

Non Funded Cost Share Agreement with USDA, Forest Service

Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest



Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

June 24, 2024



Background - USFS Trail & Trailhead Maintenance Agreement

- **Washoe County and USFS last signed a Non Funded Cost Share Agreement for trail and trailhead maintenance in 2002. The agreement has never been updated.**
- **The original agreement was signed following the approval and construction of the Whites Creek and Thomas Creek trailheads along Timberline Road, near Galena Regional Park. These trails and trailheads are shared between the County and USFS.**
- **Washoe County has constructed additional trails and trailheads on USFS properties since 2002, though the agreement has never been updated to include them.**
- **Washoe County Parks maintains and services the Whites Creek, Thomas Creek, and Michael D. Thompson trailheads that reside on USFS property. Many trails begin on WC property and cross through USFS lands.**
- **Additional planned trails and trailheads that fall under these circumstances will have similar maintenance and servicing needs**



Previous Actions for Non Funded Cost Share Agreement

June 7, 2022 – The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission adopted the Carcione and Canepa Ranch Recreation Access Plan.

September 28, 2021 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) acknowledged and agreed to the Abandonment and Termination of Right of Reverter by the Grantor, Ridges at Hunter Creek III, which would remove the right of reverter clause from the trailhead easement granted to Washoe County in 2005 and recorded in 2007 as Document #3592575 for the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 041-650-08, located off of Woodchuck Circle.

July 20, 2021 – The Board accepted a State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2021-10 "Sierra Front Trail Planning" grant [in the amount of \$74,300 with cash match in the amount of \$18,575].

December 8, 2020 – The Board accepted a State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2020-14 "Thomas Creek to Ballardini Ranch Connector Trail" grant [in the amount of \$40,000 with a Washoe County cash match in the amount of \$10,000].

Previous Actions for Non Funded Cost Share Agreement



May 28, 2013 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted and recorded a resolution accepting real property for use as a public trailhead and trail corridor within the Ridges at Hunter Creek Subdivision (currently identified as APN 041-661-13, totaling 0.57 acres) for use as a non-motorized public trailhead and trail corridor.

July 26, 2005 – The Board approved an agreement between Washoe County and David J. and Claudia Ann Thompson Family Trust and Ridges Investment, LLC, to grant an easement to Washoe County to develop the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead and Trail on a portion of the parcel currently identified as 041-650-08; and authorized the Chair to execute the associated documents.

December 10, 2002 – The Board approved the execution, upon presentation, of the Interlocal/Challenge Cost Share Agreement to authorize Washoe County to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to operate and maintain the Whites and Thomas Creek trailheads.

Trail and Trailhead Maintenance Agreement Elements



○ Washoe County Agreement Detail – Trailheads and Trails

- Perform “light” maintenance. “Light maintenance includes the basic operations of the Whites, Thomas Creek Canyon, and Michael D. Thompson trailheads and trails, such as:
- Garbage and litter management, signage, noxious weed management, and restroom maintenance
- Trail tread repair, drainage improvements, vegetation management and sign installation or replacement



○ Washoe County Agreement Detail – Additional Allowances

- Volunteer service days and/or training events
- Manage the day-use or closures of trailheads
- Provide County staff presence on trails and trailheads
- Uphold Recreational Trails Program (RTP), or other awarded grants, to keep trails open and available for use and maintained for no less than 20 years.
- Permit the Trail Program Coordinator to represent the interest of the County and provide assistance and coordination with the U.S. Forest Service.

County Benefits of Agreement Approval



- Permit County to comply with resource protection and practices, as identified as requirements in awarded grant funding
- Provide consistent maintenance, safety and sustainable conditions within our County trails and trailheads
- Address trail maintenance needs on USFS lands that create detrimental conditions within Washoe County managed trails and parks
- Serve as collaborative partner with USFS, a major recreational stakeholder within Washoe County. The relationship lays the foundation for future project requests on USFS properties
- Help the County fulfill its mission statement:
“to provide exceptional parks, open space, and recreational opportunities while preserving our natural, historical and cultural resources.”

County Benefits of Agreement Approval



- Help the County fulfill its mission statement:

"to provide exceptional parks, open space, and recreational opportunities while preserving our natural, historical and cultural resources"

- Allow for implementation of resource management and practices, as identified in grant funding specifications.



Next Steps



- Board of County Commission approves Non Funded Cost Share Agreement
- Signed Agreement returned to USDA Forest Service for District Ranger signature
- Washoe County to continue maintain trailheads – Whites Creek, Thomas Creek, and Michael D. Thompson, as identified in the Agreement.
- Washoe County to perform “light” trail maintenance, as needed, on cross jurisdictional trails between Washoe County and the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.



Possible Motion

- Should the Commission agree with the recommendation a possible motion would be: “Move to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve a Non-Funded Cost Share Agreement between Washoe County and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest with an estimated Washoe County non-cash contribution of \$215,510.00 primarily in salary and labor costs over a 5-year period; to allow Washoe County to maintain existing and future trails that cross both jurisdictions along the Sierra Front and to continue maintaining the Whites Creek, Thomas Creek Canyon, and Michael D. Thompson Trailheads.”

Thank you

