# **APPENDIX E:**

## 4/24/08 Public Workshop Summary

#### CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION SILVER SADDLE RANCH & THE CARSON RIVER AREA A Community Design Charrette

## Summary: Public Workshop #1 April 24, 2008 6:30-8:30 p.m. Carson City Senior Citizens Center

Workshop participants were asked to divide into six small groups and discuss the following questions:

- What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?
- How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?
- What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?
- What would you like to see there in the future? Are there any ideas or projects you have seen successfully implemented in other locations that you feel would work here? Please give details and tell why they would work here.

Input was recorded by each group (*Attachment A: Small Group Discussion Notes*). At the end, each group was asked to share a summary of their group's ideas. Once each group reported back to the room, participants were asked to reflect on the input from that portion of the workshop. First, participants were asked to identify common themes where there was general agreement. The group identified the following:

- Keep it natural, undeveloped
- Less is more—limit development/improvements
- Educational opportunities
- Trail access

Participants were then asked to identify where there were key differences of opinion or potential areas of conflict, and the group noted the following:

- Levels of development
- Mix of uses
- Motorized vs. non-motorized
- Impacts of use to property owners (i.e. recreation and landowner interface areas)
- Noise and habitat impacts
- Water activity access points

The following is an unedited, direct transcription of the group notes that were taken during this session.

## Group A

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Awesome-undisturbed, easy to reach, undeveloped/limited development
- Level 4 birdwatching—increasing to Level 5
- Only river in Carson City (unique)
- Historic landscape
- Historic cultural resources
- Continguous
- Viewshed high
- Maintain undeveloped floodplain
- Education/outdoor classroom
- Rafting friendly (safety, portage around Mexican Dam)
- Horse activities
- Trails-trailhead/paths designated

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Quiet, small activities (individual/small group)
- Protect natural resources/wildlife corridor/river
- Environmental education-watershed
- Release area for community
- Undisturbed
- Quality of life—access to river, wildlife habitat
- Unique-appreciate passive recreation
- Contains city water resources
- Watershed function: basis of (Carson River, drainages, floodplains)
- Economic positive
- Escape from developed area (quick access)

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Designated wildlife protection areas and riparian protection area
- Signage—river dangers, environmental education, environmental safety (snakes)
- No large events
- No commercial activities
- Noise/air quality concerns (ATV/VT)
- No new land disturbance (ex. Parking)

- SSR—keep closed in evening
- Nothing new-status quo
- Master plan—environmental protection
- E-4 Creating a Community Vision: Silver Saddle Ranch & the Carson River

- School programs-PA
- Interpretative river rafting trips (historic, bioengineering on river, etc.)
- No commercial activities
- Wildlife, natural vegetation
- Working ranch
- Environmental center to support one classroom
- No OHV extension use
- Horses on east side of river

#### Group B

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Concerns about OHV (enforcement for existing)
- Asking areas near residential not have OHV
- Better/safer trails in south near Mexican Dam
- Prohibition of any motorized vehicle in river during low period
- Hunting/trapping/trail conflicts

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Area to much to deal with:
  - Ranch: Strongly don't want organized events (no rendevoux, rodeo, cars, etc.)
  - Want it to stay as is

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Where do you allow OHV
- Environmentally sensitive development (trails, etc.)
- Dumping of junk in area
- Designate trials for individual users—i.e. bikes, horses, foot trail along river
- If trail across Empire Ranch, old barbed wire
- Concerns about look of new pump station
- Allowing dogs in all areas

- Continue people oriented-walking, health, smaller events
- Healthy function system
- Mixed use/management habitat important
- Access for horses (especially after freeway)
- Tahoe—separate and marked trails as example
- Successful, sustainable agricultural operation

## Group C

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What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Too much of Nevada "eaten up" ٠
- Like the views—don't want destroyed
- What's the "Say No" perspective?
- Ownership stay public, how do we pay for development of parks/facilities?
- Keep Silver Saddle Ranch as open diverse open area

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Well integrated while keeping as wild as possible with good river access •
- Develop so that seniors accessible/free •
- Share the river with groups alienated from nature (youth education, rehabilitation)
- Appreciate accessibility for all, handicap too
- Balance development to respect wildlife with recreation • Keep it wild and undeveloped with wild horses and coyotes

  - Improve hiking signage with mileage information
- Natural re with variety: hiking, flat areas, canoe, strenuous hills... •
- Diversity of habitat •
- Nature centers contiguous to urban areas and field trips
- Great Carson City field trip potential
- Attractive for visitors/quality of life •
- One of four rivers, we must protect it •
- Keep area natural and healthy •
- Weed free
- Area for passive recreation
- Monitor for uses—OHV, parties, etc. via neighborhood watch. •
- It takes all users to maintain. Focus on education for users.

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Maintenance
- On-site supervision/ranger
- Gate after dark
- Maintain dirt roads
- Restricted access
- Increase partners=improved funding opportunities
- Endowment to help protect in perpetuity •
- Protection as a nature area in perpetuity •

- Low impact river use with inner tubes, canoes, hang-out
- Some trails with wheelchair access
- Modest nature center near SSR buildings
- River rehabilitation (willows, cottonwoods, etc.)
- FEYA on American River—on County Land nice example
- White Pine County cross country area •

- Fund a marketing plan for community education
- Cultivate community by sharing the special values of Silver Saddle Ranch
- Re-engage neighbors—beautiful flyer
- Broaden advertisement scope/radio
- Involve kids at school/Rotary, Kiwanis
- Example: Rogue River, Grants Pass, OR

## Group D

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Fabulous—why we live there
- Open spaces—why we use it
- Scenic
- Open country but near town
- Hidden, protected
- Ability to conduct equestrian business
- Concerned about lack of access—knowing what is private and what is public...what is public? High water mark vs. private? where can you access the river? Need clarification.
- Wildlife and variety of uses/creation
- Large and diverse enough areas for many uses/different forms of recreation

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Close to City for people to go to
- It's own world. We want to keep it the way it is.
- Concern-developed regional park concept—amphitheater, etc.
- Good example is Bartley Ranch (hybrid)
- Spreading uses out will be beneficial (Riverview Park is having a lot of use, especially in mornings and after work hours)
- Agree with Carson River Park Plan—not overbuild it
- Important to keep irrigation at Silver Saddle Ranch

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Connecting trail/loop trails. Some single tracks
- Keep OHV access at south Prison Hill area. But need better clarification/signage
- Can utility bridge be covered with rubber matting [for equestrian use]
- Silver Saddle Ranch---want long term irrigation arrangements

What would you like to see there in the future? Are there any ideas or projects you have seen successfully implemented in other locations that you feel would work here? Please give details and tell why they would work here.

## **Group E**

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Area of open space/recreation "in town"-options of flat/hilly, all ages
- Asset to community with access
- Important environmental area—e.g. floodplain

- Wildlife generator, "green" areas
- Dark sky (star watching)
- Could be development pressure
- Concern with safety—e.g. drug use, homeless
- Fire protect—concern on maintenance funding

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Psychological "safety valve"
- Positive asset—image, pride
- Potential economic asset (quality of life)
- Educational asset
- History: ranches, Washoe history, river

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Segregate some uses: e.g. motorized/nonmotorized
- Define limits between use better
- More defined trails and variety
- Preservation and interpretation of historic resources
- Interpretive center
- Natural environment
- Keep trails natural (but accessible)
- Maintain agricultural and riparian lands

- Outreach to educational institutes of resource
- River trails—Colorado and Idaho examples e.g. Crested Butte
- Wildlife observation platforms
- Camping events, limited—e.g. Boy Scouts
- Bring V&T down river corridor—Wagon Road from V&T terminal to Silver Saddle Ranch
- Mange motorized Prison Hill area better; opportunity for education use, beginners—define trials, area better
- Improve mountain bike trails (both sides of Prison Hill)
- River Trails plan implementation
- Improve fishing
- Edmonds Drive side: keep non motorized access:
  - Control access better; e.g. signs
  - More parking (lower for better access)
- Trails to meet demand
- Protect nesting areas

## Group F

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

- Happy with current management, lack of development
- Need more bicycle facilities including commuter
- Good open space connections
- Concerns: use of effluent, light pollution
- Good equestrian facilities
- Potential to expand project to Douglas County line
- Potential for economic and tourist
- Not enough horse trailer at Silver Saddle Ranch
- Safety is a concern

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

- Natural resource, especially river
  - Include sustainable river system
  - Recreational opportunities
- Trails

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

- Limited improvements
- Not every use on every area
- Future thoughts to replace Brunswick Canyon bridge
- First impressions and reasons for protection
- Potential user conflicts

- Moab, UT-recreational examples
- Reno—Bartley Ranch (to some extent)
- Wildlife, including habitat
- American River Park (Sacramento), paved river trail in Boise
- Carson Valley Trails Association—proposal for west side of valley
- Opportunities for hunting?

## **Comment cards**

The following comments were provided on comment cards during the meeting:

1	<ol> <li>Comment received</li> <li>1. I see a great need to set up a permanent funding source for maintenance</li> <li>2. This should be a fine source for developing community involvement and pride.</li> <li>3. Need a very stringent legal set-aside so the area can't ever be developed.</li> </ol>
2	One agency (i.e. Carson City) should not own all this land. Carson City should only acquire the private land. However, the Federal land should stay Federal. Have all the land with Carson City would cause too much of burden on the tax payer of Carson City.
3	<ol> <li>Possible hunting should be considered (maybe even during limited days/weeks/ months) goose/duck/archery hunting, blinds, dove hunting</li> <li>Mountain bike trail should connect from Silver Saddle Ranch to Mexican Dam and safely through the OHV area on the south side of Prison Hill (so trail would be on river's Westside)</li> <li>OHV parking s/b considered at the east end of Sedge Street and minimal use of BLM hillside north of Sedge St. to the Deer Run Rd. bridge S/B/ a management priority (to maintain "wild" view from river)</li> </ol>
4	Consider using the area between Edmonds, E. Fifth and Carson River Road at the north end of Prison Hill as a "test" area for OHVs (since that is what it is being used for now).
5	<ol> <li>Need non-motorized access for as many neighborhoods as possible—non motorized crossing for south Carson.</li> <li>Safety for residents needs priority.</li> <li>Need resource specific trail planning</li> <li>Have concerns about application of effluent to fields—toxins in forage</li> <li>Want dark skies—no night time lighting</li> <li>How bout better looking well houses</li> <li>People enjoy seeing peacocks next to Carson River Rd.</li> </ol>
6	<ol> <li>Wild horses help with fire fuel control</li> <li>Trailer parking needs to be accommodated at Silver Saddle Ranch and Ambrose</li> <li>Don't like idea for V&amp;T—too noisy, wagon trail okay</li> </ol>
7	We need a larger buffer between where ATVs and motorized vehicles can go and where residents live esp. on south side of Prison Hill. ATVs go onto private land and are very fast down Eagle Lane all the time.
8	<ol> <li>Horses allowed only on east side of river—with appropriate pull outs. Access to BLM lands (not in [<i>not legible</i>] recreation area)</li> <li>Keep ranch undisturbed</li> <li>Organized activities/commercial activities forbidden</li> <li>No commercial activities</li> <li>Keep horses in area which do not conflict with hikers or "undisturbed" areas and riparian protection</li> <li>Only small groups/individual use—no large groups</li> <li>Need intensive management and enforcement</li> </ol>

## 9 Carson Disc Golf Course: Carson River Park

- Low impact on environment
- Trash container every 6 holes (6,12,18-concessions)
- Low maintenance
- Fee/rebate
- Parking needed for fire access
- Wood frame tee boxes/rubber mats
- Worldwide association with more than 10,000 courses
- Website in place
- Zeypher Cove closest
- Concessions—disc, soda, minimum wage \$ no increase
- Volunteer committee
- 7000' length/10 acres—work to build all year round/or close Jan-March if muddy
- All ages
- Wildlife enthusiasts-viewing
- Tourism/winter enthusiasts
- State-up/hole sponsorship in beginning form local businesses
- Installation of course, low impact
- Low stat up fee under \$15,000—course only. Low damage if river floods
- Mexican Dam south—64 acres parcel parking could tie in with other access points

## All Groups' Comments Combined for Each Question

For each question, all groups' input was consolidated and then sorted into themes to facilitate development of a vision statement and draft goals.

What are you impressions of the "Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River" area?

## Character

- Awesome-undisturbed, easy to reach, undeveloped/limited development
- Fabulous—why we live there
- Keep Silver Saddle Ranch as open diverse open area
- Open spaces—why we use it
- Open country but near town
- Area of open space/recreation "in town"—options of flat/hilly, all ages
- Hidden, protected
- Too much of Nevada "eaten up"
- Large and diverse enough areas for many uses/different forms of recreation
- Continguous
- Good open space connections
- Potential to expand project to Douglas County line
- Could be development pressure

## Wildlife

- Level 4 birdwatching—increasing to Level 5
- Wildlife generator, "green" areas
- Wildlife and variety of uses/creation

## River & floodplain

- Only river in Carson City (unique)
- Maintain undeveloped floodplain
- Important environmental area—e.g. floodplain
- Rafting friendly (safety, portage around Mexican Dam)

## Historic/cultural resources

- Historic landscape
- Historic cultural resources

## Visual/scenic quality

- Viewshed high
- Like the views—don't want destroyed
- Scenic
- Dark sky (star watching)

## Education/interpretation

• Education/outdoor classroom

## **Equestrian use**

- Horse activities
- Good equestrian facilities
- Not enough horse trailer at Silver Saddle Ranch

## OHV Use

• Concerns about OHV (enforcement for existing)

- Asking areas near residential not have OHV
- Prohibition of any motorized vehicle in river during low period

## Trails & Access

- Trails-trailhead/paths designated
- Asset to community with access
- Better/safer trails in south near Mexican Dam
- Concerned about lack of access—knowing what is private and what is public...what is public? High water mark vs. private? where can you access the river? Need clarification.
- Hunting/trapping/trail conflicts
- Need more bicycle facilities including commuter

## Safety

- Concern with safety—e.g. drug use, homeless
- Safety is a concern

## Management

- Fire protect—concern on maintenance funding
- Ownership stay public, how do we pay for development of parks/facilities?
- Happy with current management, lack of development
- Concerns: use of effluent, light pollution

## **Economic impacts**

- Ability to conduct equestrian business
- Potential for economic and tourist

How do you see this area relating to the rest of Carson City (physically, how it functions for the community, how it relates to the broader environment, etc.)?

## Education/interpretation

- Environmental education-watershed
- Nature centers contiguous to urban areas and field trips
- Great Carson City field trip potential
- Educational asset
- History: ranches, Washoe history, river

## Natural resource protection

- Protect natural resources/wildlife corridor/river
- Undisturbed
- Well integrated while keeping as wild as possible with good river access
- Diversity of habitat

## Watershed/river protection

- Contains city water resources
- Watershed function: basis of (Carson River, drainages, floodplains)
- One of four rivers, we must protect it
- Natural resource, especially river
  - Include sustainable river system
  - Recreational opportunities

## Natural, passive character

- Quiet, small activities (individual/small group)
- Unique-appreciate passive recreation

- Balance development to respect wildlife with recreation
- Keep it wild and undeveloped with wild horses and coyotes
- Keep area natural and healthy
- Natural re with variety: hiking, flat areas, canoe, strenuous hills...
- Area for passive recreation
- Want it to stay as is
- It's own world. We want to keep it the way it is.
- Concern-developed regional park concept—amphitheater, etc.
- Spreading uses out will be beneficial (Riverview Park is having a lot of use, especially in mornings and after work hours)
- Agree with Carson River Park Plan—not overbuild it

## Quality of Life/social, psychological benefits

- Quality of life—access to river, wildlife habitat
- Release area for community
- Escape from developed area (quick access)
- Share the river with groups alienated from nature (youth education, rehabilitation)
- Attractive for visitors/quality of life
- Psychological "safety valve"
- Positive asset—image, pride

#### Trails

- Improve hiking signage with mileage information
- Trails

#### Accessibility

- Develop so that seniors accessible/free
- Appreciate accessibility for all, handicap too
- Close to City for people to go to

#### **Economic impacts**

- Economic positive
- Potential economic asset (quality of life)

#### Management

- It takes all users to maintain. Focus on education for users.
- Weed free
- Monitor for uses—OHV, parties, etc. via neighborhood watch.
- Ranch: Strongly don't want organized events (no rendevoux, rodeo, cars, etc.)
- Important to keep irrigation at Silver Saddle Ranch

What are some important things that should be considered for planning and design of this area (i.e. issues, concerns, opportunities) and why?

## Natural resource protection/management

- Designated wildlife protection areas and riparian protection area
- Noise/air quality concerns (ATV/VT)
- No new land disturbance (ex. Parking)
- Environmentally sensitive development (trails, etc.)
- Protection as a nature area in perpetuity
- Natural environment
- First impressions and reasons for protection

## Trails

- Where do you allow OHV
- Designate trials for individual users—i.e. bikes, horses, foot trail along river
- If trail across Empire Ranch, old barbed wire
- Keep OHV access at south Prison Hill area. But need better clarification/signage
- Segregate some uses: e.g. motorized/nonmotorized
- Define limits between use better
- Connecting trail/loop trails. Some single tracks
- More defined trails and variety
- Future thoughts to replace Brunswick Canyon bridge
- Can utility bridge be covered with rubber matting [for equestrian use]
- Potential user conflicts
- Keep trails natural (but accessible)

## Management issues

- Signage—river dangers, environmental education, environmental safety (snakes)
- No large events
- No commercial activities
- Allowing dogs in all areas
- Maintenance
- Dumping of junk in area
- On-site supervision/ranger
- Gate after dark
- Maintain dirt roads
- Restricted access
- Silver Saddle Ranch---want long term irrigation arrangements
- Maintain agricultural and riparian lands

## Funding/partnerships

- Increase partners=improved funding opportunities
- Endowment to help protect in perpetuity

## Development/improvements

- Concerns about look of new pump station
- Limited improvements
- Not every use on every area

## Education/interpretation

- Preservation and interpretation of historic resources
- Interpretive center

What would you like to see there in the future? Are there any ideas or projects you have seen successfully implemented in other locations that you feel would work here? Please give details and tell why they would work here.

## Keep it mostly the way it is

• Nothing new-status quo

## Working ranch/agricultural uses

- Working ranch
- Successful, sustainable agricultural operation

## Natural resource protection

• Master plan—environmental protection

- Wildlife, natural vegetation
- Healthy function system
- Mixed use/management habitat important
- River rehabilitation (willows, cottonwoods, etc.)
- Protect nesting areas
- Wildlife, including habitat

## **Recreation uses**

- No OHV extension use
- Horses on east side of river
- Continue people oriented-walking, health, smaller events
- Access for hoses (especially after freeway)
- Low impact river use with inner tubes, canoes, hang-out
- Some trails with wheelchair access
- Wildlife observation platforms
- Camping events, limited—e.g. Boy Scouts
- Mange motorized Prison Hill area better; opportunity for education use, beginners—define trials, area better
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- Trails to meet demand
- Carson Valley Trails Association—proposal for west side of valley
- Opportunities for hunting?

## Education/interpretation

- School programs-PA
- Environmental center to support one classroom
- Interpretative river rafting trips (historic, bioengineering on river, etc.)
- Modest nature center near SSR buildings
- Fund a marketing plan for community education

## Management

- SSR—keep closed in evening
- No commercial activities

## **Community engagement**

- Cultivate community by sharing the special values of Silver Saddle Ranch
- Re-engage neighbors—beautiful flyer
- Broaden advertisement scope/radio
- Involve kids at school/Rotary, Kiwanis
- Outreach to educational institutes of resource

## V&T

• Bring V&T down river corridor—Wagon Road from V&T terminal to Silver Saddle Ranch

## Specific Examples of Parks/Natural Areas/Trails

- American River Park (Sacramento), paved river trail in Boise
- Moab, UT-recreational examples
- Reno—Bartley Ranch (to some extent)
- River trails—Colorado and Idaho examples e.g. Crested Butte

- Example: Rogue River, Grants Pass, OR
- Tahoe—separate and marked trails as example
- FEYA on American River—on County Land nice example
- White Pine County cross country area
- Good example is Bartley Ranch (hybrid)

#### **Comment cards**

- Consider using the area between Edmonds, E. Fifth and Carson River Road at the north end of Prison Hill as a "test" area for OHVs (since that is what it is being used for now).
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- OHV parking s/b considered at the east end of Sedge Street and minimal use of BLM hillside north of Sedge St. to the Deer Run Rd. bridge S/B/ a management priority (to maintain "wild" view from river)

## **Common themes discussion**

Following presentations of the breakout groups' work, participants were asked to reflect on the input from that portion of the workshop:

What were some common themes where there seems to be some general agreement?

- Keep it natural, undeveloped
- Less is more
- Educational opportunities
- Trail access

Are there any areas of potential conflict between what folks want to see?

- Levels of development
- Mix of uses
- Motorized vs. non-motorized
- Impacts of use to property owners (i.e. recreation and landowner interface areas)
- Noise impacts—atrium (also habitat impacts)
- Water activity access points
- Evaluate river