

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4B

STAFF: Richard Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

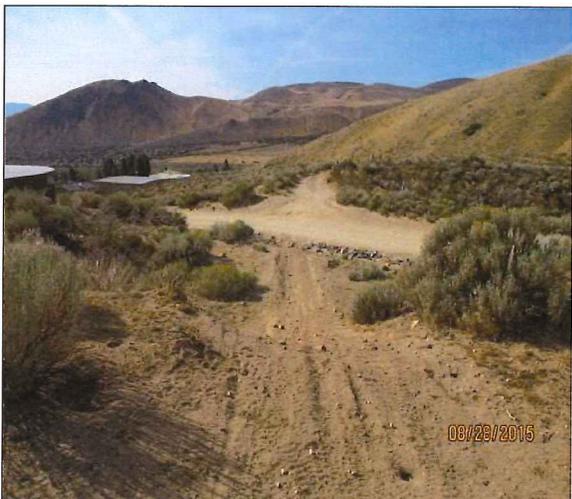
REQUEST: Staff update on activities, projects and grants throughout other areas managed by the Open Space Division.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following provides a summary on the activities throughout the last few months throughout other areas of Carson City.

Ash Canyon

Staff is planning a volunteer workday in the fall to plant and re-seed two new disturbed areas in Ash Canyon. These areas have been impacted by off highway vehicle use throughout the years and increasingly getting worse. The result of this usage has caused erosion affecting Ash Creek and the Carson City municipal water supply. Our goals for the project are to close access at two locations and to re-plant and re-seed the disturbed areas with desirable vegetation. Staff is putting together a plant list and seed mix to be used for the project sites this. Staff has applied for and received a right of entry and a temporary construction easement from the Masonic Lodge #1, which is the legal owner of one of these project sites. We are looking into working with an Eagle Scout to complete the planting work.



Project area owned by State Lands



Project area owned by the Masonic Lodge #1

Carson City Weed Coalition (CCWC)

In July staff worked with the Weed Coordinator to organize a bull thistle pull on the Carson City Conservation Easement at Horscreek Ranch. We had a total attendance of eleven volunteers. Seven from the Muscle Power Trash Mob, two Carson City staff members, one Open Space volunteer (Juan Guzman) and the landowner (Michael Fagen). The event was a great success and we removed approximately 18 fifty-gallon trash bags of bull thistle.

The CCWC has continued summer treatment working with the parks crews to cut, bag and spray perennial pepperweed infestations that had already gone to seed. New germination and growth has continued. The CCWC has also been actively mapping and monitoring spring treatment sites. Fall treatment is being planned to target knapweeds, thistles, and late perennial germination. Furthermore, the Coalition is looking into the potential of building a seasonal crew for treatment and mapping. This will help to reduce cost of treatments and increase the amount weed treatment within the city.



Volunteer crew digging bull thistle at Horscreek Ranch Saturday, July 16, 2016

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

Staff submitted a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for the 5th street Trailhead improvements and trails re-alignment project. A presentation was made to the review committee on June 28th. There were 15 total applications received for motorized and non-motorized trail projects. Staff is pleased to inform the committee that Carson City has been fully awarded. The Nevada Division of State Parks will send out a notice of award and an authorization to proceed sometime in the fall. The estimated project costs are \$250,000, the Recreational Trail grant award is for \$200,000, and our match is \$50,000. The project will improve the 5th street trailhead as identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan and rehabilitate over two acres of non-sustainable trails. This project will complement the work previously completed by staff and provide access for passive recreation on the Prison Hill Recreation Area.

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