

APPENDIX H:

Field Trip Observations

Friday, May 30, 2008 Fieldtrip Observations Transcription of Notes

Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River Area
Community Design Charrette

Following the fieldtrip, charrette participants discussed their observations and impressions as a large group. These observations included:

- More/bigger signs needed
- River sections not known before
- Interpretive signage
- How bad level of mercury [in river]?—bad, don't eat the dirt—advisory on fish consumption. Construction projects—mitigation
- Areas for larger parking, trailers, turnarounds...only at trailheads
- Kiosks would be nice—stand in center and see where trails area. North Silver Saddle ends—involved high school and elementary students and educate to protect
- Will take a lot of money to do—1/2 dozen opportunities to generate revenue
- Emphasis on development—impacts on wildland areas—access impacts; develop reserves for wildland; identify species' needs
- Develop a habitat conservation plan, identify areas first; then develop other areas
- Connect to railroad and museum—trail to take you there
- Magnificent views at key locations to unify sense of whole place
- Set sense of what was here before—vistas good fo; also birding at these sites
- Ties in with tourism planning

Sense of place

- Diversity of use over history
- Tie together history, mining, add information signs, ranching
- Authenticity=working landscape. "Working open space" now two publically owned important for public to be able to see
- How many out buildings will be kept? Jarrard, some have been demolished. Stone building--maybe should be looked at
- City will keep service road; keep cultivated area—how to do? Working landscapes?
- Carrying capacity—look at when planning activities and numbers of people
- Community concerned with possible over use—so carrying capacity important
- Some disrespect for the land. So management will have to look at; education and outreach to users with message of respect for the land, e.g. OHV users...partnerships for stewardship
- Adopt-a-___ program/partnerships
- Kids aren't the ones shooting at signs, etc. Need to establish a sense of ownership
- Issues: special events/sites. Fees, etc. how to do management
- Silver Saddle Ranch: Has program for events and policies in place. Possible revenue. Horsemen's camp/park

- 4-H and youth programs. Can help in this type of thing there and watching out. If given place to meet (can't meet in homes). Has various programs (ATV, resources, riding, etc.)
- Kids in 4-H will be sitting here in 20 years. Teaching them now.

Issues

- Communication
- Beavers
- Safety—need to feel safe alone—relative to other people
- Signage re: white water stages at portage areas
- Connectivity up and down river
- Connectivity of uplands and river=corridors for wildlife
- Neighbors not within view but area concerned (at water tank)
- Junk cars need to be picked up. How to get out? Have had to use helicopters
- Have done clean-up days. National Lands Day, etc.
- Stewardship—all users should wear button, t-shirt to show someone is watching out—a presence—help unit us as a conservator of the ranch
- Probably not getting trash in the first place—had to value property
- Regarding button idea—hasn't worked for one
- Need to partner with law enforcement for fines; need to educate kids
- Re: "ownership"—property owners are very active in watching out; a very few people can have a big negative effect
- Look for unifying theme: stewardship is one. Need to appeal to people membership in community
- Most trails don't meet any specifications; can become maintenance concern
- Possible name of area "Prison Hill" undermines stewardship
- Education on origin of name; just add on to name "Prison Hill-OHV Area"
- Education: corridor important for flooding, opportunity for multi-objective/multi-benefit project