

## OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** September 18, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3F

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

**REQUEST:** **For Possible Action:** To approve submittal of a grant application to the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles for road maintenance and signage for Kings Canyon Road and Ash Canyon Road.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Like many areas and roads around Carson City, Kings Canyon Road was subject to extensive storm damage throughout January and February 2017. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administers most of the road; however, Carson City owns approximately two miles along the Horsecreek Ranch fee-title property acquisition. The Kings Canyon area is popular for numerous recreation activities such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, camping and motorized uses. Each year, unfortunately, there are a few vehicle accidents (rolling down the hillside) and several vehicles which get stuck in depressions due to unmaintained road conditions. Thus far in 2017, staff is aware of five known incidents. Additionally, there was a landslide several years ago which remains uncleared and prevents through-access to the Spooner Summit.



*Photos taken March 2017. Right: jeep is high-centered.*

Due to the popularity of the area, the Mayor and City Manager have tasked staff with improving access. There have been several conversations and field tours with the USFS and a plea for assistance. The USFS has responded that they only have a \$1 million dollar for all forest roads on the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest; and therefore, they have prioritized their maintenance efforts on roads categorized as Class III-V, or roads providing use for passenger cars vs. high clearance vehicles. Kings Canyon Road is considered a Class II. While the USFS does not have the

funding or labor to conduct road maintenance, they will help with cultural clearance (Kings Canyon Road is also the historic Lincoln Highway) and issue permits for Carson City to conduct the necessary work. They have offered this assistance in a timely manner.

The primary work on Kings Canyon Road includes road grading, road stabilization, and water management improvements. The desired work includes mileage markers so stranded motorists can provide better directions and location information to emergency services. Staff is proposing a multiple phase approach. Phase I would consist of improvements for the first three miles up to and through the Open Space property / Horsecreek fee-title property acquisition. A following phase may include clearing of the landslide.

As for Ash Canyon Road which is owned and managed by Carson City, the storm damage is eligible for financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). However, it's possible that repair quotes may exceed repair estimates. If this is the case, then staff would also recommend submitting a grant proposal to assist in minimizing financial impact to the Open Space budget.

Due to the reasons identified above, staff is requesting approval to spend time to submit grant proposals and manage these projects to improve the recreational access for our residents and visitors. The best part is that the identified grant program, the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles, does not require a cash or in-kind match though it is commended and will receive additional points during the project scoring. The anticipated funding request will be a maximum of \$50,000, and the submittal deadline is November 1, 2017.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to approve submittal of a grant application to the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles for road maintenance and signage for Kings Canyon Road and Ash Canyon Road.