



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 15, 2019

Staff Contact: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Activities, projects, and grants located on Open Space properties within the Carson River area

Staff Summary: See below

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Buzzy's Ranch Conservation Plan

Staff are working with consultants to develop a conservation plan for the Old Buzzy's Ranch property related to water rights. The property will be extensively surveyed in order to identify which areas of the ranch are most productive, which areas are naturally receiving the most water, and which areas will need to be restored to a more natural condition after they are no longer irrigated. One goal of the plan is to work to maintain the aesthetics of the ranch, keeping the fields green if possible. As a component of this project, test plots will be established in order to evaluate the most successful rehabilitation strategy to be employed. Strategies include interseeding, plow and plant, or increasing irrigation efficiency by updating irrigation infrastructure. On April 4th, scientists from the Agricultural Research Service joined RCI on a site visit. They were asked to provide recommendations and may continue with follow-up monitoring and research.

Carson City Weed Coalition

Carson City Weed Coalition (CCWC) Coordinator, Maremma Disbro is working diligently to prepare treatment calendars for the spring and summer of 2019. This season, the CCWC is working to utilize integrated pest management (IPM) strategies as much as possible in the treatment areas to maximize efficacy, so both mechanical and chemical treatments on noxious weed populations will be utilized whenever possible.

Additionally, Maremma is working to develop education and outreach materials to aid the public in identifying and treating noxious weeds on their properties. Attached is an example from a pamphlet Maremma created on Yellow Starthistle. She will work to create an informational pamphlet for all of our main species of concern in Carson City and will distribute them at the Library, City Hall and at education and outreach events.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

In February, Open Space was awarded \$10,000 from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Dream Tags Charitable Fund Grant to support a large scale revegetation effort in Carson River Canyon. Originally \$29,486 was requested, but only partial funding was awarded. Open Space will be allocating a matching amount of \$9,800 (cash match and in-kind) in order to leverage awarded funds further. Plateau herbicide treatments will take place this spring to prevent cheatgrass establishment and the aerial reseeding will be

completed in winter 2019. Vegetation and photo point monitoring will take place prior to Plateau application and re-seeding to evaluate success.

Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections (SNPLMA)

Many aspects of this project are progressing. On April 4th, the Board of Supervisors awarded the trail design and project management components to Lumos and Associates. Six firms responded to the Request for Qualifications. A review committee consisting of five people selected Lumos and Associates as the most qualified firm. A draft/tentative schedule is attached.

Simultaneously, the work for the archeological surveys is estimated to begin in April 2019. Additionally, Open Space is working with local consultants to conduct spring avian surveys to assess bird populations and potential impacts. Surveys will take place in April and May. With this information, as well as data from a wetland delineation survey - to be completed in April as well - staff will be able to evaluate the most suitable and sustainable alignment for the trail segment that connects Carson River Park to Riverview Park.

Events (Carson River area and elsewhere)

Date	Event	Location
Sat, April 6	Ascent Physical Winter Trail Run Series	C-Hill / Long Ranch Park
Mon, April 8	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch
Thurs, April 11	Movie Filming	Waterfall
Fri, April 13	Trash Dash	Prison Hill, motorized
Thu, April 18	Wells Fargo Adopt-a-Trail Clean-up	Mexican Ditch Trail
Sat, April 20	Escape from Prison Hill race	Silver Saddle Ranch & Prison Hill
Sat, April 20	Wildflower Walk	Kings Canyon @ Carlisle Court
Mon, April 22	Earth Day Wetland Education with the Boys and Girls Club	Fulstone Wetlands
Sun. April 28, 10am-3pm	Earth Day	Foreman-Roberts House
Date	Event	Location
Mon, May 13	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	Silver Saddle Ranch
Sat, May 18	FOSSR Spring Open House & Kids to Parks Day	Silver Saddle Ranch
Sat, May 25	Junior Ranger – Wildlife Walk	Prison Hill - Clearview
Date	Event	Location
Sat, June 1	River Float and Trash Clean-up	Put-in location TBD
Sat, June 15	Bee Hotel: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Foothill Trail

Prison Hill, Motorized Area – Golden Eagles

Staff has been working with agency staff from the Nevada State Parks and Nevada Department of Wildlife to gather resources and information related to Golden Eagles around the Prison Hill Recreation Area. On April 1st, staff conducted the initial surveys with these professionals and discussed critical habitat areas. With this information, staff can identify a strategy moving forward to balance wildlife management with the recreational improvements and management.

Silver Saddle Ranch Stewardship Plan/SHPO

While there aren't significant updates from the previous report, staff is aware the architectural historian is still working on her report and anticipate reviewing project deliverables in April. Additionally, staff will be meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office in March to identify progress and next steps to complete the stewardship plan.

What can you do?

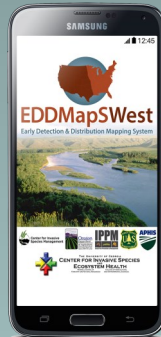


Report it!

If you think you see yellow starthistle please let the Carson City Weed Coalition know. If this plant is growing on your property we can provide you with treatment recommendations specific to your property. See back page for contact info.

Map it!

Use the citizen science data collection program *EDDmapS West* to document infestation location and size. Look for “EDDmapS West” in your mobile phone app store or report online at www.eddmaps.org/west/report/



Check for hitchhikers!



After recreating and before going to a new location, check your boots, clothes, vehicles, and pets for plant parts and seeds that may have hitched a ride with you.



About the Carson City Weed Coalition

The Carson City Weed Coalition (CCWC) consists of federal, state, and local agencies, along with private citizens and landowners, all concerned with the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds in the Carson River Watershed.

The CCWC is available to assist the community with proper identification and provide recommendations for the treatment of weeds.



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Photo and information credits:

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Invasivespecies.idaho.gov
Bigbendhotsprings.org
Balconygarden
web.com

Noxious weed profile:

Yellow Starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)



Yellow starthistle is a **Class A noxious weed** in Nevada and is highly toxic to horses.

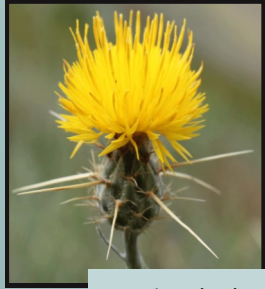
Noxious weeds are extremely detrimental to ecosystems we treasure and can be harmful to humans and animals.

Carson City Municipal Codes 8.08.060 & 8.08.070 and **Nevada Revised Statute 555.150** require that land owners treat noxious weeds on their property.

Refer inside for information on yellow starthistle and what **YOU** can do to help prevent it's spread.

Yellow starthistle is an annual plant, meaning it completes its lifecycle in a single year or less.

Maturity



Notice the bright yellow flower with up to 1in. long straw-colored spines underneath. Pictured here is a single flower head, there can be hundreds per plant. These will surface in late summer early fall.

Bolting



During early to mid summer, the plant will develop stems that can grow over 3 ft. tall. Notice the vertical "wings" along the stem and the gray-green coloration and slight wooliness of the plant.

How do we treat YST?

Hand-pull



Hand-pull prior to seed development, bag, and take to the land-fill to prevent spreading the plant. A dandelion puller can help to remove the root.



Mechanical Removal

Mow or weed-wack before the plant goes to seed and bag plants immediately to prevent spread.

Grazing



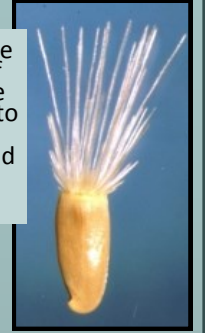
Some animals, like goats, can eat this plant even though it has spines. Seeds can often survive in fecal matter, so graze prior to seed production.

Herbicide



For larger infestations, using herbicides may be the most time and cost efficient method. Use in combination with grazing or mowing for added control.

Seed Dispersal



Notice the white hairs on top of the seed, these allow the plant to float to new areas in the wind up to several feet.

Senescence



After producing seeds, the plant starts to die and becomes an extreme fire hazard as it can take years for dead plants to break down.

Early life



For the first few months of its life, yellow starthistle has a distinctive basal rosette with highly lobed green leaves.



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**CARSON CITY
CARSON RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM PHASE II
Project Schedule, March 12, 2019**

Task	Description	2019										2020
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec		
1	Project Management											
2	Environmental Studies											
2.1	Wetland Delineation											
2.2	Biological & Botanical Data Review											
3	Preliminary Project Basemap											
4	Field Visits & Alignment Flagging											
5	Identify Alignment Alternatives											
6	Alignment Alternatives Analysis											
7	Additional Field Survey											
8	Geotechnical Investigation and Report											
9	30% Plans, Specifications & Cost Est.											
9.1	Trail Plans, Specs & Cost Estimate											
9.2	Floodplain & No-rise analysis											
9.3	Drainage Memo											
10	City & Agency Review											
11	OSAC and Stakeholder meetings											
12	Wetland Mitigation Design											
13	Permitting											
13.1	Section 404 Permitting (USACOE)											
13.2	Section 401 Water Qual. Cert. (NDEP)											
13.3	Temp. Working in Waterways Permit											
13.4	NDOT Encroachment Permit											
14	90% Plans, Specs & Cost Estimate											
15	City and Agency Review											
16	Final Contract Documents											
17	Bidding Assistance											
18	Construction Services											

Lumos Design ■ City Review ■
 RCI Design ■ Permit Review ■