



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 1, 2022

DATE: October 24, 2022
TO: Open Space and Regional Park Commission
FROM: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent
Community Services Department, 328-2181, cwallace@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Eric Crump, Division Director, Operations
Community Services Department, 328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov
SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS) for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks system.

SUMMARY

Washoe County has 167 miles of trail within our open space parcels, trailheads, and regional parks. In the approved 2019 Parks Master Plan, hiking trails were considered the facility that Washoe County residents used most and connecting parks with trails and trailheads was considered one of the top four priorities of the plan. With the addition of our new Trails Program Coordinator, the need for maintenance of existing trails and the development and construction of new trails is on the forefront of our park and open space planning efforts.

BACKGROUND

The mission of Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS) is the build, maintain, and advocate for sustainable trails throughout the greater Reno community. Washoe County has partnered with BLTS (formerly Poedunks) for many years on the maintenance and construction of specific trails in the Peavine Mountain area. Most of these trails are on the north side of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and connect to the United States Forest Service (USFS) trails to the north and west of the park boundary.

As Washoe County continues to grow, so does trail use. We need more trail maintenance and construction on the county trail systems and this agreement formalizes the current relationship with BLTS. We seek assistance on various trail project throughout our open space and regional park system and will work closely together on the design, construction, repair and maintenance needs of all trails.

BLTS has the following goals as an organization:

- Be a model trail building organization and International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) chapter
- Maintain a healthy honest relationship with land managers
- Seek approval for new trails
- Build a trail network all the way around Peavine Mountain
- Improve the connectivity of the Reno area's trails and trail heads
- Connect to other regional trail networks in Nevada and California
- Provide trail signage and electronic mapping
- Support local bike parks
- Assist other trail groups and community organizations

Washoe County Parks has a long, successful history of working with local non-profits to provide public services. Currently, Washoe County works with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Nevada Land Trust, Great Basin Institute, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Reno Food Systems, Silver Arrow Bowmen, May Arboretum Society, and Washoe Tennis Club to name a few. All of these non-profits provide services to the community and reinforce the strong public/private partnership that benefits the citizens and makes this a great place to work and live.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS) for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks system.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS) for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks system."