

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3B

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist *AB*

REQUEST: For possible action to: receive and accept public testimony as part of the National Environmental Policy Act scoping session for the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon proposed trail project being conducted in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service, Muscle-Powered, and Carson City.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: For several years, Carson City has worked with Muscle Powered and the U.S. Forest Service on the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail project. Two years ago Muscle Powered coordinated the assistance from Vidler Water Company for the cultural surveys and last year Carson City staff assisted with the botany surveys. The project continues to move forward and on February 13, 2012 the U.S. Forest Service began the official public process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with an open house-style meeting. The Forest Service plans to cite a categorical exclusion which still includes sufficient on-the-ground resource surveys and analysis to determine that an Environmental Assessment is not necessary. The Forest Service is accepting comments until March 2, 2012.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to accept public testimony as part of the National Environmental Policy Act scoping session for the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon proposed trail project being conducted in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service, Muscle-Powered, and Carson City.

Request for Comments

Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail

USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District

February, 2012

Why we are proposing this project Carson City and Muscle Powered have been working with the US Forest Service and public for many years to develop a trail system along the foothills of the Carson Range with connectivity to Carson City. The Carson City Unified Pathways Master Plan (2006) identified this trail to provide a non- motorized opportunity that connects Kings and Ash Canyons. While the district has many trails in backcountry and wilderness settings there are very limited opportunities along the urban interface, where we are seeing increased demand for trail opportunities. This will help meet the demand of a growing population and reduce impacts from user created routes and unmanaged recreation. This need is identified in the Toiyabe National Forest Management Plan and the Carson City Unified Pathways Master Plan.

What we propose to do

Construct approximately 6 miles of trail designed for non-motorized uses including mountain biking, hiking and equestrian between Ash Canyon and Kings Canyon, West of Carson City. Trail access points will be Kings Canyon road, Waterfall road, and Ash Canyon road as shown on the project map. Trail tread will be 18-36 inches with trail corridor of 6 feet wide, 10 feet high. Ground Disturbance width may be up to 72 inches along the trail corridor. Brush and trees will be removed in the trail corridor. Large trees greater than 12 inch DBH will be avoided. See map for trail alignment.

Where we propose to do this

The project is located in the Carson Range West of Carson City, NV.

Legal description: T15N, R19E Sec. 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23

Refer to the attached map for trail alignment.

An open Public Meeting will be held Feb. 13th 5-7 pm at the Carson City Community Center, Bonanza Room. 851 E. William St.

How we will figure out what to do We will use any issues discovered from cultural and biological surveys, interdisciplinary input and the issues we receive from the public to design the trail to reduce effects to the environment and to analyze the effects of implementing the project. Archaeological sites will be avoided.

After hearing from you, we will decide how to meet our goals and what measures we can take to reduce any negative effects.

How you can help us decide what to do We want your input about this proposal. You can call or send letters to the address below. Comments we receive, including names and addresses, are part of the public record and are available through the Freedom of Information Act.

Please provide us your comments by March 2nd, 2012.

The decision to be made

The decision to be made is to construct this trail as described with potential realignments where resources must be avoided. We plan to cite a categorical exclusion to make this decision. This means that the decision will not be preceded with an Environmental Assessment, and will not be subject to appeal. Construction and reconstruction of trails (FSH 1909.15, Ch. 30, Sec. 31.2(1); 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1))

We want to hear from you ...

write or call:

Daniel Morris, District Recreation Officer
Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701
775-884-8140

Email:
danielmorris@fs.fed.us

Carson Ranger District – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail

For Official Use Only

Comment #: _____

Date Received: _____

Logged in by: _____

Comment Form

We have provided this form for your convenience. Please use this or any other format to let us know your concerns or ideas about this project. Send comments by March 2nd to: Daniel Morris, Recreation Officer Carson Ranger District, 1536 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.

Or email to:

comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson@fs.fed.us

For your information: names and individuals commenting on Forest Service proposals may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact email: _____

Here are my concerns, issues, and/or ideas about the Ash to Kings Canyon Trail project:

Please check all that apply...

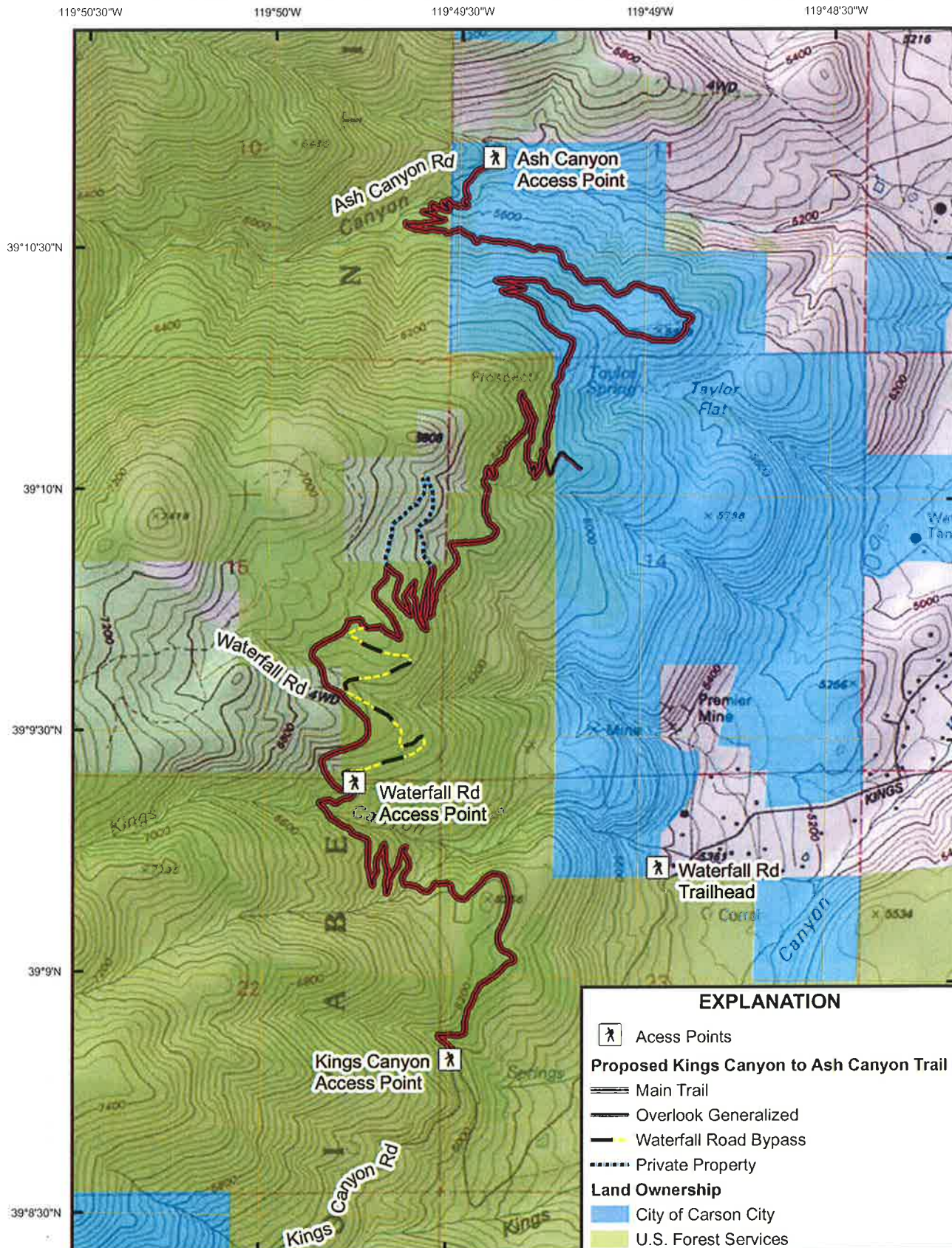
☐ **I have information about the area that may be helpful in the decision.**

Feel free to contact me at _____.

☐ **Please send me the final decision document.**

☐ **I have no further interest in this proposal and do not want to receive further mailings.**

Kings Canyon to Ash Canyon Non-Motorized Multi-Use Trail



Base from ESRI ArcGIS Online Map service
http://services.arcgis.com/arcgis/service:USA_Topo_Maps, 2011, State Plane Nevada West
 North American Datum of 1983 (CORS96), Vertical
 Datum North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

0 0.25 0.5 Miles