

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** June 18, 2018

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 4D

**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator  
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

**REQUEST:** **For Discussion Only:** 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 other areas of Carson City.

**Ash Canyon Road**

The remaining flood damage repair work, including repair of the washout, flume installation and installation of erosion control fabric on the landslide areas has been completed on Ash Canyon Road. Additionally, routine annual road maintenance was completed on the road from mile marker 2.95 - 4.2. After the completion of the repairs, the road is now safe for both motorized and non-motorized travel. As a result, the gate just above the Ash to Kings Trailhead has been opened. The gate will remain open throughout the summer season, and will be closed again as winter precipitation begins to prevent damage to road caused by travel on wet soil conditions.

**Disc Golf Course**

All baseline photo documentation has been completed. Baseline photographs will aid in the stewardship and future maintenance of the course, as well as to track potential resource damage. The Eagle Valley Disc Golf Association is busy working on installing tee-boxes, building connector trails, as well as creating course maps and signage.

**Fuels Reduction with Sheep**

The sheep project launched in early April; they started behind Greenhouse Garden Center, and worked their way north towards C-Hill, eventually crossing lower Quill Canyon and exiting Carson City at the end of May. In early May, Lyndsey Boyer led a "Trail Graze" Hike on the Lincoln Bypass Trail. This event focused on teaching participants about the history of the sheep project in Carson City, the purpose, natural history of sheep and much more. Approximately 25-30 individuals, including children joined us for this very successful and well attended event.



*Sheep graze in Kings Canyon*



*Shotgun Canyon behind  
Greenhouse Garden Center*

### **Horsecreek Ranch**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, staff (Lyndsey and Marena, Weed Coordinator) was joined by Michael Fagen and Muscle Powered's Trash Mob (led by Donna Inversin and nine volunteers) on the second annual thistle dig. Participation was limited approximately 16 people due to 4WD access. The group pulled and dug an astounding 20 bags worth of bull thistle.



In mid-July, the Natural Resource Conservation Service will visit Horsecreek to review the headcut and irrigation box. The USDA EQUIP Program approved funding for preliminary review. If the project is approved for further funding, improvements could begin as early as late summer.

### **Kings Canyon Road**

Currently, the Kings Canyon Road repair project is on-hold because the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) wants to review the entire Lincoln Highway across the state for potential National Register of Historic Places nomination. Initial field assessments were completed by U.S. Forest Service staff, but have since stopped until further direction is received from SHPO.

Additionally, Public Works has been awarded a grant from the Federal Lands Access Program for road improvements to the paved section of road and improved trailhead facilities. Staff is working closely with Public Works and the federal design team to design a sufficient trailhead to accommodate heavy visitor use as well as multiple use.

## **Land Acquisition(s) – Hamm**

After unanimous approval and recommendation from the committee, the Board of Supervisors also approved moving forward with a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fee-title acquisition of 206 acres between Ash Canyon and the Timberline Subdivision. Immediately following the Board of Supervisors, the potential acquisition began moving at an unusual fast pace due to a purchase offer being made. Nevada Land Trust was contacted to help facilitate the acquisition, including the appraisal and negotiations; and volunteers stepped forward to help with writing the grant application. During the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>, the appraisal was received and staff received notification that the project will receive grant funding in the amount of \$250,000. In fact, the acquisition was the #1 ranked project by the selection committee. The appraisal will undergo a 30-day review process by all parties. If all goes well, the acquisition will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Personnel**

Open Space Maintenance Coordinator – Mr. Jared Whitaker started with Carson City on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Jared was selected as the top candidate through an extremely competitive process with many qualified applicants. He has an extensive background in arboriculture, landscaping, construction and maintenance, having previously worked for NDOT, and several arboriculture companies both domestically and abroad.

AmeriCorps VISTA members

- Danielle Hatch, Community Education Coordinator: Danielle had an extremely busy term of service with Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space. She successfully created Carson City's 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Ranger program, including curriculum, and led and coordinated an extremely successful 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Kids to Parks Day, which was hosted at Silver Saddle Ranch. Danielle was offered a full time interpretive ranger position in Dallas, Texas, and moved on from Carson City in May. Danielle was a great asset to the Department and we are all very thankful for the work she completed for us, and happy for her new journey.



*Both children and adults enjoy a guided mountain bike ride down the Mexican Ditch Trail led by Recreation Superintendent, Dan Earp.*



*Danielle Hatch and Park Ranger John Costello led a guided hike through Silver Saddle Ranch as a part of the new Carson City Junior Ranger Program.*

- Chaja Hogeweg, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator: continues to be very busy making updates and edits to the website, which looks fantastic! She continues to create a variety of video content for various programs throughout the City, as well as a few Public Service Announcements related to dog etiquette and noxious weeds. Additionally she continues to work to improve our social media presence and has greatly increased our social media following.

- Volunteer Coordinator – Ms. Chelsea Kincheloe will start with Carson City on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Chelsea comes to Carson City with a wealth of volunteer experience, having built a volunteer program for the community garden she worked in, as well as a breadth of experience in environmental education – most recently taking at risk youth into the backcountry and teaching them outdoor skills.

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