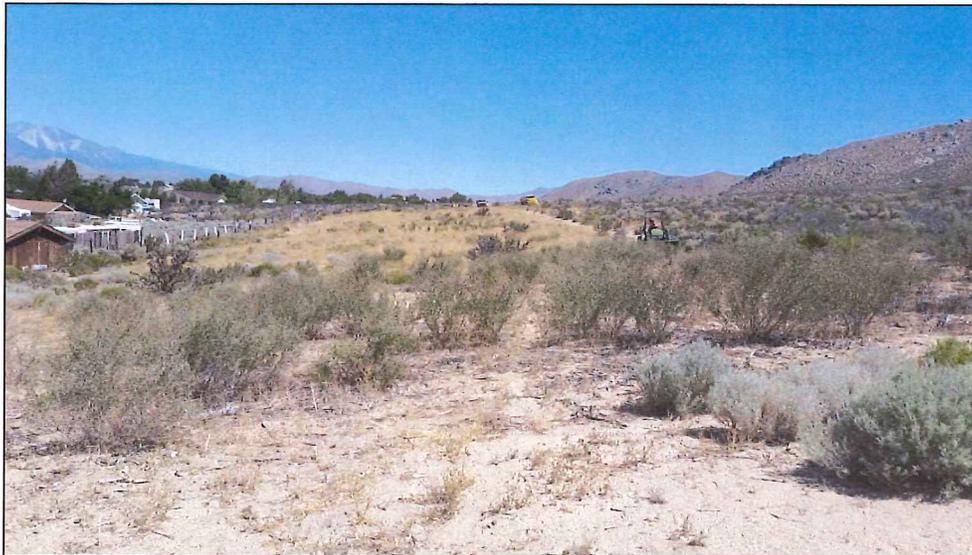


Prior to mowing, looking south from the Clearview trail access



During mowing, looking south from the Clearview trail access

Fuels treatment, continued



Prior to mowing, looking north from Snyder access.



After mowing, looking north from Snyder access.

Golden Eagle Lane project

On May 19th, the Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation from the Committee to submit a grant application to the Nevada Division of State Lands Question #1 Program for erosion control and watershed improvement projects near Golden Eagle Lane. Staff is nearly completed with the grant application for \$40,000 to help provide funding for the project. Staff does not have an award date at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Eyes On Carson: Jazz and Beyond at Silver Saddle Ranch

Submitted by Brett Fisher on Sun, 08/07/2016 - 7:58pm



By Brett Fisher

Conditions were ideal for an outdoor concert in the country Sunday afternoon. With highs in the eighties, the dog days of August seemed tame compared with seasons past.

A pleasant breeze and plenty of shade at the Silver Saddle Ranch welcomed guests who gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Quality of Life Initiative.

The venue was part of the annual Carson City Jazz and Beyond Music Festival, a 15-day event featuring more than 100 bands playing a variety of music, including jazz, country, bluegrass, blues, soul, latin, unique genre blends, and more.

Hosted by the Carson City Open Space and the Mile High Jazz Band Association, four music groups performed in rural Carson City Sunday, attracting music lovers, food trucks, and even burros.

Rescued wild burros were present to pet and photograph, courtesy of the Wild Ass Women, a non-profit group of volunteers who advocate for the adoption wild burros and mustangs.

Rescued burros from Wild Ass Women come from all over Nevada; from as far north as above Winnemucca and to the south around Nellis Air Force Base.

Very sociable animals amongst each other and around people, the burros brayed loudly to the music of CW Bayer and Dr. Spitmore, Hickry Switch, Alex Muddy Smith, and Sagebrush Rebels on stage at Silver Saddle Ranch, an 800-acre preserve of sagebrush, pasture land and fields, and riparian habitats along the Carson River.

The property is maintained by Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch, an entirely volunteer organization financially supported by its membership.

For more information about the Carson City Jazz and Beyond Music Festival, or to see a schedule of concerts, go to jazzcarsoncity.com.