



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

DATE: November 20, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Joanne Lowden, Natural Resources Planner,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
Community Services Department, 328-3624, ecrump@washoecounty.us

Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
Community Services Department, 328-3600, dsolaro@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to: 1) accept a Nevada Division of Forestry subgrant award using FY18 Landscape Scale Restoration funds for the "Washoe County Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation" project [in the amount of \$100,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$100,000]; and 2) approve the Notice of Subgrant Award with a grant period from the date of full execution through June 30, 2023; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Notice of Subgrant Award and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

This item recommends acceptance of a Nevada Division of Forestry subgrant using FY18 Landscape Scale Restoration funds in the amount of \$100,000 awarded on November 12, 2020. The County would provide a cash/in-kind match of \$100,000 utilizing staff time, volunteer hours, indirect costs, and Truckee River Fund #240 (IN29014) grant funding (accepted on October 27, 2020). The funding would be used to remove noxious and invasive weeds and re-establish native vegetation in Washoe County Park and Open Space areas. Project implementation would include weed inventory, GIS mapping and reporting, chemical and mechanical treatments, and re-vegetation through seeding and planting of container stock.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

October 27, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Community Foundation of Western Nevada "Truckee River Fund #240-Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation" (IN29014) grant [in the amount of \$45,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$15,000]; and approved the Grant Award Letter with a grant period from issuance of the notice to

AGENDA ITEM # _____

proceed through July 31, 2022; and authorized the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Grant Award Letter and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and directed the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (Parks) does not currently have any dedicated funding in the budget to address noxious weed issues in park and open space areas. Parks relies on grant funding, staff time, and volunteer efforts to meet State requirements to control noxious weeds under Nevada Revised Statute 555.130.

This grant funding would be used to remove noxious and invasive weeds and re-establish native vegetation in park and open space areas. Project implementation would include weed inventory, GIS mapping and reporting, chemical and mechanical treatments, and re-vegetation through seeding and planting of container stock. An Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Plan was developed for Parks in June 2020. Treatments would follow the guidance and recommendations in the IVM Plan to establish stable perennial plant communities which will help to improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, improve water quality through soil stabilization, reduce fire hazard, and increase the visual quality of park and open space areas.

Priority treatment areas identified include Crystal Peak Park, Riverbend Open Space, Mogul Park, Canepa Ranch Open Space, Carcione Open Space, Mayberry Park, Dorostkar Park, Ambrose Park, Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Anderson Park, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Lockwood Park, Lazy 5 Regional Park, Red Hill Open Space, Swan Lake Nature Study Area, South Valleys Regional Park, Hidden Valley Regional Park, North Valleys Regional Park, Wilson Commons, Ballardini Open Space, and Arrowcreek Open Space. Additional priority areas may be identified as new weed infestations are discovered and may include revegetation of areas affected by future wildfires.

A combination of Washoe County staff time, contracts, and volunteer efforts would be used to implement the project. Volunteer events will be coordinated internally through the Washoe County Parks Volunteer Coordinator and with other partners such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and the Nevada Land Trust. Volunteer events will occur throughout each year and include weed removal and seeding/planting with an estimated volunteer contribution of 865 hours over 3 years. Additional match for the grant funding will be provided through staff time, indirect costs, and \$45,000 in Truckee River Fund #240 grant funding (accepted on October 27, 2020).

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Washoe County Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation

Scope of the Project: Remove noxious and invasive weeds and re-establish native vegetation in park and open space areas.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Implementation of the project would improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, improve water quality through soil stabilization, reduce fire hazard, and increase the visual quality of parks and open space areas.

On-Going Program Support: Parks will continue to seek weed management funding through future year Truckee River Fund grant requests and other potential funding sources identified through the Washoe-Storey Cooperative Weed Management Area group. Washoe County Parks will also continue to work with partners including the Nevada Land Trust, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Division of Forestry, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to pursue and leverage funding sources for weed treatments as they become available.

Award Amount: \$100,000

Grant Period: Date of fully executed agreement through June 30, 2023

Funding Source: U.S. Forest Service

Pass Through Entity: Nevada Division of Forestry

CFDA Number: 10.664

Grant ID Number: LSR18-21-0001

Match Amount and Type: Matching funds will include \$30,000 in staff time for project management and implementation, \$45,000 in cash match, \$22,000 in volunteer time (in-kind), and \$3,000 in indirect costs (based on the 10% rate). The \$45,000 in cash match will be provided through Truckee River Fund #240 (IN29014) grant funds accepted on October 27, 2020.

Sub-Awards and Contracts: Contracts may be awarded for weed treatments and revegetation. All contract and supply purchases will follow Washoe County procurement guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 budget will be increased by \$100,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
NDF Parks & Open Space Weed Management (IN11796)	Federal Grant Revenue 431100	\$100,000
NDF Parks & Open Space Weed Management (IN11796)	Intrafund Transfer-818000	\$100,000
NDF Parks & Open Space Weed Management (PK906049)	Intrafund Transfer-818000	(\$100,000)
NDF Parks & Open Space Weed Management (PK906049)	Service Contracts-710200	\$100,000

There is a \$100,000 cash/in-kind match associated with this grant which includes \$30,000 in staff time for project management and implementation, \$45,000 in cash match, \$22,000 in volunteer time (in-kind), and \$3,000 in indirect costs (based on the 10% rate). The \$45,000 in cash match will be provided through Truckee River Fund #240 (IN29014) grant funds accepted on October 27, 2020.

The grant funds will be drawn on a reimbursement basis.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) accept a Nevada Division of Forestry subgrant award using FY18 Landscape Scale Restoration funds for the “Washoe County Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation” project [in the amount of \$100,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$100,000]; and 2) approve the Notice of Subgrant Award with a grant period from the date of full execution through June 30, 2023; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Notice of Subgrant Award and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to: 1) accept a Nevada Division of Forestry subgrant award using FY18 Landscape Scale Restoration funds for the “Washoe County Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation” project [in the amount of \$100,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$100,000]; and 2) approve the Notice of Subgrant Award with a grant period from the date of full execution through June 30, 2023; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Notice of Subgrant Award and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.