



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4B

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 21, 2019

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Activities, projects, and grants located on Open Space properties within the Carson River area.

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Buzzy's Ranch

Conservation Plan

Staff continues to work with consultants to develop a conservation plan for the Old Buzzy's Ranch property related to water rights. The property has been extensively surveyed in order to identify which areas of the ranch are most productive, which areas are naturally receiving the most water, and which areas will need to be restored to a more natural condition after they are no longer irrigated. One goal of the plan is to work to maintain the aesthetics of the ranch, keeping the fields green if possible. As a component of this project, test plots will be established in order to evaluate the most successful rehabilitation strategy to be employed. Strategies include interseeding, plow and plant, and/or increasing irrigation efficiency by updating irrigation infrastructure. Scientists from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have joined the project. They are helping to provide recommendations and will continue with treatment implementation, follow-up monitoring and research. Two test plots with fencing have been installed – both in wet and dry areas of the Ranch in order to evaluate the various rehabilitation strategies under both wet and dry conditions. Additionally, a glyphosate treatment has been completed in order to remove competition from current pasture grasses. Reseeding tests will be completed in late October.

Test Wells

In April 2019, Vidler Water Company hired a contractor to conduct soil boring at three sites on the Old Buzzy's Ranch. The project was to determine the feasibility of a water production well. The two northernmost borings look the most promising from the soils perspective. Analyses continue on the water quality and the effects of drilling in close proximity to another well located in Riverview Park. Staff has been monitoring the disturbed sites for vegetative recovery and has been coordinating with Vidler Water Company on the revegetation efforts. After evaluation, it was determined that only one site needed a reseeded treatment. One site will not be revegetated because it will be utilized next summer during trail construction and the third site recovered naturally with saltgrass.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

Aerial reseeded with a native seed blend using a helicopter will be completed in early November 2019. Once finished, staff will complete additional monitoring in spring 2020 to evaluate success.

Carson River Trash Walk

In August, Open Space staff walked from East Silver Saddle Ranch to the Ambrose Carson River Natural Area picking up trash, mapping for noxious weeds, and removing ten vehicle tires and other large debris from the Carson River. This is the second year of completing this trash clean-up with staff, and we have already noticed a difference in the volume of trash found.



Lyndsey Boyer and Ann Bollinger picking up trash.



Open Space Team waded the Carson River with trash grabbers and bags to pick up several hundred pounds of garbage.

East Silver Saddle Ranch

Fencing has been installed around the burned area of East Silver Saddle Ranch to prevent motorized vehicle trespass and additional disturbance. Open Space staff are working with an Eagle Scout, Mr. Ryan Cooley to complete a revegetation project in this area. Mr. Cooley will work with other Boy Scouts, as well as potentially NJROTC cadets to scatter native seed and plant native shrubs, including sagebrush and bitterbrush, as well as install several tree boxes to create habitat for Wood Ducks. Mr. Cooley's project will be completed in early November.



Sagebrush seedlings to be planted in the burned area of East Silver Saddle Ranch.

Events (Carson River area and elsewhere)

Date	Event	Location
Sun, Oct 6	Pine Nut Mountains Trail Assoc./ NJROTC Volunteer Clean-up Day	Prison Hill OHV Area
Sat, Oct 12	Full Moon Hike	Prison Hill, 5 th Street Trailhead
Mon, Oct 14	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch
Thu, Oct 17	National OHV Coalition Council Mobile Workshop (conference registration required)	Prison Hill OHV Area
Fri, Oct 18	Snapshot Day	Watershed-wide
Sat, Oct 19	Fall Colors Hike	Carson River Park/ Mexican Ditch Trail
Date	Event	Location
Sat, Nov 2	Leave No Trace Hike	Prison Hill Clearview Trailhead
Thurs, Nov 7	River Wranglers Student Workday	East Silver Saddle Ranch
Date	Event	Location
Fri-Sun, Dec 13-15	FOSSR Open House and Homestead Holidays	Silver Saddle Ranch
Sat, Dec 14	Winter Trail Run Series	WNC & Ash Canyon

Silver Saddle Ranch Stewardship Plan/State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The Preservation Plan has been finalized and sent to SHPO for review. Staff anticipates a response from SHPO in early October. After approved by SHPO, staff will work with them to initiate the stewardship monitoring plan for the architectural features. However, the baseline documentation report and NARA forms have not yet been finalized.