

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: May 8, 2012

Agenda Date Requested: May 17, 2012
Time Requested: 10 Minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space Division

Subject Title: For possible action to accept the Elmer H. Anderson, Project of the Year award from the Nevada Parks and Recreation Society for the Carson City Community Vitality Act, which resulted in the 6,000 acre Carson River Nature Park. (Roger Moellendorf/ Juan F. Guzman)

Staff Summary: It is with a great sense of accomplishment that staff informs the Board that the Nevada Parks and Recreation Society has presented the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department with an Elmer H. Anderson Parks Excellence Award for 2012 and the distinction of Project of the Year for the Carson City Federal Lands Bill, which has resulted in our Carson River Natural Area Park.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution ☐ Ordinance
☒ Formal Action/Motion ☐ Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommended Board Action: I move to accept the Elmer H. Anderson, Project of the Year award from the Nevada Parks and Recreation Society for the Carson City Community Vitality Act, which resulted in the 6,000 acre Carson River Nature Park.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: The future natural park will contain just over 6,000 acres and is the result of land acquisitions, donations, and the Federal Lands Bill. Attached please find some slides of a Powerpoint prepared for a presentation at the NRPS Conference where we received this award. As always, please do not hesitate to contact staff with any questions you may have.

Applicable Statue, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

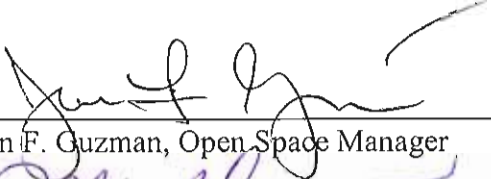
Fiscal Impact: N/A

Explanation of Impact: N/A

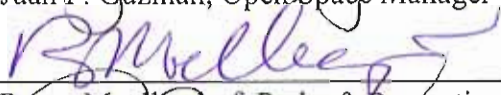
Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives: N/A

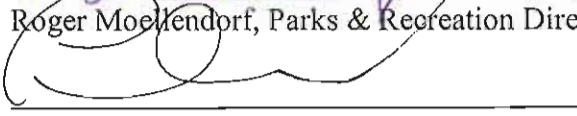
Supporting Material: Hand out of PowerPoint presentation

Prepared By: 
Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

Date: 5/8/12

Reviewed By: 
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

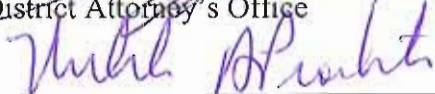
Date: 5/8/12


Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

Date: 5/8/12


District Attorney's Office

Date: 5/8/12


Finance Department

Date: 5/8/12

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay

2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

Nevada Park and Recreation Society Conference,
April 2012, Las Vegas, NV.

The Carson River Nature Park - evolved from the Community Vitality Act, Land Transfers & Acquisition Projects

Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director

Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

What is this presentation about?

*How did the Carson River Nature Park
evolved :*

- The Q18 and Open Space Program
- The Carson City Master Plan Envisions
- The Community Vitality Act or Lands Bill
- Acquisitions, transfers and donations of lands
- The management challenges

Q18-The Quality of Life Initiative 1996

- .0025 Sales Tax (\$1,700,000 per year)
- 40% Open Space
- 40% Parks and Trails
- 20% Maintenance of Parks



What is Open Space?

"Open space is undeveloped land having significant natural resources important to the quality of life in our community"

Ballot Question #18

OSAC has refined that definition to include:

- land in a primarily or complete natural state
- land that contains significant natural, visual or cultural features that need protection
- land that is permanently protected

The Open Space Master Plan 2000

Most important reasons to preserve Open Space:

- Preserve hillsides from development
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Provide trails

Areas to Protect:

1. River
2. Mountains/Hills
3. Irrigated Pastures & Trails

Winston Associates- Gnomon, Inc. - CSON

Waterfall Fire

CATALYST FOR A BILL 2004

- 8,700 acres
 - 2,782 HTNF
 - 2,507 Carson City
 - 2,495 Private Land
 - 710 State of Nevada
 - 208 Tribal Land

July 20, 2004, 100% Contained



Envisions Master Plan 2006



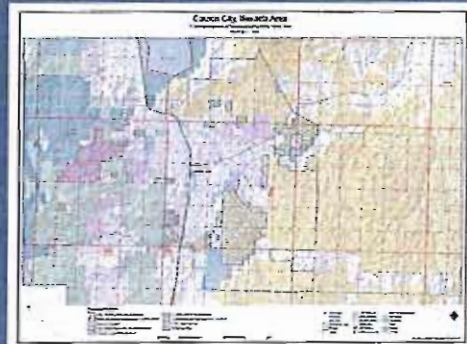
Envisions Master Plan 2006

- Carson City geographical components: The Carson Range, the Eagle Valley, the Pinenuts Mountains, 241 sq. miles, Public land surrounds the Valley
- The population (57 k) is concentrated in the Eagle Valley
- ***Growth to occur in the valley, vertically, as opposed to in the hills surrounding the Valley***

Charrette -2008
Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch
& National Parks Service

- The SSR Park - Mayor's vision
- Emergence of a "common vision"
- Process overview & team development
- Summary Report – Presentation- Board adoption
- ***"Common vision to balance passive recreation and resource protection"***

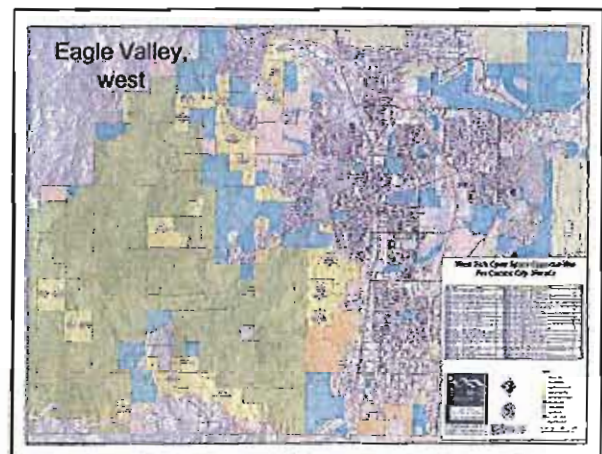
Federal Lands Bill
Carson City Community Vitality Act (Omnibus Public
Lands Management Act of 2009)



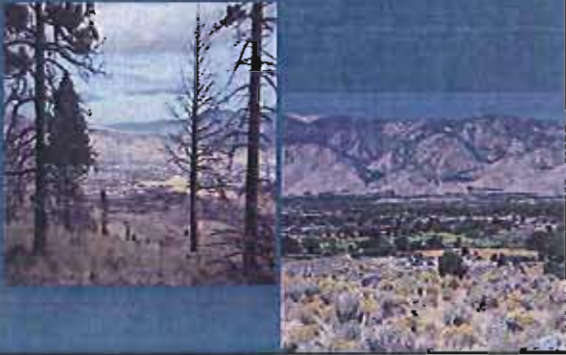
Federal Lands Bill
Carson City Community Vitality Act (Omnibus
Public Lands Management Act of 2009)

Eagle Valley west side; USFS:

- Transferred from CC to the USFS 2,264 Ac.
 - High elevation watershed lands to USFS
- Transferred from the USFS to CC 935 Ac.
 - Interface lands to CC
- Washoe Tribe transfers
- Economic development



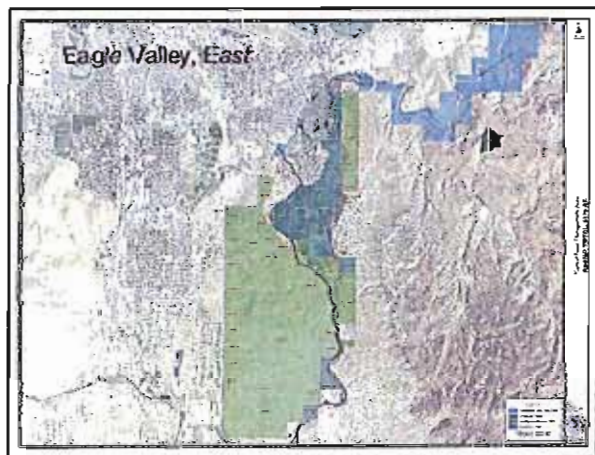
West Valley landscape



Federal Lands Bill Carson City Community Vitality Act (Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009)

Eagle Valley East Side, BLM:

- BLM to transfer 3,064 Ac. to CC for Open Space, subject to a conservation easement
- BLM to transfer 1,848 Ac. to CC for Public Purpose
 - Primarily, River Lands and Parks, public infrastructure & the Sanitary Land Fill.
- Economic development



East valley landscape



**Federal Lands Bill
Carson City Community Vitality Act (Omnibus
Public Lands Management Act of 2009**

Conservation easement & Baseline

- Silver Saddle Ranch & Prison Hill
- Ambrose Natural Area

Participation on PTNA Grants

**Federal Lands Bill
Carson City Community Vitality Act (Omnibus
Public Lands Management Act of 2009**

*Silver
Saddle
Ranch*



**Land acquisitions, donations,
transfers**

• Desormier	19 Ac.	need for access
• Mexican Dam	64 Ac.	urgency criteria
• Buzzy's Ranch	457 Ac.	pasture no water
• Riverview Park	102 Ac.	most used
• Carson River Park	40 Ac.	aquatic trail head
• Vidler	39 Ac.	finally a donation!
• Empire & Morgan Mill	39 Ac.	aquatic trailhead
• Carson Canyon	915 Ac.	Superfund- Mills

Total = 1,675 Ac.

**Carson River Canyon former Serpa
& Bently acquisitions**



Carson River Canyon former Serpa & Bently acquisitions



Carson River Canyon former Serpa & Bently acquisitions

Serpa

Acres: 418
Cost: \$3,140,775
Funding:
1) State of Nevada, Question 1 Program, Grant Award to & through NVLC - \$1,075,000
2) Question 18, Carson City Open Space Program - \$2,065,775 + closing costs
3) V&T to purchase reserved easement
4) Escrow closed January 21, 2011.

Bently

Acres: 497
Cost: \$1,800,000
Funding:
1) Question 18, Carson City Open Space Program - \$876,796 + closing costs
2) SNPLMA-PTNA Grant \$ 513,000
3) V&T easement \$209,000
4) Owner donated \$200,000
5) Escrow closed January 21, 2011.

Carson River Canyon former Serpa & Bently acquisitions

Wetlands, south shore
of former Serpa property

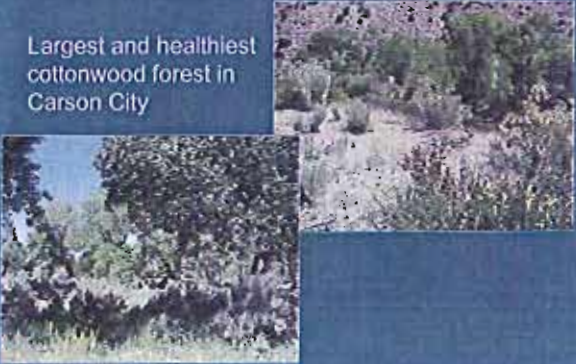


Carson River Canyon former Serpa & Bently acquisitions environmental significance

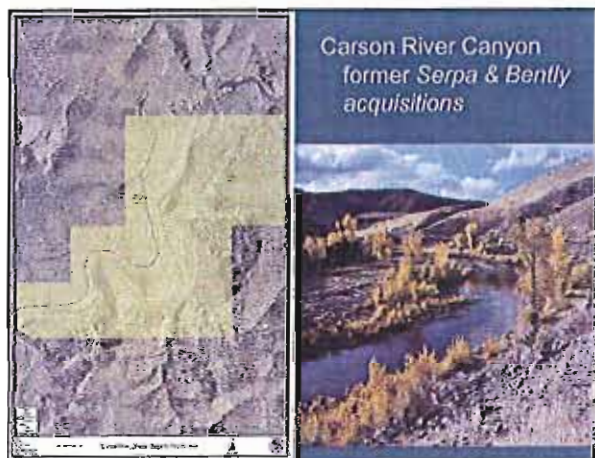
- Floodplains and wetlands – 75% of wildlife diversity is associated with riparian areas.
- 5½ river miles of continuous habitat with minimal disturbance
- Largest & healthiest cottonwood forest in Carson City
- Birding Habitat
 - Robin Powell, NV Director of Bird Conservation
 - Carson River Project: "More than 200 bird species can be found throughout the Carson River watershed, making it one of the richest bird sites in the entire state of Nevada"

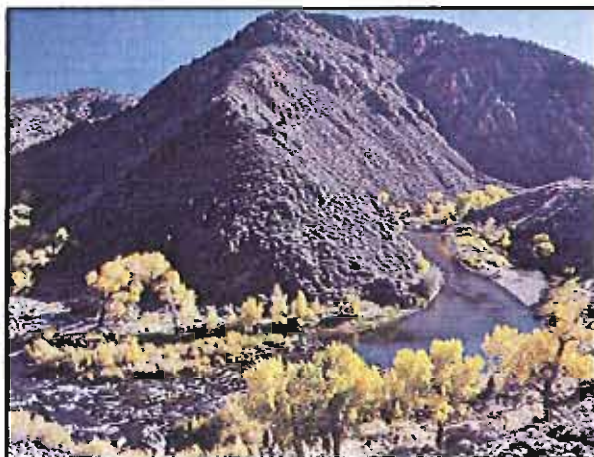
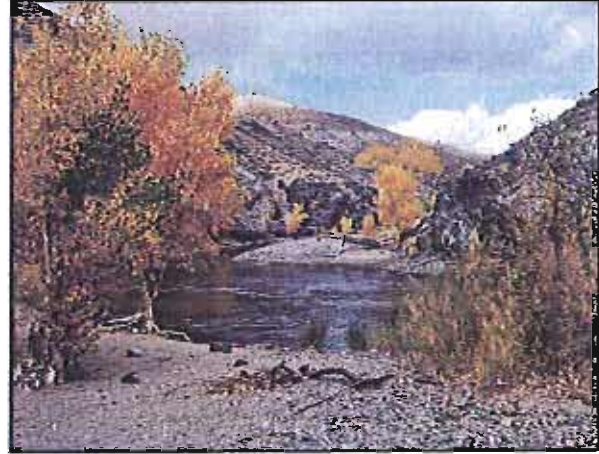
Carson River Canyon former Serpa
& Bently acquisitions Cottonwood Forest

Largest and healthiest
cottonwood forest in
Carson City




Carson River Canyon
former Serpa & Bently
acquisitions



The management challenge

- *Regional and local plans*
- *Public Recreation*
- *Aquatic Trail*
- *Wildlife management*
- *Noxious Weeds*
- *Agricultural lands – water*
- *Superfund designated site, Mercury, Lead, Arsenic*
- *V&T Railroad- eliminates motorized access*
- *Cultural Resources-mills and Silver Saddle Ranch*

The management challenge *Regional and Local Plans*

- Carson River Master Plan
- Open Space Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Unified Pathways Master Plan / Carson River Aquatic Trail
- Federal Lands Bill



The management challenge *Public Recreation*

- Current concerns:
 - Abandoned cars
 - Camping and related trash
 - Desert dumping
 - Drug trafficking
 - Shooting
- Carson City can provide public resources to address these issues through existing and/or new partnerships



The management challenge *Public Recreation Motorized Use Management*

- Significant concern: environmental, historical, open space values damaged by motorized use
- Urgent action needed to protect all resources
 - OHVs create multiple trails through vegetation and create erosion
 - Historical mining sites are being destroyed
 - Scenic impact
- Future projects will provide for trail system planning, trailhead development and interpretive signage



The management challenge *Public Recreation Motorized Use Management*





The management challenge *Public Recreation*

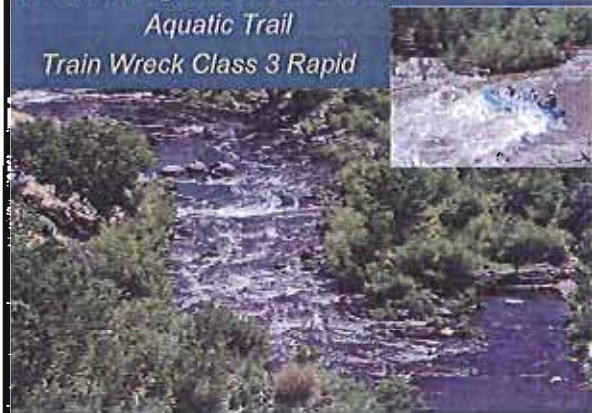
- Aquatic Trail - Intermediate to advanced boaters due to rocks & rapids
- Land-Based Trails



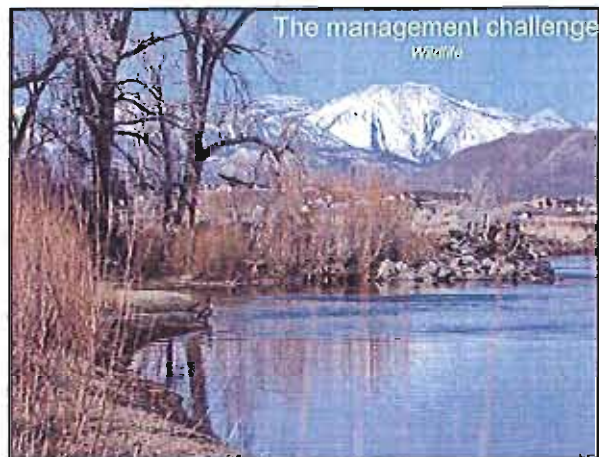
The management challenge *Aquatic Trail*



The management challenge *Aquatic Trail* *Train Wreck Class 3 Rapid*



The management challenge *Waters*



The management challenge
Wildlife Sagegrouse Habitat



By Mark Evans, NDW



By pacificsl.org

The management challenge
Wildlife



The management challenge
Noxious weeds



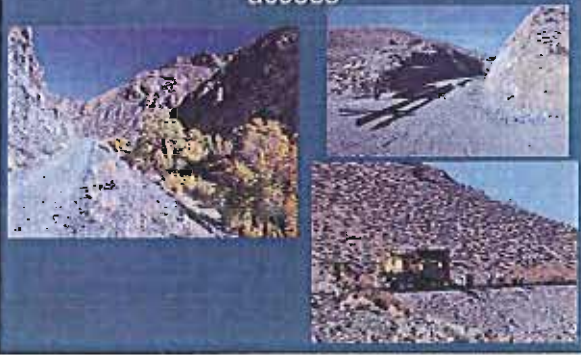
The management challenge
Agricultural lands – water



The management challenge
SUPERFUND SITE Mercury, Lead, Arsenic



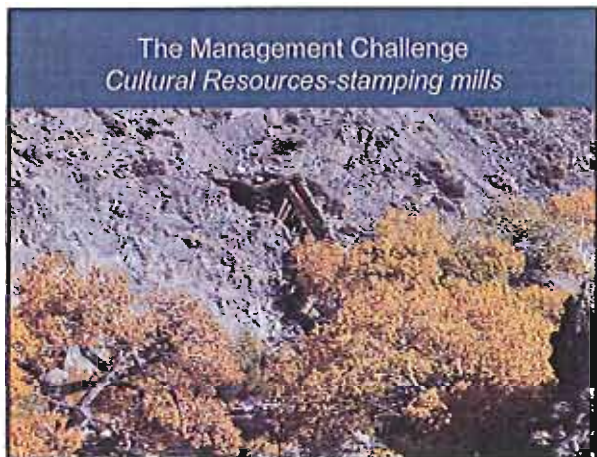
The management challenge
V&T Railroad-elimination of motorized access



The Management Challenge
Cultural Resources-stamping mills



The Management Challenge
Cultural Resources-stamping mills



Supporters and friends

- The Nature Conservancy
- Lahontan Audubon Society
- Nevada Land Conservancy
- The Sierra Club
- The Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch
- Kowalski, Lions
- Carson City Boy Scout Troops
- Pinemut Trails Association
- SNPLMA – PTNA
- Q1 State Grants
- Office of the Governor
- V&T Railway Commission
- Federal Delegation Senators Reid and Ensign
- Carson BLM District
- USFS Carson Ranger District
- Resource Concepts Incorporated
- Lumos and Associates
- Terra Firma
- Carson City Board of Supervisors
- Carson City Parks & Recreation
- Carson City Planning Commission
- Carson City Carson River Committee
- Open Space Advisory Committee
- Walker and Associates
- Washoe Zephyr Consulting



Questions / comments

- What would the audience have done different?
- What impresses you about the Carson Experience?
- What can you use in your jurisdiction?

