

Agenda Item 3C

Vern Krahn - Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail

From: Ann Bollinger
To: Bollinger, Ann; Guzman, Juan; Moellendorf, Roger
Date: 1/26/2012 4:24 PM
Subject: Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail
CC: Morris, Daniel; Wilson, Genny
Attachments: Ash to Kings_Trails_final_scoping.pdf;
USFSProposedTrailScopeMap_PageSize_Roads_Reduced_2.pdf

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. Most of the trail will be located on Forest Service lands and some will be on Carson City lands. The project proposes to construct approximately 6 miles of single-track trail designed for non-motorized uses including mountain biking, hiking and equestrian between Ash Canyon and Kings Canyon. Trail access points will be Kings Canyon Road, Waterfall Road, and Ash Canyon Road as shown on the attached map. The second attachment provides more information.

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

Additionally, feel free to contact me or Dan Morris at the Forest Service.

Ann Bollinger
Natural Resource Specialist
Carson City Parks and Recreation Dept, Open Space Division
3303 Butti Way, Bldg #9
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: (775) 887-2262 ext. 7337
Fax: (775) 887-2145

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

Comment Form

For Official Use Only

Comment #: _____

Date Received: _____

Logged in by: _____

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:

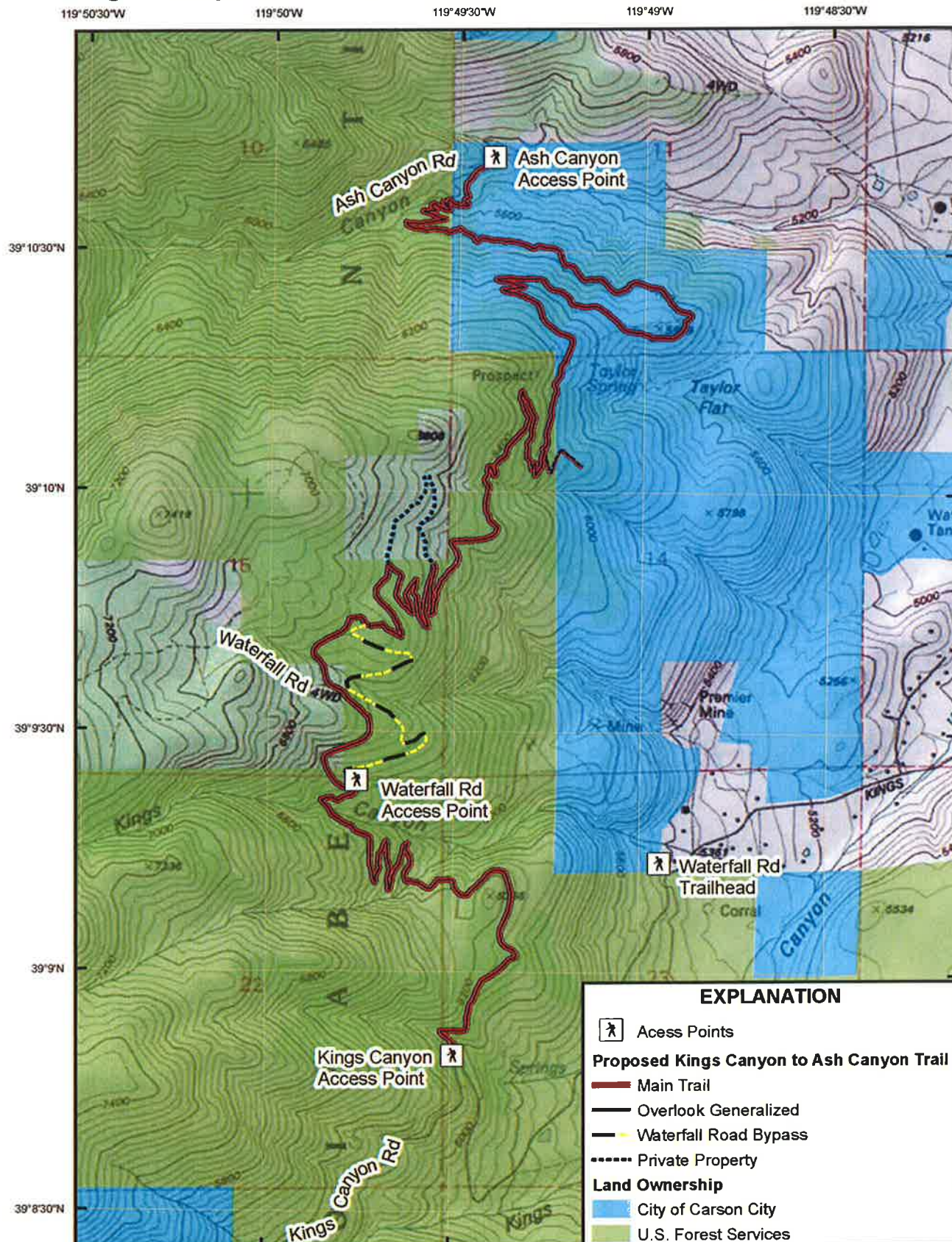
Please check all that apply...

_____ **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.arcgisonline.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

CARVING A PATH

City and volunteers plan trail through west Carson mountains

BY TERI VANCE
tvance@nevadaappeal.com

In the super-abridged version of the story, Jeff Potter complained to city supervisors in 2006 that more mountain bike trails were needed in the area.

Their response: Then do it. Of course, it wasn't that simple. There was the master plan to consult. Permits needed to be acquired. Plans needed to be drawn up.

But after years of working with Carson City's open-space manager, Juan Guzman, to negotiate with city, state and federal agencies as well as private property owners, the plan is starting to take shape.

Max Jones, who owns Spooner Lake Cross Country and Flume Trail Mountain Bikes, lent his expertise to determining three routes connecting Kings Canyon to Ash Canyon.

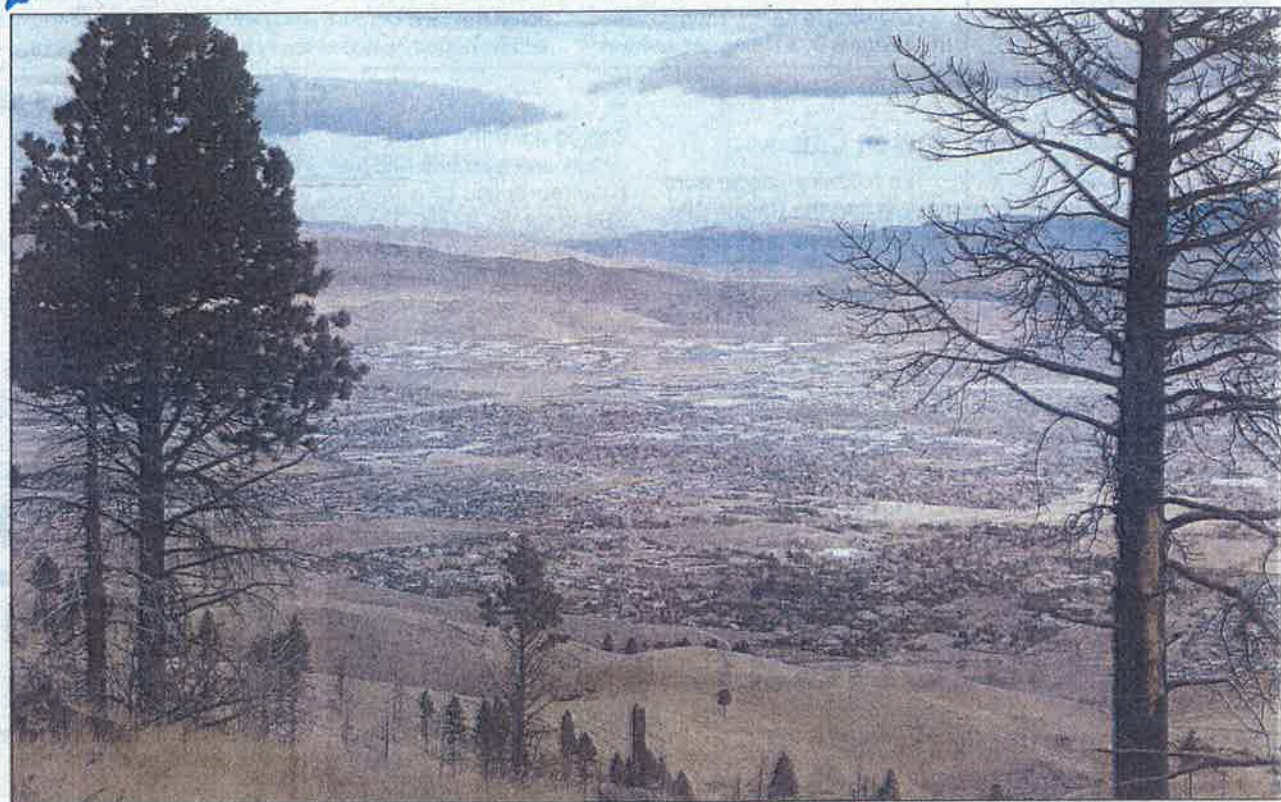
Potter said they settled on the mid-line route, traversing seven miles along the east-facing slopes of the mountains. It begins around 5,600 feet and climbs 1,100 feet to the highest point of 6,700 feet. The average grade is 6 percent.

Potter said it was an easy decision.



"This is for everybody. All skill levels."

— JEFF POTTER
Trail volunteer



PHOTOS BY SHANNON LITZ / NEVADA APPEAL

TOP PHOTO: Jeff Potter shows the proposed path of the multi-use trail plan that he helped to launch in 2006 with a simple request for more mountain-biking routes. Volunteers are working with city officials to complete a seven-mile-long trail traversing the east-facing slopes of the Sierra Nevada. **ABOVE:** A view of Carson City from the highest point along the trail between Kings Canyon and Ash Canyon. The trail begins around 5,600 feet and climbs 1,100 feet to the highest point of 6,700 feet.

"If this was the only trail I could put in, it would be a killer trail," he said. "Plus, we had fewer obstacles with this

option."

He said the gradual ascents with some steep climbs will make the trail a

challenge for the experienced mountain biker while still being accessible to the novice.

"This is for everybody," Potter said. "All skill levels."

See **Trail**, Page **A7**

TRAIL

From Page A1

The trail also will be open for other non-motorized use, like hikers and equestrians.

While there are some trails now in the hills of east Carson City, they are what's known as non-system trails. They don't connect in a meaningful way and may not have the proper permits.

The trail, with access points in Kings Canyon and Ash Canyon, will make sense to users, Guzman said.

"It's from a very well-known point to another well-known point," he said.

It also could draw other outdoor enthusiasts to the area, Guzman said.

"This is the kind of thing that people will drive thousands of miles to come and experience," he said. "We have a hidden spot here. People do not realize what a unique place this is. The Sierra Nevada is just spectacular."

Potter said while users will be able to begin at either point, he imagines most will prefer to begin from the Kings Canyon side and climb about 2.5 miles to the highest point.

Once there, they'll be on an outcropping with views of the entire city, along with Job's Peak, the Sweetwater Range and Washoe Lake.

From there, it will a 5.5-mile descent into Ash Canyon. Along the way, there will be other overlooks for users to take in the view.

Work on the trail is expected to begin in the spring and could take up to five years to be fully complete.

Guzman said he appreciates the dedication and expertise of volunteers like Potter.

"This is the perfect use of our lands," he said. "This corner of Nevada is just fantastic."



PHOTOS BY SHANNON LITZ / NEVADA APPEAL

Carson official Juan Guzman talks about the trail project.



LEFT: Juan Guzman and Jeff Potter walk along a trail in Ash Canyon.



Pink ribbons mark what will become the trail from Kings Canyon to Ash Canyon.



This view is looking east toward Carson City from Ash Canyon.

"This is the perfect use of our lands. This corner of Nevada is just fantastic."

— JUAN GUZMAN
Carson City's open-space manager