



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 24, 2022*

DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
genfield@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the Gerlach Trail Initiative Technical Assistance Grant awarded by National Park Services (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and the Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, which will be used to create a multi-use, year-round, trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands and sagebrush, traversing from near Highway 447 to County Route 34 to Gerlach Road in the amount of [\$0, technical assistance, estimated value of \$15,000 (no county match)], with a project period from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

The Gerlach Trail Initiative Technical Assistance Grant awarded by National Park Services (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program will be used to create a kiosk, trail head and multi-use, year-round, trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands, and sagebrush, traversing from near Highway 447 to County Route 34 to Gerlach Road.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND

The idea of a trail has been discussed, informally, in the community for the last several years. Recently, more formal efforts have secured consensus of all key stakeholders to collaboratively work together to achieve this common goal to create a walking trail for the Community of Gerlach.

Washoe County, in collaboration with multiple partner organizations, seeks to develop a multi-use trail from the community of Gerlach across the playa, to the landmark of Guru Road on BLM property.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The RTCA will provide assistance to conduct a community planning process that will engage creative thinking, capitalizes on community assets, and contribute to the community's health, happiness and wellbeing. Specific outcomes of the proposed project include:

1. Creation of a trail head and kiosk, and a multi-use, year-round, trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands and sagebrush, traversing from near state HW 447 to county route 34 and on to Guru Road.
2. Implementation of a sustainability plan for environmental education, and stewardship of the Gerlach Trail area and the Gerlach Trail itself.
3. A strong collaboration and partnership among the project partners and community members that will help stakeholders build future recreation, conservation, tourism and community development projects to benefit the community of Gerlach/Empire.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: The Gerlach Trail Initiative

Scope of the Project: To create a multi-use, year-round trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands, and sagebrush, traversing from near Highway 447 to County Route 34 to Gerlach Road.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Trails positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic development and offering educational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

The Gerlach Trail - a multi-use trail - would create a way for users to experience and learn about the environment and history of this area, year-round, while offering educational, recreational, and economic benefits.

On-Going Program Support: No ongoing support is provided past the term of this award.

Award Amount: \$0.00 (Technical Assistance)

Grant Period: June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

Funding Source: National Parks Service (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA)

Pass Through Entity: N/A

CFDA/ALN Number: 15.921

Pass Through Entity Grant #: 1.B. (PW-PRR)

Match Amount and Type: No match

FISCAL IMPACT

This is a non-monetary, technical assistance grant. The National Park Services estimates the value of the technical assistance provided at \$15,000. The fiscal impact of this grant award cannot be determined as current County resources and personal will be used to support this activity.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve the Gerlach Trail Initiative Technical Assistance Grant awarded by National Park Services (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and the Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, which will be used to create a multi-use, year-round, trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands and sagebrush, traversing from near Highway 447 to County Route 34 to Gerlach Road in the amount of [\$0, technical assistance, estimated value of \$15,000 (no county match)], with a project period from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"to approve the Gerlach Trail Initiative Technical Assistance Grant awarded by National Park Services (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and the Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, which will be used to create a multi-use, year-round, trail that winds along the edge of the playa through dunes, wetlands and sagebrush, traversing from near Highway 447 to County Route 34 to Gerlach Road in the amount of [\$0, technical assistance, estimated value of \$15,000 (no county match)], with a project period from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023."*