



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4B

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 16, 2019

Staff Contact: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
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

Test plots have been established at Old Buzzy's Ranch, and seeding has been completed. Staff and consultants will continue to monitor the test plots in the spring and subsequent seasons to identify which species successfully establish. With these results, across varying moisture regimes, staff hopes to effectively restore portions of the ranch to native conditions to combat future reductions in water rights to be applied to the property.

Test Wells

No updates from previous report.

10-21-2019: 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 reseeding 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 reseeding with a native seed blend using a helicopter was completed in early November 2019. Staff will complete additional monitoring in spring 2020 to evaluate success and determine if additional treatments are required.

East Silver Saddle Ranch

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Cooley worked with several Boy Scouts from his Troop to complete the revegetation of the burned area at East Silver Saddle Ranch in early November. Volunteers worked to scatter native seed and plant native shrubs, including sagebrush and bitterbrush across the one acre burned area. In addition to revegetation activities, volunteers also worked to install several tree boxes to create habitat for Wood Ducks.

Cottonwood Wrapping

In early November, staff worked with River Wranglers, Carson Montessori and Carson High School FFA students to complete cottonwood wrapping along the River at East Silver Saddle Ranch. Together, students worked with staff to learn about the impacts of beavers in our watershed, and helped protect important riparian vegetation by wrapping cottonwoods in chicken wire.



Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Lyndsey Boyer works to teach a group of students about riparian vegetation and beaver ecology.

Events (Carson River area and elsewhere)

Date	Event	Location
Mon, Dec. 9	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch
Wed, Dec. 11	Full Moon Hike	C-Hill
Fri-Sun, Dec. 13-15	FOSSR Open House and Homestead Holidays	Silver Saddle Ranch
Sat, Dec. 14	Winter Trail Run Series	WNC & Ash Canyon
Sat, Jan. 4	Winter Trail Run Series	Centennial Park Foothills
Mon, Jan 13	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch
Sat, Feb. 8	Winter Trail Run Series	Prison Hill Recreation Area
Mon, Feb. 10	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch

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

Staff anticipates a response from SHPO in early 2020. After approved by SHPO, staff will work with them to initiate the stewardship monitoring plan for the architectural features. The Preservation Plan, baseline documentation report and NARA forms have been finalized and sent to SHPO for review.

Snapshot Day

The Annual Carson River Snapshot Day took place on October 18, 2019. Over 17 agencies came together to assist nearly 300 students at 11 different spots throughout the Watershed to teach about water quality, collect water quality samples and complete an assessment on a specific reach of River. This was the 20th year this event took place on the Carson River, and with this amazing citizen science project we can track water quality and river health across time based on these individual “snapshots.” Staff worked at Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space again this year to take samples and assess the health of a 100 meter reach of the Carson River. Samples analyze turbidity, presence of nitrates, pollutants and much more.



Early morning view from in the Carson River