



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 25, 2024

**DATE:** September 23, 2024

**TO:** Open Space and Regional Park Commission

**FROM:** Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent  
Community Services Department, 328-2181, [cwallace@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cwallace@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Aaron Smith, Division Director, Operations  
Community Services Department, 328-2182, [aasmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:aasmith@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve and adopt the Regional Trails Plan. This comprehensive plan focuses on the existing and proposed trail network, user experiences, awareness of resources, and coordination of trail planning efforts. The goal of the plan is improving the trail network and creating a better level of connectivity and access throughout the region. Presentation by Truckee Meadows Trails Coordinator Jay Howard. (For Possible Action)

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### SUMMARY

Truckee Meadows Trails is a community-led initiative designed to improve the range of opportunities for residents and visitors by identifying and establishing non-motorized routes for greater trail connectivity in the Truckee Meadows region. The initiative started in 2017 with a coalition of land managers, government agencies, non-profits, and private businesses that all came together to create the TMT Plan and Report. The plan outlines a vision of a healthy Truckee Meadows community connected by trails and provides a framework for completing future projects.

### BACKGROUND

On December 3, 2019, Mark Kimbrough with Truckee Meadows Trails provided a presentation to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission about the Truckee Meadows Trails Plan and Report. The presentation covered the vision, collaboration needed, trail inventory and data collection, trail user surveys, and the plan. At that time, the desire was to have a working group formalized and a trails coordinator hired.

A Trail Program Coordinator was hired through generous funding from Economic Development of Western Nevada (EDAWN). With that position, TMT was able to secure a planning grant from the National Parks Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to work on the TMT Action Plan (Regional Trails Plan).

On January 24, 2024, Jay Howard, Truckee Meadows Trails Program Coordinator provided an update on the TMT Action Plan (Regional Trails Plan). The plan was mostly complete, with some minor edits and revisions, and he stated he would be ready to bring the plan

back to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission (OSRPC) for recommended approval.

After some revisions and the addition of an executive summary, this Regional Trails Plan is ready for approval and adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, through the recommendation from the OSRPC.

It is important to note that Washoe County's Trail Program Coordinator was involved in the collaborative effort of creating the Regional Trails Plan, as this plan provides regional goals and objectives. However, Washoe County will continue moving forward with its own goals and objectives for the Trails Program and will likely overlap efforts on regional trail systems such as the Tahoe Pyramid Trail and the V&T Trail. For example, we will still dedicate time and effort into trail systems in our regional parks such as Hidden Valley and Davis Creek. We will continue to seek funding for park and trail projects based on Washoe County's priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve and adopt the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Commission agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve and adopt the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan."