



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 26, 2022

DATE: April 4, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: David Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
(775) 328-3623, dsolaro@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Interagency Agreement (MOU) between Washoe County, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service to establish a general framework for cooperation between agencies and work towards addressing key issues related to recreational shooting in populated areas; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager David Solaro to execute the MOU. (Commission District 5.)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and Washoe County to cooperatively work towards addressing key issues related to recreational shooting in populated and congested areas; provide short and long-term solutions suitable for federal and local governments; identify roles and responsibilities of each Agency and recognize zones for potential development of shooting ranges and basic shooting opportunities, located away from the urban interface and congested areas. These activities and projects shall complement the respective missions of the participating Agencies. The purpose of this MOU is to foster partnerships between the Agencies and organized group interests, to cooperatively work with the Agencies to address key issues related to recreational shooting in populated and congested areas.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts, Meet the needs of our growing community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

July 10, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a request to initiate proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioners for limiting target shooting within Washoe County when conditions present a danger for wildland fire; and directed the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

July 12, 2016, the Board held the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 1581, amending Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code (Public Peace, Safety and Morals), amending Section 50.092 – Unlawful Discharge of Firearms; Exemption; amending Section 50.096 - Greater Truckee Meadows and environs Congested area and incorporating the Old Washoe City Congested area into the Greater Truckee Meadows and environs Congested area; 50.104 - Spanish Springs area Congested area, 50.108 - New Washoe City Congested area; Eliminating 50.110 - Old Washoe City Congested area; to update the congested areas and associated maps.

June 28, 2016, the Board held the introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code.

July 28, 2015, the Board approved a request to initiate proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioner Berkbigler; and directed the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040.

August 26, 2014, the Board adopted an ordinance, amending Sections 50.090 and 50.092 of Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code (Peace, Morals and Public Safety) to remove certain restrictions on the discharge of firearms in portions of Warm Springs.

BACKGROUND

For many reasons, recreational shooting has been brought before the Board of County Commission for actions ranging from creating the congested shooting boundary, expansion of shooting rights within parts of the county, conflict with non-shooting users of public lands, and wildfire concerns. Washoe County is only one party to a comprehensive plan and understanding of recreational shooting in this area with both the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management being the stewards of most of the lands currently utilized for outdoor recreation in our area.

The agencies recognize the value of promoting public-private partnerships that encourage responsible use of public land by shooting sports enthusiasts and other recreationists. We share a common interest in disseminating information to the public regarding conservation, recreation, and natural resource activities as they relate to responsible recreational shooting use. This MOU will help the agencies leverage expertise and other resources to provide the public with better, higher quality, sustainable recreational access to BLM and Forest Service public lands.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact identified outside of staff commitment. Participation in the process as Cooperative Agency provides an opportunity to avoid costs associated with additional impacts to Washoe County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Interagency Agreement (MOU) between Washoe County, the United

States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service to establish a general framework for cooperation between agencies and work towards addressing key issues related to recreational shooting in populated areas; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager David Solaro to execute the MOU.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Interagency Agreement (MOU) between Washoe County, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service to establish a general framework for cooperation between agencies and work towards addressing key issues related to recreational shooting in populated areas; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager David Solaro to execute the MOU."