

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 26, 2018

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 4B

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

**REQUEST:** **For Discussion Only:** 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 Carson River area.

**Carson River Canyon Open Space**

A repair strategy has been finalized with Public Works staff. The washout on Carson River Canyon Road will be repaired by harvesting boulders and fill material on-site to fill in the eroded scar. Additionally, grade work will be completed on the road to the direct water flow away from the washout to prevent future erosion. Lastly, a berm will be added near the washout to ensure safety of motorists. The project worksheet needs to be reviewed by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prior to sending the project out-to-bid.

**Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections**

The Open Space Program was awarded a \$1.8 million dollar grant through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The grant funds will support several trail improvements on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Mexican Ditch Trail, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the old Buzzy's Ranch. Open Space staff has begun the process of hiring a consultant to conduct the cultural review process, as well as consulting with Public Works to identify a safe crossing strategy from the Mexican Ditch Trail across Carson River Road.

**East Silver Saddle Ranch**

Trails Coordinator Gregg Berggren has been working with Beneficial Designs to create a conceptual site plan for the East Silver Saddle area. An open house meeting with local residents was held on February 13, 2018 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the Silver Saddle Ranch red house. The future improvements to this site for access, safety, and protection of the natural resources will be complementary to the repair and improvements on Sierra Vista Lane which began February 1, 2018.

## **Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control Project**

*There are no updates from the previous report.*

December 18, 2017: Construction was completed on the Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control project on 9/5/17. As a result of project improvements, two existing dirt “roads” now terminated into the project area. In order to prevent trespass and damage to the project, access to these roads was closed on 9/14/17 using wooden fence post barriers. It should be noted that this closure did not prevent travel throughout the area and three other routes remained open. Educational signage was posted with the closure (“Revegetation Area – Please Stay on Existing Trails”). Within one week of installation, the posts were vandalized and removed from the ground. The barriers have since been replaced and we will continue to monitor the road closures moving forward.

## **Moffat Open Space**

- During the recent flood events, there was significant damage to the paved path between Hells Bells Road and Lepire Drive at Eagle Valley Creek. The project was successfully bid, an on-site pre-construction meeting was held on 10/5/2017.
- The path repair/re-construction was completed in October.



*Moffat Open Space – path damage*



*Moffat Open Space – repaired path*

## **Prison Hill Recreation Area**

Staff has continued working on the fence repairs separating motorized and non-motorized use in the Prison Hill Recreation Area. Recently, five sections were repaired near the Koontz Trailhead, as well as one section near the Clearview Trailhead. Due to the rocky soils (equipment is needed to dig holes) and length (½ mile), fence repair will take a fairly significant amount of time. The focus is to repair completely damaged sections of fence first.

## **Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead**

Per the request of the Committee and to complete the trailhead improvements next year, staff is gathering information from Public Works about the process and requirements to contract with consultants for the design, bidding and construction management of the project.

### **River Rally 2018**

River Rally, hosted annually by River Network, is a national conference for river and water champions. Unique in its focus on providing practical education, inspiring courage, and celebrating achievements, River Rally brings together hundreds of people from across the United States and the world that care about rivers and water issues. This year, River Rally is being hosted in Olympic Valley from April 29 – May 2, 2018. In cooperation with CWSD staff, a field trip proposal has been accepted by the River Network. The field trip will consist of visiting Olympic Valley with the Alpine Watershed Group to hear about the natural history of the Carson River Watershed, as well as more on their projects and objectives. Next, the field trip will travel to Carson City for a float trip from Carson River Park to Morgan Mill to teach participants about the Open Space program, acquisitions and floodplain protection. The field trip will conclude at River Fork Ranch to learn about conservation efforts being applied there, as well as to learn about the Carson River Coalition and its history.

### **Silver Saddle Ranch**

Upcoming events:

- March 12 – Friends of Silver Saddle monthly meeting
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- March 24 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch hike/bike meet-up
- April 9 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly meeting
- April 21 – Escape from Prison Hill race/running event

### **Silver Saddle Ranch Stewardship Plan/SHPO**

Recently, staff have been working with SHPO and an architectural historian to develop a stewardship plan and monitoring protocol for the historic structures at Silver Saddle Ranch. The architectural historian has obtained all necessary background documentation, and is currently working to develop a scope of work in order to proceed with completing the baseline documentation and recording of the historic structures. Once this is complete SHPO will be able to move forward with creating an architectural stewardship and monitoring program, which will be a new program.

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