

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: January 29, 2013

Agenda Date Requested: February 7, 2013

Time Requested: 15 Minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space Division

Subject Title: For possible action to approve the Open Space Advisory Committee annual activity report for 2012. (Bruce Scott / Juan F. Guzman / Roger Moellendorf)

Staff Summary: Section 13.06.090 of the Carson City Municipal Code requires that the Open Space Advisory Committee provide an annual report of their activities to the Board of Supervisors. The attached report contains information on the activities of the Open Space Program organized into four major categories including land management, activities with volunteers, land preservation, and financial considerations.

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 approve the Open Space Advisory Committee annual activity report for 2012.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: As required by ordinance staff has prepared the report on behalf of the Open Space Advisory Committee describing the most notable activities of the Open Space Program carried out in 2012. It is staff's intention to use this report as a communication tool in discussing with others the functions of the Open Space Division.

Applicable Statue, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: Carson City Municipal Code, Section 13.06.090

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Explanation of Impact: The report was prepared by staff as part of the normal business work load.

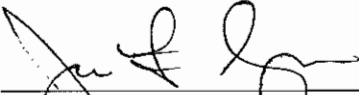
Funding Source: Parks and Recreation, Open Space Division

Alternatives:

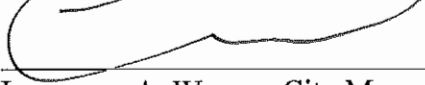
Not to approve the report.
Request additional information.

Supporting Material:

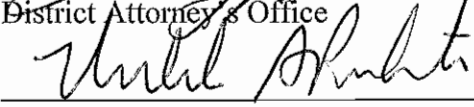
Report to the Board of Supervisors regarding activities of the Open Space Advisory Committee for 2012

Prepared By:  Date: 1/25/13
Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

Reviewed By:  Date: 1/28/13
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

 Date: 1/29/13
Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

 Date: 1/29/13
District Attorney's Office

 Date: 1/29/13
Finance Department

Board Action Taken:

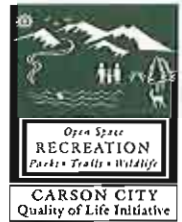
Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay
2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)



Carson City Parks and Recreation Department

OPEN SPACE



Report to the Board of Supervisors of the Open Space Advisory Committee Activities Calendar Year January – December 2012

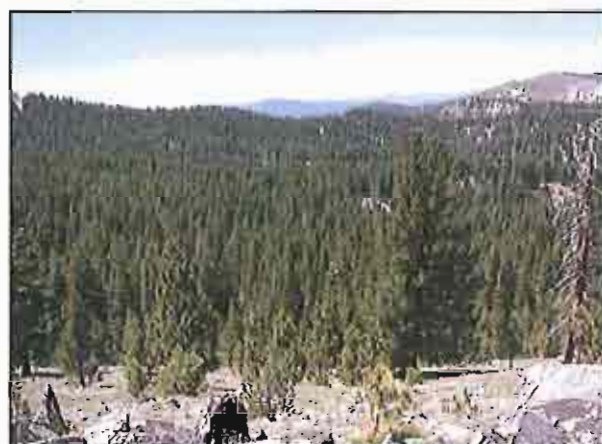
Dear Mayor Crowell and Board of Supervisors,

As required by Section 13.06.090 of the Carson City Municipal Code, it is my honor to present to you the following report of the activities conducted by the Open Space Advisory Committee in 2012. The information provided is arranged into four categories: Land Management, Volunteers, Land Preservation, and Financial Information.

In preparation for the paradigm change from emphasis on acquisition to the intensive management of the lands acquired, we held a full day public workshop with the assistance of an outside facilitator. The day was well used. We developed a vision and mission statement and spent time discussing the concept of passive recreation which is one of the program’s fundamental requirements. We also had a candid assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the Open Space Program. The vision and mission statements and a summary of the information are scheduled for review and approval by the Board of Supervisors in January 2013.

Land Management

The management of fuels on acquired lands is a top priority for the Open Space Program. With the assistance of the Nevada Division of Forestry, we implemented a fuel modification project reducing the vegetation density through timber cuts and mastication of brush at the Wilson acquisition located at the top of Ash Canyon Road. The cost of the project was paid through a cost share grant agreement with the Nevada Division of Forestry.



Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project – May 2012, Before



Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project – May 2012, After

We continue to use grant funds obtained through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act for fuels reduction within the Carson Range. In addition, our well-received fine fuels management program through the use of sheep continues along the wildland-urban interface on the west side of town. Last year was the seventh season of the project. That project receives the strong support and cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and the band of sheep owned and managed by Ted Borda and his family. Carson City residents, as well as other land managers, make a point of calling staff and checking out the sheep when the band arrives in town.



Interview with PBS' America's Heartland series.
Photos taken April 2012, television broadcast
September 2012.



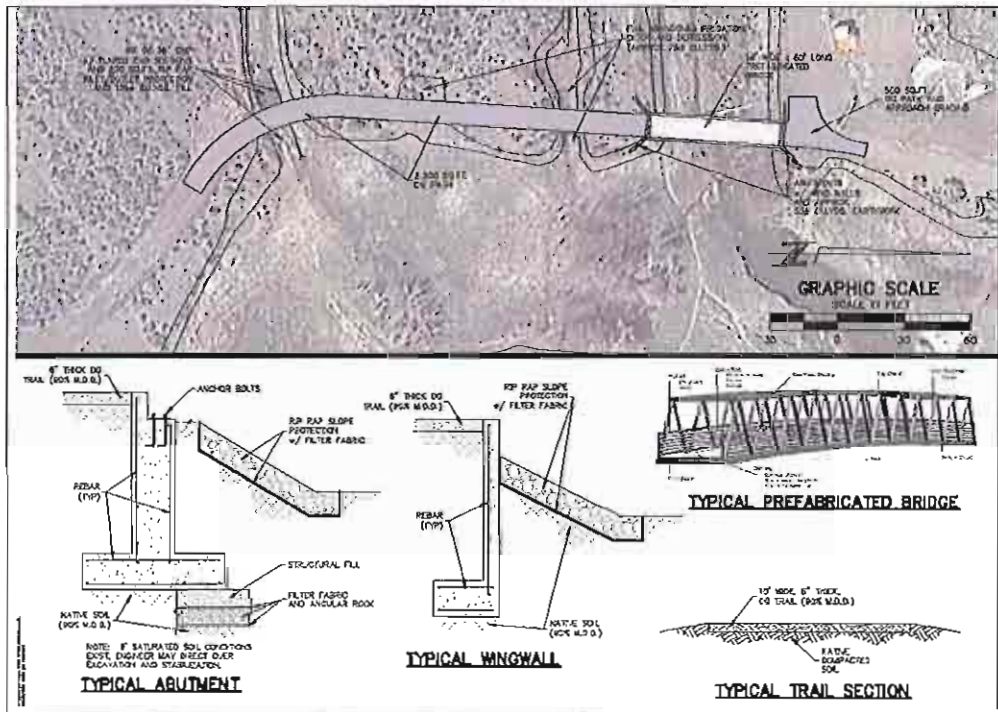
The Nevada Division of Forestry delivers water to a
band of approximately 750 sheep.

Staff was successful in completing the third annual monitoring of the 175-acre conservation easement at Horsecreek Ranch. We found no violations of the easement. Third party encroachments and trespassing incidents have subsided and vandalism at the property has been reduced. Monitoring of the easement is an annual activity in order to ascertain compliance with the terms of the transaction. It is our privilege to monitor the easement, and it is important to inform you that the stewardship account donated by the owner has a balance of \$47,875 to be used exclusively for this purpose. The following photos illustrate the areas monitored within the meadow area of Horsecreek Ranch protected by the easement.



The Horsecreek Ranch Conservation Easement protects 175 acres.

It is with great excitement that the Committee informs the Board that the Secretary of the Interior has approved our grant request for \$252,700 through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas category for the construction of two non-motorized bridges at Eagle Valley Creek and related trail extensions. These crossings will link the existing Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and Empire Ranch Trail across lands donated by the Vidler Water Company into Riverview Park. After these two crossings are completed, over 9 miles of trails adjacent to the Carson River will be linked into a system.



Eagle Valley Creek Trail Segment and Conceptual Design

Volunteers

The Open Space Advisory Committee is very pleased to report that our activities and work have immensely benefited from the contribution and assistance of volunteers and groups.

The Committee adopted a resolution thanking Mr. Dan Jacquet for his leadership and service to the Open Space Program since its inception. For over 15 years, Dan reviewed documents and provided oversight and valuable advice to staff and the Board regarding activities of the Open Space Program.

Individually, our members have been working with staff on various projects. For example, Ms. Preston arranged for a meeting with representatives from the American Motorcycle Association who were in town for a conference. Ms. Evans conducted noxious weed education activities and field work to protect our riparian forest and native habitats. Additionally, she co-hosted a work day at Riverview Park with 22 students from Portland, Oregon with the Students Today Leaders Forever program. Ms. Inversin conducted walks in our parks and open spaces and held two "Trash Mob" events, one on the east side of Silver Saddle Ranch / Carson River Park and the other on the west side of town near the lower end of Vicee Canyon.

Trash Mob

July 14, 2012
8:00 am - 9:00 am

GOAL: To gather as many people as possible to spend one hour cleaning up the Carson River area.
Please come and help us, it's only 1 hour out of your weekend.



Directions: Drive south and east on Carson River Road, over the river at Lloyd's Bridge, turn right on Sierra Vista Lane, drive 1.3 miles and follow the balloons to parking area on the right side.

Must have: closed-toe shoes

Recommendations: long pants, long sleeved shirts, and work gloves

SPONSORS: Carson City Open Space and Muscle Powered
(775) 315-6763



Katie McGibbon, our youngest volunteer, organized a couple of cleanup activities along the right-of-way of Deer Run Road from the bridge south to Sedge Road. Katie has in the past testified about one of her passions, which is protection of wild horses.

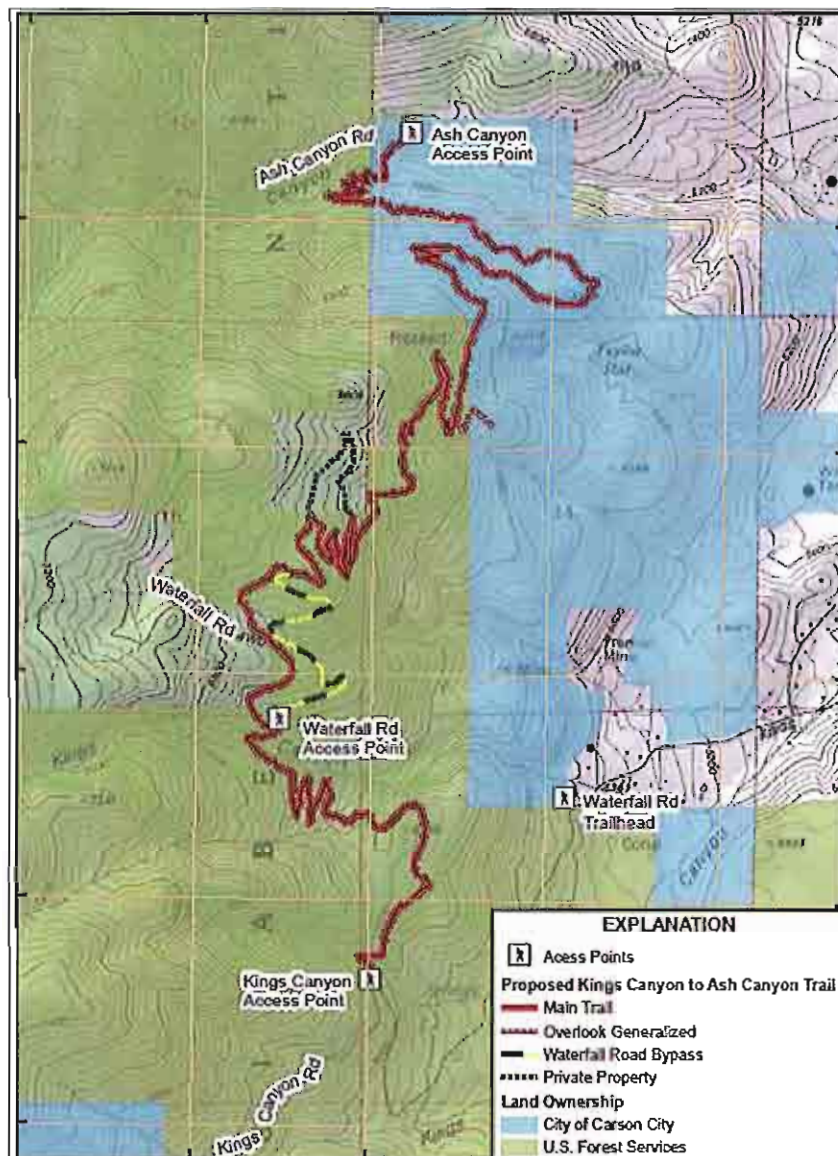


Katie McGibbon's clean-up activity on Deer Run Road.

Dr. Rob Bauter and Mr. Dick Wipfli regularly assist our full-time Park Ranger by providing a presence within open space lands. Dick and Rob particularly enjoy their tours on Ash Canyon Road and Kings Canyon Road. They wear shirts identifying them as being volunteers through the Open Space Program and they offer water and assistance to hikers and visitors. They frequently stop and introduce themselves and point to the landscape while narrating to their listeners the ownership patterns, the effects of the Waterfall Fire such as erosion, and many other subjects pertinent to the Open Space Program. Paul and Jeanine Schmidt have joined our volunteer roster. Jeanine Schmidt assists with office administrative matters while Paul fills in for our ranger on his days off, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Paul enjoys the work as a volunteer assistant ranger. He does not hesitate to get his hands dirty with picking up trash and maintaining signs, particularly at the Carson River Canyon 900-acre property. Paul's past experience as a park ranger with Nevada State Parks has been put to good use here in Carson City and we are very proud of his stewardship efforts on our lands.

One organization whose work continues to help the Open Space Program is the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR). The FOSSR have been very involved with management of lands along the Carson River, particularly the Silver Saddle Ranch. The FOSSR was also responsible for initiating the charrette process that culminated in the cohesive vision for the management of the lands along the Carson River corridor. The FOSSR has also engaged the services of a private consultant in order to increase their capacity to assist us with the management of the Silver Saddle Ranch. In December, the FOSSR hosted a holiday open house and Santa Claus provided horse-drawn carriage rides.

Muscle-Powered has been instrumental in the development of unpaved multi-purpose trails along the Carson Range. Within property owned by Carson City, Muscle-Powered developed a trail that is extremely popular with mountain bike riders around Ash Canyon. The same trail continues into lands owned by the Masonic Lodge, State of Nevada, and the University Board of Regents (Western Nevada College). Our efforts to formalize and incorporate their assistance to maintain and patrol these trails as well as providing the labor for maintenance of such facilities was approved by the Board of Supervisors in the form of an agreement. In addition and with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service Carson Ranger District, we have under the leadership of Muscle-Powered advanced the construction of a trail from Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon. After compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act in the form of an environmental assessment, Muscle-Powered began construction of this trail in portions of lands under the jurisdiction of Carson City. The Forest Service has incorporated this project into their work program and, with grant funding from the Recreation Trails Program, the Great Basin Institute was contracted to construct trail on the federal lands. We will continue to work on the development of the trail in its entirety. Lumos and Associates have provided surveying, mapping, engineering, and flood regulation compliance for the proposed creek crossings.



Trail under construction, south side



Trail finished , south side



An alternative trail route to the Waterfall in Kings Canyon began in 2010 as an Eagle Scout project. The initial segment, from the trailhead parking area at the end of the pavement on Kings Canyon Road to the Waterfall, was completed at that time. A second, upper trail segment is presently 75% developed through the assistance of the Great Basin Institute. We anticipate completing the upper trail with the help of volunteers this summer.



Upper Waterfall Trail

Since August, when data was collected, the Open Space Program received an estimated value of \$29,265 from volunteers. At minimum, 147 volunteers spent 1,555 hours on our lands, at a value of \$18.82/hour (the latest dollar value available, according www.independentsector.org).

Land Preservation

For a considerable amount of time, the Joost Land & Cattle Company and Carson City cooperated towards the management and utilization of lands located on the west side of Carson City, just west of the Long Ranch Subdivision. During the past two years, the Public Works Department and the Open Space Division of the Parks and Recreation Department joined forces in order to advance transactions that would be of mutual benefit for the parties involved. Carson City sought to control and manage access into Ash Canyon Road, as well as Ash Canyon Creek and surrounding drainage areas. An area immediately adjacent to the Wellington Crescent subdivision was sought by the Open Space Division in order to provide a linkage and access of trails from the existing V&T paved multi-purpose trail facility into the Ash Canyon environment. This transaction was sought by the Joost family in order to consolidate their ownership of parcels. It is with a great sense of accomplishment that the Open Space Advisory Committee informs the Board of Supervisors that the transaction with the Joost family resulted in 20.25 acres of open space acquired below fair market value thanks to a generous donation by the Joost family. The Public Works Department secured access and land that facilitated the construction of drainage improvements that benefit the entire west side of Carson City from flooding and erosion potential that is caused by the Ash Canyon Creek drainage. The acquired lands serve other very important purposes. They establish the edge of the developed area of Carson City, secure access into the Ash Canyon drainage, provide for the conservation of watershed lands, provide habitat, and allow for recreation of our residents and visitors.



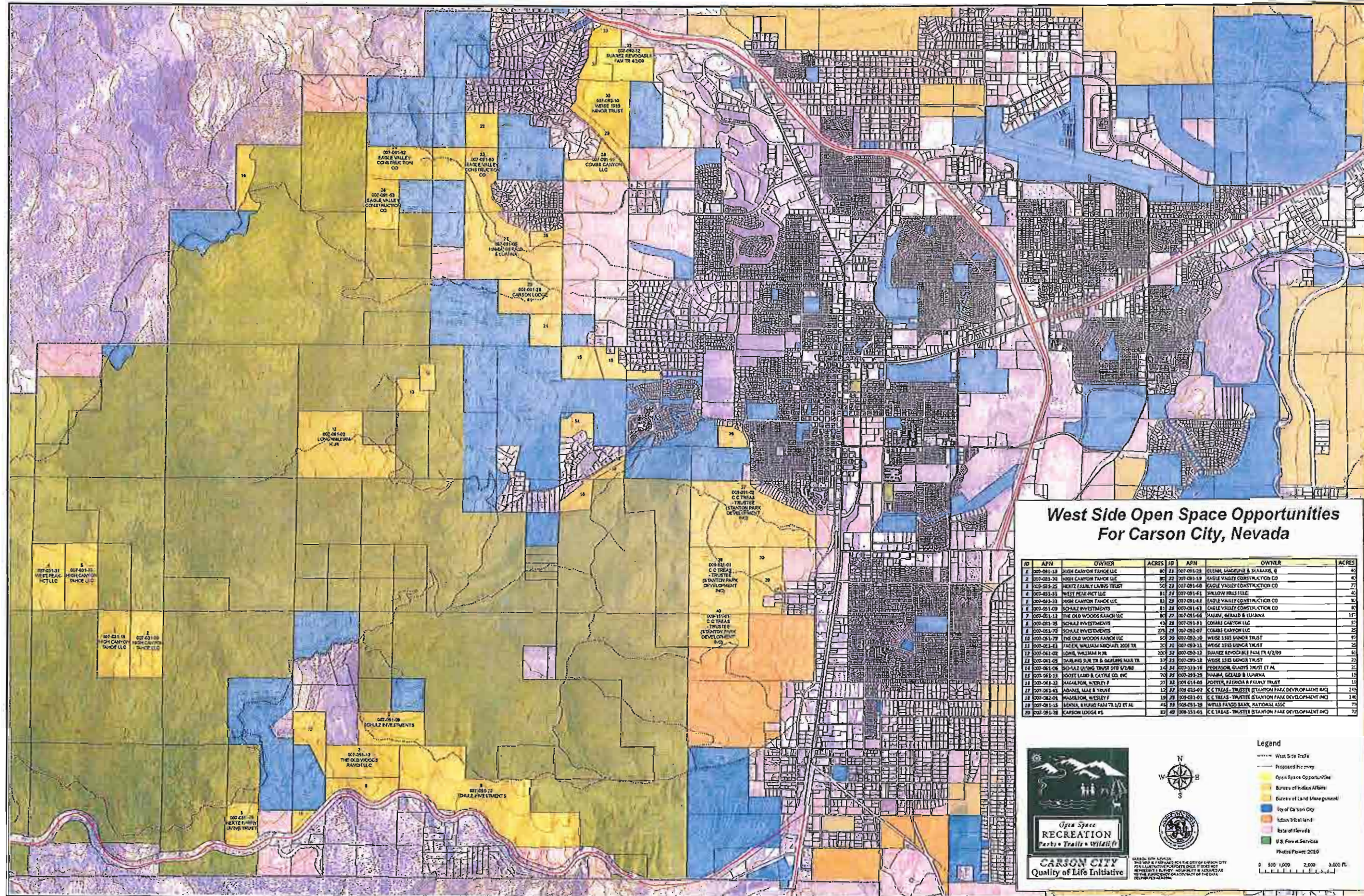
Deer grazing on the property and its scenic value.

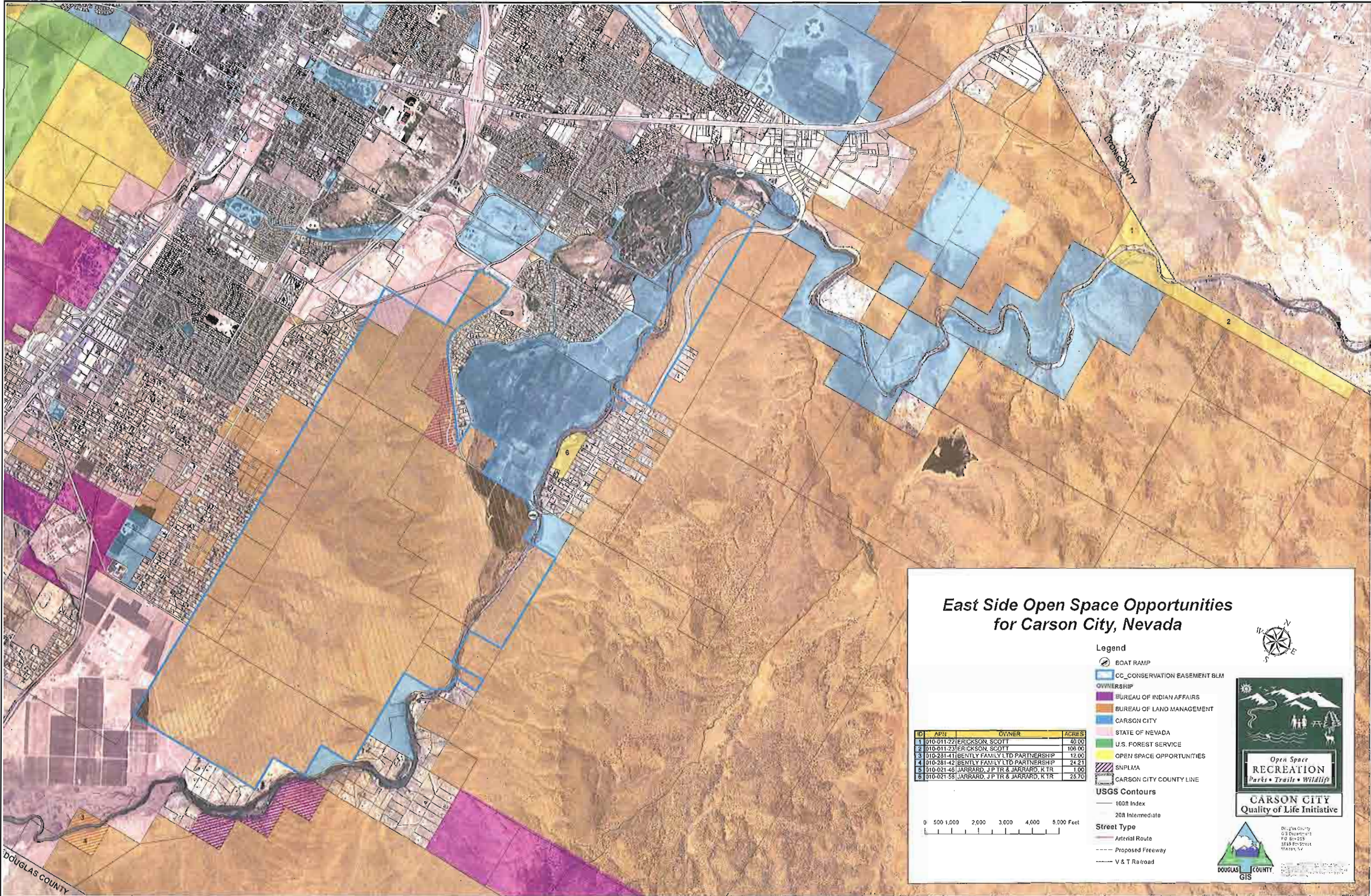


Lower Ash Canyon Open Space
Joost Land & Cattle Company Acquisition, 20.25 acres, November 2012

The following map illustrates the land ownerships within the Carson Range. Through various transactions, the former “checkerboard” pattern of land ownership of Carson City and the U.S. Forest Service lands has changed. The improved consolidation will provide better opportunities for management activities.

As part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, approximately 3,589 acres under the Bureau of Land Management will be transferred to Carson City. The transfer requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, which in turn resulted in the execution of a programmatic agreement for the management of cultural resources. The Bureau of Land Management, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Washoe Tribe, and Carson City are signatories of the agreement. The programmatic agreement identifies the protocols to be followed to assure the proper stewardship of cultural resources by Carson City on the lands subject to a conservation easement and the Bently acquisition located in the Carson River Canyon. The second map identifies Carson City lands (solid blue shading) and the lands subject to the conservation easement - Ambrose Carson River Natural Area, Prison Hill Recreation Area, and the Silver Saddle Ranch (striped blue shading).





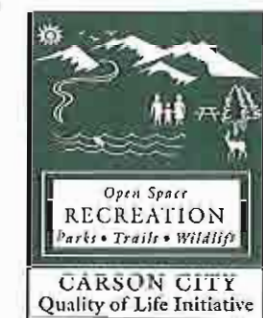
East Side Open Space Opportunities for Carson City, Nevada

ID	APN	OWNER	ACRES
1	010-011-22	ERICKSON, SCOTT	40.00
2	010-011-23	ERICKSON, SCOTT	106.00
3	010-281-41	BENTLY FAMILY LTD PARTNERSHIP	12.00
4	010-281-42	BENTLY FAMILY LTD PARTNERSHIP	24.21
5	010-021-48	JARRARD, J P TR & JARRARD, K TR	1.00
6	010-021-59	JARRARD, J P TR & JARRARD, K TR	25.70

Legend

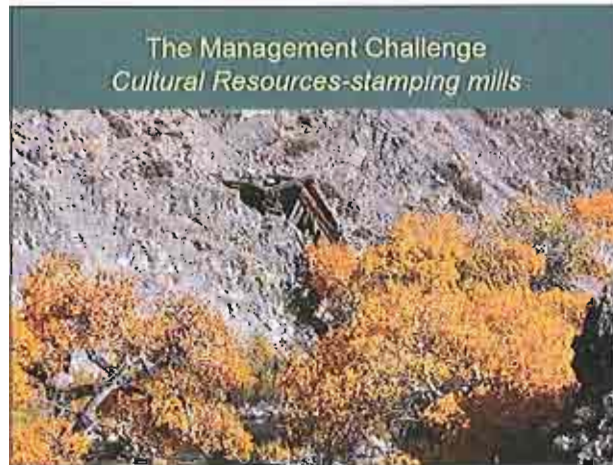
- BOAT RAMP
 - CC_CONSERVATION EASEMENT BLM OWNERSHIP
 - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
 - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 - CARSON CITY
 - STATE OF NEVADA
 - U.S. FOREST SERVICE
 - OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES
 - SNPLMA
 - CARSON CITY COUNTY LINE
- USGS Contours**
- 100R Index
 - 20R Intermediate
- Street Type**
- Arterial Route
 - Proposed Freeway
 - V & T Railroad

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 Feet

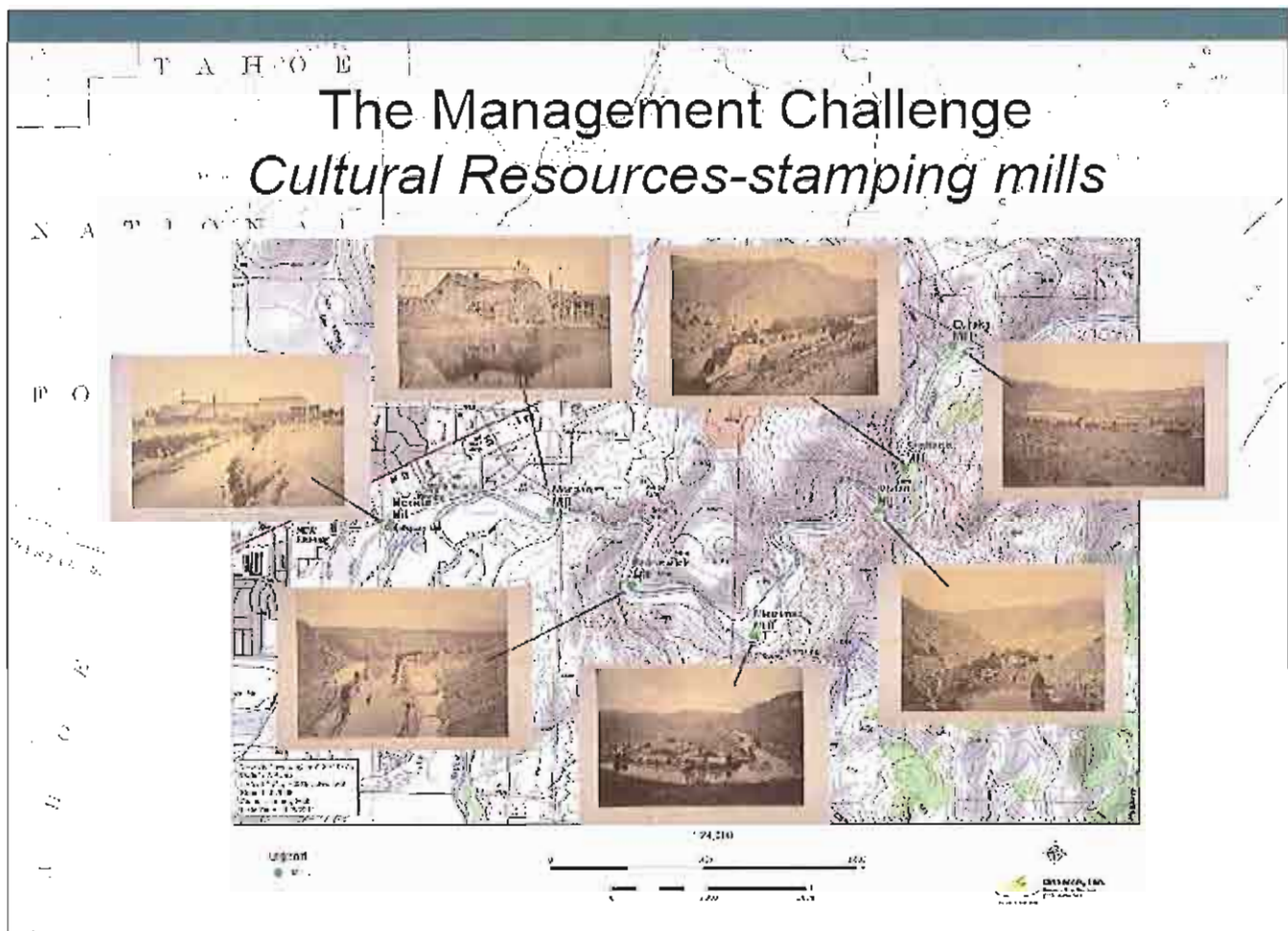


DOUGLAS COUNTY

The following slides illustrate some of the stamping mills located in the Carson River Canyon. In recognition of the Lands Bill work, Carson City received the Elmer H. Anderson Parks Excellence Project of the Year Award for 2012.



Carson River Canyon Open Space



Bently Acquisition, 497.70 acres, January 2012

Financial Considerations

In specific, one of the functions of the Open Space Advisory Committee is to provide oversight over the administration and expenditures of funds from the Open Space Division of the Quality of Life special revenue fund established by Carson City Municipal Code Section 21.07. The Section states, “The Committee shall review and provide input and comment to the City Manager’s proposed budget as it relates to Open Space matters and perform other duties as may be specifically assigned to it by the Board of Supervisors.”

Due in part to the decrease in revenue generated by the sales tax and the state of the economy, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution directing the Open Space Advisory Committee and staff, to suspend the acquisition of lands for a period of two years. Instead, we are to concentrate on management of the properties acquired through the Open Space Program.

Deliberations on budget matters involved the participation of the City’s Finance Director, City Manager, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and staff. The final budget recommendation presented to the Board of Supervisors was reviewed and recommended by the Committee. Internally, the Committee requested and has been receiving from the Parks and Recreation Department staff monthly reports as to the status of the different budget accounts that comprise the Open Space Program budget. The Committee finds that these reports are useful in providing a clear picture of the status of the program funding.

In addition and in accordance with the measures adopted by the Board of Supervisors in order to reduce expenditures, the Committee has agreed to a schedule of meetings once every other month in order to reduce administrative costs. Chapter 13.06 of the Carson City Municipal Code otherwise requires a monthly meeting.

The acquisition account has been almost depleted. Future acquisitions will be minimal at best in accordance with the Board of Supervisors’ directive and involve, by necessity, very creative thinking. Our efforts will continue to be directed towards the management of lands and the annual operations budget will reflect the shift from acquisition into stewardship. Staff has recommended that the majority of the carry over monies be placed on in the management accounts. The use of volunteers for facilitating the management of our lands is extremely important since it provides for cost efficiencies.

The Committee has spent time discussing with the City Manager and the Finance Director the internal revenue charge. Also, staff, under the direction of the Committee, has successfully sought grants and provided outside funding sources for almost all transactions conducted since the beginning of the program.

It is our pleasure to inform the Board of Supervisors that as of December 2012, approximately 3,339 acres of land have been obtained through purchases, donations, or transfers with a Question 18 cost of \$10,065,802 and additional grants for \$8,157,317 for a total of \$18,223,119. The acquisitions and related information are presented in the following table(s).

Carson City Ownership / Property Name	Acres	Date Acquired	Carson City Question 18	Grants	Grant Funding Source	Purchase Price
West of Carson Street						
Horsecreek (Kings Canyon)	374.91	May 2005	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,000,000	State of NV Question 1	\$ 2,300,000
Horsecreek conservation easement	175.33	Mar 2009	\$ 503,653	\$ 596,347	State of NV Question 1	\$ 1,100,000
Hutchinson (Kings Canyon)	40.00	Dec 2006	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	State of NV Question 1	\$ 400,000
Joost (Lower Ash Canyon)	20.25	Nov 2012	\$ 390,000	--	--	\$ 390,000
PH Casey Preserve (Combs Canyon)	77.01	Mar 2008	donation	--	--	\$ -
Wilson (Upper Ash Canyon)	111.28	Jan 2009	\$ 146,480	\$ 439,440	Forest Legacy	\$ 585,920
Open Space Acquisitions	798.78		\$ 2,293,653	\$ 1,896,347		\$ 4,190,000
+ Lands Bill (USFS Exchange, approx.)	962.44	Sep 2011			Transfer	
= Sub-Total	1,761.22		\$ 2,293,653	\$ 1,896,347		\$ 4,190,000
East of Carson Street						
Andersen (Buzzy's Ranch)	86.00	Aug 2007	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,750,000	State of NV Question 1	\$ 3,500,000
Bently (Carson River Canyon)	497.70	Jan 2012	\$ 876,796	\$ 513,900	SNPLMA	\$ 1,390,696
Desormier (Golden Eagle Lane)	19.28	Feb 2007	\$ 170,930	\$ 129,070	State of NV Question 1	\$ 300,000
Fulstone wetlands (Northridge Drive)	8.62	Aug 2001	donation	--	--	\$ -
Goni Canyon - 50 year open space protection	40.00		donation	--	--	\$ -
Jarrard (Buzzy's Ranch)	368.78	May 2010	\$ 931,048	\$ 2,793,000	State of NV Question 1	\$ 3,724,048
Lompa wetlands (Lompa Lane)	17.62	Aug 2001	donation	--	--	\$ -
Mexican Dam LLC (Mexican Dam, west side)	64.31	Mar 2008	\$ 1,650,000	--	--	\$ 1,650,000
Moffat (Fairview Drive)	17.80	Nov 2000	\$ 327,600	--	--	\$ 327,600
Serpa (Carson River Canyon)	418.77	Jan 2011	\$ 2,065,775	\$ 1,075,000	State of NV Question 1	\$ 3,140,775
Vidler (Hells Bells Road)	39.02	Nov 2010	donation	--	--	\$ -
Open Space Acquisitions	1,577.90		\$ 7,772,149	\$ 6,260,970		\$ 14,033,119
+ Lands Bill (BLM Exchange), approx.	3,589.05	Pending			Transfer	
= Sub-Total	5,166.95		\$ 7,772,149	\$ 6,260,970		\$ 14,033,119
Grand Totals						
Open Space Acquisitions	2,376.68		\$ 10,065,802	\$ 8,157,317		\$ 18,223,119
Lands Bill	4,551.49					
Total Acres	6,928.17		\$ 10,065,802	\$ 8,157,317		\$ 18,223,119

On behalf of our Committee and staff, thank you very much for the opportunity to present this report.