



WASHOE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services Dept.
1001 E. Ninth St.
RENO, NEVADA 89512
(775) 328-3600

Heather Giger
Park and Recreation Program Manager
Nevada Division of State Parks
901 S. Stewart St. Suite 5005
Carson City, NV 89701

November 6, 2020

Dear Ms. Giger:

Enclosed please find an application for the **Sierra Front Trail Planning Project**. Washoe County, Community Services Department, Regional Parks and Open Space is requesting funding for planning costs as part of the proposed Sierra Front Trail project. The Sierra Front trail would connect from the Ballardinin Ranch Trailhead to the Michael D. Thompson (Hunter Creek) Trailhead effectively linking together existing trail systems in north and south Reno. This is a partnership project with the Carson Ranger District and the proposed trail would cross both Forest Service and Washoe County lands. Planning would include completion of natural resource surveys, reports, and consultation as required by the Forest Service under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This project will not facilitate motorized activities on trails that have been predominately used by non-motorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred (Section 1302 (e)(2)(c) of the National Recreational Trails Act). Only non-motorized trail construction is being considered as part of this planning project.

Thank you for considering this proposal to move forward with an important new trail connection in the Reno area that would provide additional recreation opportunities for the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Solaro".

David Solaro,

Assistant County Manger



INTEGRITY



EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION



QUALITY
PUBLIC SERVICE

ADDRESS
WWW.WASHOECOUNTY.US



STATE OF NEVADA
Recreational Trails Program
2021 Grant Application for Planning Projects

CFDA 20.219

APPLICATIONS DUE: **NOVEMBER 13, 2020, BY 12:00 PM**
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS TIME; POSTMARKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

PLEASE SUBMIT: **3 FULL COLOR COPIES (DOUBLE SIDED)**
1 DIGITAL COPY (USB DRIVE OR E-MAIL)
DIGITAL COPY MUST CONSIST OF ONLY ONE FILE

TO: **NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS**
901 S. STEWART STREET, SUITE 5005
CARSON CITY, NV 89701
ATTN: RTP GRANT PROGRAM

DO NOT ATTACH ITEMS THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED.

For assistance, please contact:

Heather Giger
Park & Recreation Program Manager
(775) 684-2784
hgiger@parks.nv.gov

Art Krupicz
Grants & Projects Analyst
(775) 684-2775
akrupicz@parks.nv.gov

Application

Nevada Recreational Trails Program

SECTION I

1. **Applicant Name:** Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space
2. **Project Name:** Sierra Front Trail Planning
3. **Project Dates:** *Start:* March 1, 2021 *Completion:* December 31, 2023
4. **TAX ID or EIN #** 88-6000138
5. **DUNS #** 07-378-6998
6. **Classification of Applicant: (check one)**
Government: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☒ County ☐ Local/Municipal
Organization: ☐ Partnership ☐ Non-profit ☐ For Profit ☐ Individual ☐ Other
7. **Grant Manager / Primary Point-of-Contact (if grant is awarded):**
Name: Joanne Lowden Title: Natural Resource Planner
E-mail: jlowden@washoecounty.us Phone: (775)328-2039
Address: 1001 E. 9th St.
City, State, Zip: Reno, NV 89512
8. **Land Owner:** Forest Service and Washoe County
9. **Classification of Land Control: (check all that apply)**
☒ Public Land ☐ Private Land ☒ Combination , County, City,
☐ R&PP: attach copy of lease with expiration date. If other lease, attach copy
10. **Project Costs: (Please do not submit match not directly related to the project)**
Grant Request: \$74,300.00
Match Amount: \$18,575.00 (20% of total amount for diverse projects; 5% for moto)
Total Project Amount: \$92,875.00 (Grant Request divided by 0.8 for diverse; 0.95 for moto)

Sample Calculations for Match and Total Cost:

Grant Request: \$100

Divide: $100 / .8 = \$125$ is total project amount

Subtract: $125 - 100 = \$25$ required match

(\$25 is 20% of the total project amount)

10(a). What are your sources of match?

☐ Federal ☐ Private ☐ In-kind ☒ City/County ☐ Pre-Project Planning ☐ Other

Please describe source(s):

Cash match will be provided through the Washoe County Parks Capital Fund 4440 and through County staff time for project management.

11. Project Category (select one)

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Education with motorized component
- ☐ Non-motorized for single use
- ☒ Non-motorized for diverse use
- ☐ Diverse use (motorized and non-motorized)
- ☐ Motorized for single use
- ☐ Motorized for diverse use

12. Trail Use: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian (urban/path) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian (hiking/trail) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Path (paved) | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe/cross country ski |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation/maps/brochures | <input type="checkbox"/> ADA accessible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHV/Motorized | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

13. Type of Project: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Educational or trails training
- ☐ Maintenance or restoration of existing trails
- ☐ Trailside and trailhead facilities
- ☐ Purchase or lease of trail construction equipment
- ☐ Construction of new trails
- ☒ Planning (new trail construction)

14. Scope of Work (400 words maximum – **describe exactly what work will be completed, include miles of trail or other measurable goals**). Please be specific to the actual project being built.

The proposed Sierra Front Trail would connect the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead to the Michael D. Thompson (Hunter Creek Trailhead) crossing through Washoe County Open Space and Forest Service managed lands in Reno, NV. A preliminary trail alignment was identified using topographic maps and available GIS information. The proposed Sierra Front Trail would cover approximately 13.5 miles and consist of native surface singletrack intended for multiple users including hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Funding would be used for trail planning which would include design and layout of the trail corridor in the field, required natural resource surveys, preparation of reports, and a detailed trail construction plan. Washoe County Parks would hire a contractor to conduct the required surveys and prepare reports for the Forest Service as the lead agency. The project as proposed is expected to qualify as a categorical exclusion (CE). Required surveys are anticipated to include cultural resources, sensitive plants, noxious weeds, and wildlife. The contractor would work with the Forest Service to complete Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) consultation and Section 7 (Endangered Species Act) consultation if needed. Once the NEPA requirements are satisfied and the Forest Service has issued a Decision Memo for the project, a detailed trail construction plan would be prepared.

15. Project Location:

A. Congressional District(s) number (*check all that apply*) ☐1 ☒2 ☐3 ☐4

B. County: Washoe

C. Municipality/Town/City: Reno

D. Latitude: 39° 27' 30.777" N

Longitude: 119° 52' 29.212" W

E. Township: 19N/18 N

Range: 19E/19E

16. Standards/Guidelines Applied to Project:

☐ Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation - A Design Guide

☐ Designing Sidewalks & Trails for Access

☐ AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

☒ USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails

☐ BLM Handbook 9114-1 Trails

☐ IMBA International Mountain Biking Association

OTHER: _____

17. Environmental Compliance (see page 10 of the RTP Handbook for more information)

Even though no ground disturbing activities .

17(a). Is a Federal agency involved in this project as an applicant, partner, or landowner?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, environmental clearances have likely been completed for your project area. Please indicate which NEPA document was produced. Please attach the document to this application:

☐ Categorical Exclusion (CE)

☐ Record of Decision (ROD)

☐ Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

If you have Federal involvement and have attached one of the NEPA documents above, you may skip to Question 18.

If there are no Federal partners or land owners involved, the project will need to be reviewed by the FHWA. Please provide the following information:

17(b). Describe the extent of ground disturbance for this project. Specifically, describe the length, width, and depth of the most significant instances of excavation/digging.

*The intent of this planning project is to bring the Sierra Front Trail project into compliance with all applicable laws including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Carson Ranger District (Forest Service) would sign a Decision Memo after satisfactory

completion of all required surveys, reports, and consultation. This project is expected to be completed under a categorical exclusion.

17(c). Describe both current and past uses of the project area.

17(d). Describe any known cultural resources in the project area. This may include historic buildings, archaeology sites, and any other objects estimated to be over 50 years old.

17(e). Please attach the following three (3) maps:

- General location map (showing project area within the state or county)
- Topographic map (7.5 minute series quadrangle, 1:24,000 scale) with project boundary and map name
 - Topographic maps are preferred but aerial photos will suffice
- Detail map indicating specific project elements (e.g., structures, trail alignment)
- For all maps, please include a key, north arrow, scale, and map name (if available)
- Maps larger than 11x17 will not be accepted

17(f). Please attach the following photographs:

- At least two (2) overviews of the project area from different angles and distances
- Please include photos of known cultural resources, if present.

17(g). If available, please attach shapefiles of the project area (these are produced via GPS and end with the filename “.shp”; they may also be found within larger files ending in “.mxd”). These are not required for this application but are appreciated, if available.

18. List all permits required to complete project:

The selected contractor would be responsible for obtaining a permit from the Forest Service to conduct cultural surveys.

19. Additional approvals

If the project involves any of the situations listed below, applicants must provide the following documentation:

19(a). Crossing of public highway: Include a statement or letter certifying that the

appropriate official (having jurisdiction over the public road at the point where the trail crosses the road) has reviewed this project and approved of the proposed crossing. **N/A**

19(b). Crossing of railroad-gas-power lines, or utility rights-of-way: Include documentation certifying that the appropriate official has reviewed this project and that the proposed crossing meets their approval. **N/A**

19(c). Crossing of streams or encroachment on any wetlands: Project applicants planning to construct, operate, maintain, enlarge, or abandon any obstruction that will affect a watercourse, its 100-year floodway, or any lake, pond reservoir, marsh, or wetland, must obtain an appropriate USACE 404 and/or other applicable permits.

Any state or local government agency or public utility working in a 100-year flood plain which has been identified by the National Flood Insurance Program, must also obtain a permit.

In addition, project applicants may be required to prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan for stream crossings or general construction activities. **N/A**

19(d). Building structure or providing a water supply: Local agency applicants must secure a copy of any building permits that may be required by the local township code enforcement officer or a statement indicating that a permit is not necessary. Federal and State agency applicants are to follow their normal procedures. **N/A**

19(e). Sewer and water permitting: Project applicants must include a copy of the sewage disposal permit issued by a certified municipal sewage enforcement officer or the local township if a comfort station is to be constructed. Project applicants serving any non-residential use with their own water source must provide the appropriate permit from the county or state health official with jurisdiction. **N/A**

20. Projects that include a paved bicycle path: Is the project included in both local and state bicycle plans?

- ☐ Yes, plan title(s) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable. Please describe: _____
- _____
- _____

21. Has the applicant received funding from the Recreational Trails Program in the past?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Number of projects funded: 19

Amount of funding Received: \$1,380,192

Number of projects Completed: 18

SECTION II

Proposed Budget: Provide your budget details in the separate budget section (*2021 NV RTP Application_Budget Section*). Please follow the existing format and be very specific, as your application will rate higher. Reminder: all match must be directly related to the building of the trail/facility or educational project. If a cost is not eligible for reimbursement it is most likely not eligible to be used for match. Do not add extra match above what is required. Matching funds beyond the minimum requirement do not affect the score.

Please describe the project activity, list unit information (if applicable), then show the costs that will be reimbursed (Federal Grant) and used as match (Federal funds to be used as match and/or non-Federal funds to be used as match)

<u>Item Description</u>					<u>Federal Grant</u>	<u>Federal Match</u>	<u>Non-Federal Match</u>	
Design & Engineering Costs	# of Units	Unit Type	Unit Cost	<i>unit subtotal</i>				<i>subtotal</i>
Trail Corridor Layout	1		13,575	13575	0	0	13,575	13575
Detailed Trails Plan	1		3000	3000	0	0	3000	3000
<i>subtotal</i>				16575	0	0	16575	16575
Planning Costs for Match								
Required Surveys and Reports (cultural, botanical, wildlife)	1		74300	74300	74300	0	0	74300
<i>subtotal</i>				74300	74300	0	0	74300
Direct Labor (Salaries or Actual)								
Staff Time (project management)	1		2000	2000	0	0	2000	2000
<i>subtotal</i>				2000	0	0	2000	2000
Labor (Volunteer or Donated)								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Purchase/Rent/Lease								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
Contracts (attach estimate/description)								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
Materials								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
Fuel & Maintenance (2018 = .545/mile)								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
Other Expenses (admin, ICAP, etc.)								
(describe here)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>subtotal</i>				0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL					74300	0	18575	92875
PERCENTAGE					80%	0%	20%	100%

SECTION III

Narrative Responses

Address the following sixteen (16) questions in the order listed below.

Please limit each response to 3 paragraphs or less.

Type directly into this application.

Supporting documents may be attached in support of your responses.

Project Need

1. Describe how this project fits with current community development plans.

The Sierra Front Trail project is supported as a priority trail project in the following Washoe County plans: Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2019), Washoe County Regional Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan (2008), Southwest Truckee Meadows Area Plan, and the Washoe County Forest Area Plan (2010).

The project is consistent with the following Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan strategies and objectives: **Peavine Planning Area Strategy 1.C.4:** Identify a major regional trail or corridor system that connects major peaks and ranges in southern Washoe County; **Peavine Planning Area Objective 1.C:** Encourage a multi-purpose regional trail system to connect residents to regional parks, neighborhood parks, special use facilities, and open space. This project is also consistent with the following Washoe County Regional Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan goal: **Recreational Resource Goal 4.1:** Identify a major regional trail or corridor system that connects the major peaks and ranges in southern Washoe County. The project is also consistent with the following Southwest Truckee Meadows Area Plan goals: **Goal Eight:** The planning area will contain an extensive system of trails that integrates other recreational facilities, the Regional Trail System, public lands, schools, and transit facilities. This trail system will contribute to the preservation and implementation of the community character; **SW.8.3** Trails that provide links to the facilities listed in Goal 8 should receive priority for funding, planning, and construction.

In addition to consistency with Washoe County plans, the Sierra Front Trail project is identified in the draft Truckee Meadows Trails (TMT) Plan as a desired trail connection. Public and agency comments collected through surveys efforts as part of the TMT plan preparation also show support for this future trail connection.

2. Describe the project's ability to enhance recreation options for an underserved area or population. *"Underserved" is defined as an area or population with inadequate services, facilities, and/or a lack of access to recreation opportunities.*

The Peavine Planning Area Map in the 2019 Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan identifies potentially underserved residents in the neighborhoods near the proposed Sierra Front Trail. This new trail would provide additional recreation opportunities for these residents as well as connecting existing trail systems in north and south Reno which will benefit trail users throughout the community.

The existing trailheads along the Sierra Front including the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead are heavily used by the community. With the population of Reno expanding at unprecedented rates, recreation opportunities along the Sierra Front are in increasing demand. The Sierra Front Trail would provide access to public lands in an area that currently lacks designated system trails and would provide a new recreation opportunity for residents who currently utilize the Hunter Lake Trail, the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead, and the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead.

Project Quality

3. Describe project schedule(s) and contingency plans.

The preliminary trail alignment was identified using topographic maps and available GIS information. Washoe County Parks issued a contract with Sierra Trail Works to field verify the trail alignment and flag proposed trail corridors to facilitate natural resource surveys. Work on this phase of the project is expected to begin in early 2021 and continue throughout the year as needed. Washoe County Parks would hire a qualified contractor in spring 2021 to conduct the required surveys and prepare reports for the Forest Service as part of the NEPA process. Surveys are anticipated to start in spring 2021 as weather permits and may be conducted over two years, concluding by fall 2022 at the latest. Reports would be prepared and any required consultations including Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) and Section 7 (Endangered Species Act) would be completed in coordination with the Forest Service. The project is expected to be analyzed under a categorical exclusion (CE) and a Decision Memo is anticipated to be issued by summer 2023 at the latest. Following issuance of a decision, Sierra Trail Works would prepare a detailed trail plan to assist with soliciting bids for the future construction phase of the project, anticipated to be completed by December 2023.

The project schedule includes an extra year to complete natural resource surveys to allow for potential realignments to avoid any significant or sensitive resources if they are found. Sierra Trail Works would assist with realignments as needed based on survey results. The surveys would likely be completed in the first year if only minor reroutes are needed and extensive surveying of new areas is not required. If surveys are completed in 2021, then a Decision Memo is anticipated to be issued by summer 2022 and a detailed trail plan completed by December 2022.

If conditions are discovered during surveys that preclude this project from being considered under a categorical exclusion (CE), then a contractor would be hired to prepare an environmental assessment as needed.

4. Describe the confirmed partnerships for this project.

Washoe County Parks is partnering with the Carson Ranger District (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest) and Sierra Trail Works to complete planning for the Sierra Front Trail project. The Carson Ranger District would issue the decision for the project as the lead agency. Resource specialists would coordinate with the selected Washoe County contractor on survey, reporting, and consultation requirements under NEPA. Sierra Trail Works is contracted to provide design and layout of the trail corridor in the field and prepare a detailed trail plan for the construction phase of the project.

The Carson Ranger District currently partners with Washoe County Parks to maintain and manage trails and trailheads along the Sierra Front from the Galena Recreation Area to the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead. The existing trail systems in this area occur on properties

owned by both agencies and Washoe County maintains some Forest Service owned trailheads through an existing agreement. The new trail will provide a key connection between existing trail systems to the north and south and Washoe County Parks would continue to partner with the Carson Ranger District to manage and maintain this integrated network of trails.

5. Describe the nature and extent of public engagement with this project and what is being done to mitigate any concerns conveyed by the public.

Public scoping would be conducted as part of the NEPA process and any concerns brought up by the public would be addressed during that time. In addition, a survey was conducted, and several public workshops were held in 2019 as part of data collection for the Truckee Meadows Trails Plan (in progress). Input on local trails was solicited from stakeholders and other members of the public. The proposed Sierra Front Trail is currently included in the plan as a desired future trail connection and public comments were received in support of the trail.

6. Describe the implementation of best practices in each phase of the project (e.g., planning, budgeting, construction, etc.).

Best management practices would be implemented in the planning phase of this project by incorporating design features to reduce impacts to sensitive resources. Surveys would be conducted to ensure that the trail alignment avoids any sensitive wildlife, plant, and cultural resources. The trail alignment is designed to be safe, sustainable, minimize user conflicts, and minimize the potential for development of social trails in the area. Trail design would follow the USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails and be constructed following best practices for sustainable trail building with the goal to withstand the impacts of intended use while needing only routine maintenance.

7. How does the project promote sustainability goals and principles (e.g., social, environmental, economic) in the design criteria?

Resource specialists from the Carson Ranger District in coordination with the Washoe County contractor selected to conduct environmental surveys would create project design criteria to promote sustainability goals and principals and reduce impacts to sensitive resources. Project design criteria would be dependent on survey results, concerns identified by the public, and would happen as part of the NEPA process as described in this proposal.

In addition, trail design would follow the USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails and be constructed following best practices for sustainable trail building with the goal to withstand the impacts of intended use while needing only routine maintenance.

Alignment with Nevada's Recreation Goals

(see Appendix F of the Applicant Handbook for more information)

8. How do project planning activities aid in the maintenance and/or rehabilitation of existing outdoor infrastructure?

This planning project is focused on new trail construction that would provide a key connection between two existing trailheads and trail systems. This project would not directly impact maintenance of existing infrastructure but may indirectly increase the prioritization of maintenance efforts at existing trailheads due to increased use by the public.

9. How does the plan incorporate safety into the design, maintenance, and management of the project?

The proposed trail would be designed and constructed in accordance with the USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails which includes safety considerations for trail users in the recommended design and practices. Vegetation clearing around the trail would meet the recommended standards for height and width. Signage for wayfinding, allowable use, and trail etiquette would be included in future phases of the project to help reduce user conflicts. Once constructed, trail conditions would be evaluated periodically, and routine maintenance performed as needed to ensure safe conditions for trail users.

10. Will the plan allow for a more comprehensive approach to link existing trails in order to connect communities to new areas?

The purpose of the proposed trail is to provide a connection between the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and the Michael D. Thompson (Hunter Creek) Trailhead. Providing this key connection effectively links two existing trail systems in north and south Reno. The trail system to the south includes the Ballardini Ranch trails which provide a link to the Thomas Creek Trailhead. The Thomas Creek Trailhead currently provides access to a trail system including the Thomas Creek Trail, Whites Creek Trail, Jones Creek Trail, Lower Whites Creek Trail, and the Lower Thomas Creek Trail. The Jones/Whites/Thomas Creek Trail System in turn provides an access point into the Mount Rose Wilderness Area and is the main trail system in the Galena Creek Recreation Area. Galena Creek Regional Park is also accessible from trails in this area. The Lower Thomas Creek Trail provides a connection to Arrowcreek Park and continues to Zolezzi Lane on the east side of the Arrowcreek subdivision. The Lower Whites Creek Trail connects into Whites Creek Park to the east. The trail system to the north accessible from the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead includes the Hunter Creek Trail, Steamboat Ditch Trail, and Tom Cooke Trail. The new Belli Front Trails currently in development would also be accessible from this area. Additional connections include the Hunter Lake Trail/Road which is accessible from the Caughlin Ranch subdivision.

11. Does the plan address the need to engage youth in the design, development, and use of trails?

One of the goals of this project is to provide additional hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use areas that would be appropriate for young user groups and families that are close to town and easily accessible. The Galena Mountain Bike Club has expressed enthusiasm and support for projects that would provide additional riding areas for their youth-based mountain biking club focused on ages 11-18. In addition, Washoe County relies heavily on volunteers for trail maintenance and engages youth through volunteer events with our park ranger staff, through our volunteer coordinator, and through partnerships with non-profits and other local groups.

12. Does the plan describe how new outdoor recreation facilities will be developed, maintained, and/or managed?

Specifications for the Sierra Front Trail construction and management would be developed in cooperation with the Carson Ranger District as part of the planning process. This includes incorporating the USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails in the trail design and layout, and creation of project design features as part of the NEPA process. The new trail would be managed and maintained by Washoe County Parks and the Carson Ranger District in partnership.

13. How does the plan (or the planned project) contribute to the economic vitality of the community?

Every year, Nevada's outdoor recreation industry generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending and 87,000 jobs, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. According to a poll by the Small Business Majority, 42% of small business owners polled stated that access to outdoor opportunities provided by parks and public lands was a huge factor when determining where to live and own a business. Providing additional trails and recreational amenities further contributes to the economic vitality of the community by fostering the outdoor culture that this region thrives on. In addition, the 2019 Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan states that in Nevada, "the impact of local park and recreation agency spending on our state's economies is \$1.4 billion in economic activity generating over 11,000 jobs". The plan also recognizes that parks, trails and other recreational amenities provide a wide variety of economic benefits related to visitor spending, health and wellness, and protection of land and property values.

The planned project would result in construction of a new multi-use trail connecting existing trail systems in north and south Reno. This would increase recreation opportunities for residents and visitors which can help boost tourism and support local businesses. Providing this key connection along the Sierra Front would contribute to a well-connected trail system that will continue to draw visitors to the area as a premier recreation destination.

14. Describe how conservation and/or rehabilitation of water and habitat have been incorporated in planning activities?

Resource specialists from the Carson Ranger District in coordination with the Washoe County contractor selected to conduct environmental surveys would create project design criteria to conserve water and habitat and reduce impacts to other sensitive resources. Project design criteria would be dependent on survey results, concerns identified by the public, and would happen as part of the NEPA process as described in this proposal.

In addition, trail design would follow the USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails and be constructed following best practices for sustainable trail building with the goal to withstand the impacts of intended use while needing only routine maintenance. Following sustainable trail building practices should reduce impacts to water and habitat by minimizing erosion, reducing potential for sedimentation, and protecting existing native vegetation.

Applicant History

15. Summarize your organization's grant management record. If your organization is new to grants, please summarize the organization's project management record.

Washoe County Parks routinely manages grants from Federal, state, and local funding sources to help complete a variety of priority projects. Recent history includes managing grants from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance, Truckee River Fund (TRF), and other local sources such as the Pennington and Wilbur May Foundations.

The Natural Resource Planner responsible for this project has 15 years of previous experience managing grants for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management including grants

from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Fund, Wild Turkey Foundation, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Current grants managed within the last two years for Washoe County Parks include funding provided by the Truckee River Fund, Nevada Division of Forestry, Recreational Trails Program, and Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The Fiscal Compliance Officer responsible for this project has several years of experience managing federal grants for the Washoe County Health District and has attended several training courses on federal grant management. She recently transferred to Washoe County Parks and has been involved with Truckee River Fund, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Pennington Foundation, and Wilbur May Foundation grants.

16. Describe your organization's capacity to maintain facilities for the next 25 years.

Washoe County Parks has full-time maintenance and park ranger staff that patrol and perform routine maintenance at all county parks and trailheads. In addition, seasonal staff are hired during the busy summer season to assist with these duties. Limited funding is available to assist with infrastructure preservation costs.

Washoe County Park staff work directly with partner agencies and non-profit groups to help maintain trail facilities within our park and open space areas. Our partners include Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Biggest Little Trail Stewardship, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Nevada Land Trust, Boy Scouts of America, and other local businesses and groups.

SECTION IV

Maps, Photographs, and other Graphics: If you already compiled graphics in response to Section I, Question 17 (Environmental Compliance), those will suffice. *Education projects do not require graphics, although they will be accepted.*

If you have not yet compiled graphics, please assemble the following:

Three (3) specific maps:

- General location map (showing project area within the state and/or county)
- Topographic map (7.5 minute series quadrangle, 1:24,000 scale) with project boundary and map name
 - Topographic maps are preferred but aerial photos will suffice
- Detail map indicating specific project elements (e.g., structures, trail alignment)
- For all maps, please include a key, north arrow, scale
- Maps larger than 11x17 will not be accepted

Photographs:

- At least two (2) overviews of the project area from different angles and distances.

SECTION V

Transmittal Letter(s): All applicants must submit at least one transmittal letter with this application, signed by an individual with the authority to bind the organization to a legal agreement.

If there is **no Federal involvement**, the letter must verify the following:

- a) The project will not facilitate motorized activities on trails that have been predominantly used by non-motorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred (Section 1302 (e)(2)(c) of the National Recreational Trails Act);
- b) A commitment to maintain the project's features for 25 years.

If the project **involves any Federal agencies** (as applicant, partner, and/or landowner), please include a letter of support from each Federal partner. Their letter(s) must verify the following:

- a) They have read the application and agree to any responsibilities assigned to them for this project;
- b) The project will not facilitate motorized activities on trails that have been predominantly used by non-motorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred (Section 1302 (e)(2)(c) of the National Recreational Trails Act);
- c) The project is in compliance with all applicable laws and in particular the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA);
- d) Construction of trails for motorized activity are situated upon land allocated for use other than wilderness or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and that such construction is otherwise consistent with an approved land and resources management plan;
- e) A commitment to maintain the project's features (e.g., trails, buildings) for 25 years.

SECTION VI

Authorized Signature of Applicant

The signature below indicates approval of this project and authorizes this request for funding from the Nevada Recreational Trails Program.



Signature

DAVID M. SOLANO

Name (print or type)

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Title

WASHOE COUNTY

Agency / Organization

11/10/2020

Date

PRESENTATION TO THE RTP COMMITTEE

The RTP application process requires a presentation to the RTP Committee. Presentations are limited to 10 minutes in length and provide an opportunity to further explain your project. In addition, the committee can ask questions about the project and clarify any details.

The RTP Committee meets for three days in December. You are not required to attend the entirety of the meeting. Shortly after the application deadline, NDSP staff will contact you with the specific date and time of your presentation. Applicants must be in attendance for their allotted presentation time, to merit final consideration.



File Code: 1580

Date: November 9, 2020

Heather Giger
Park & Recreation Program Manager
Nevada Division of State Parks
901 S. Stewart St. Suite 5005
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms. Giger:

This letter is in support of Washoe County, Community Services Department, Regional Parks and Open Space efforts to obtain funding for the Sierra Front Trail Planning project. This project serves as an opportunity to complete planning for a new non-motorized trail connection between the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and the Michael D. Thompson (Hunter Creek) Trailhead.

The Carson Ranger District partners with Washoe County Parks to maintain and manage trails and trailheads in the Galena Creek area and along the Sierra Front. The proposed trail would occur on both Forest Service and Washoe County lands and provide a key connection along the Sierra Front between existing trail systems in north and south Reno.

The intent of this proposal is to bring the Sierra Front Trail project into compliance with all applicable laws including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Carson Ranger District is prepared to sign a Decision Memo after satisfactory completion of all required surveys, reports, and consultation.

This project will not facilitate motorized activities on trails that have been predominately used by non-motorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred (Section 1302 (e)(2)(c) of the National Recreational Trails Act). Only non-motorized trail construction is being considered as part of this planning project.

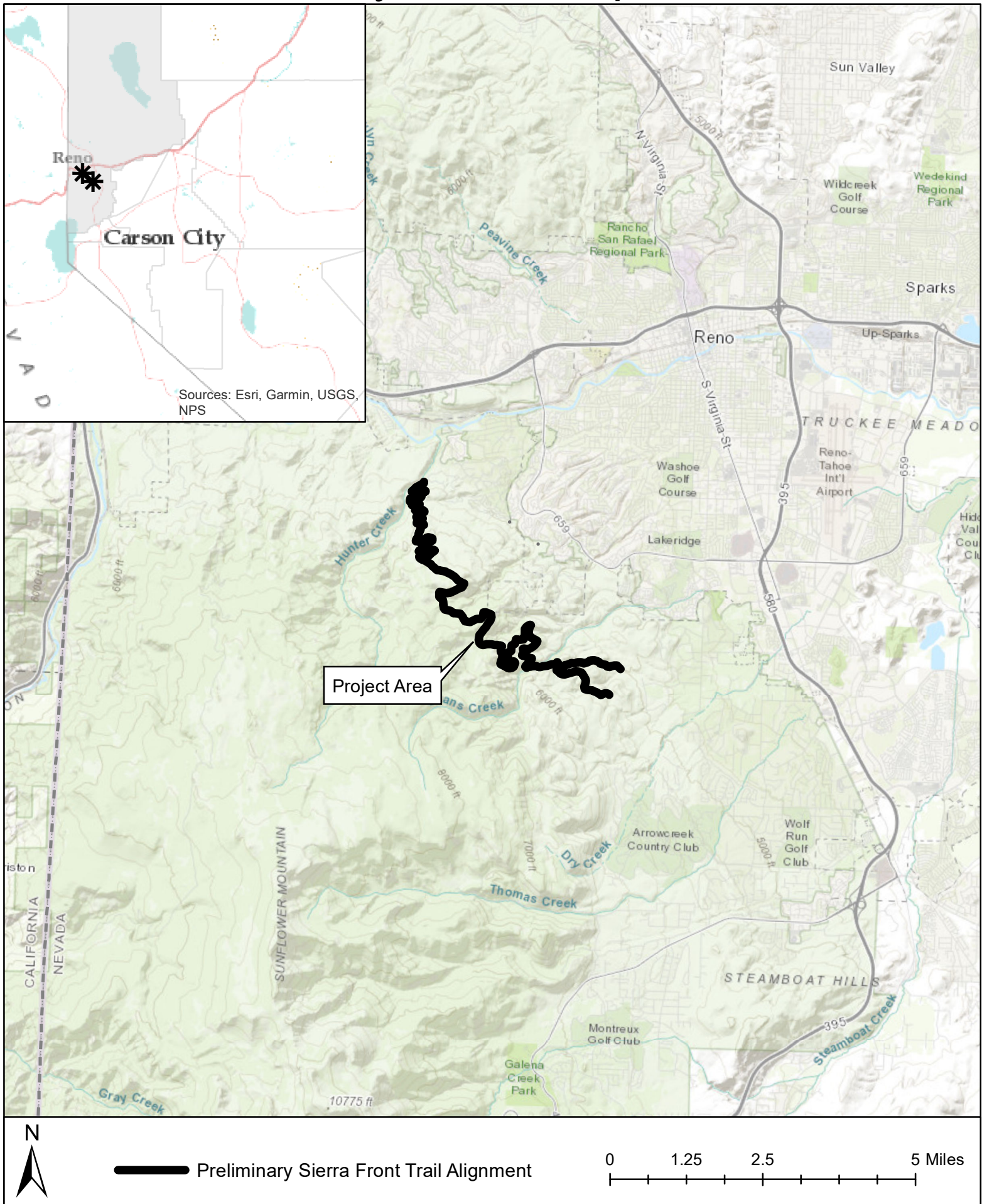
We look forward to your favorable consideration of this proposal to provide an important new trail connection in the Reno area. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

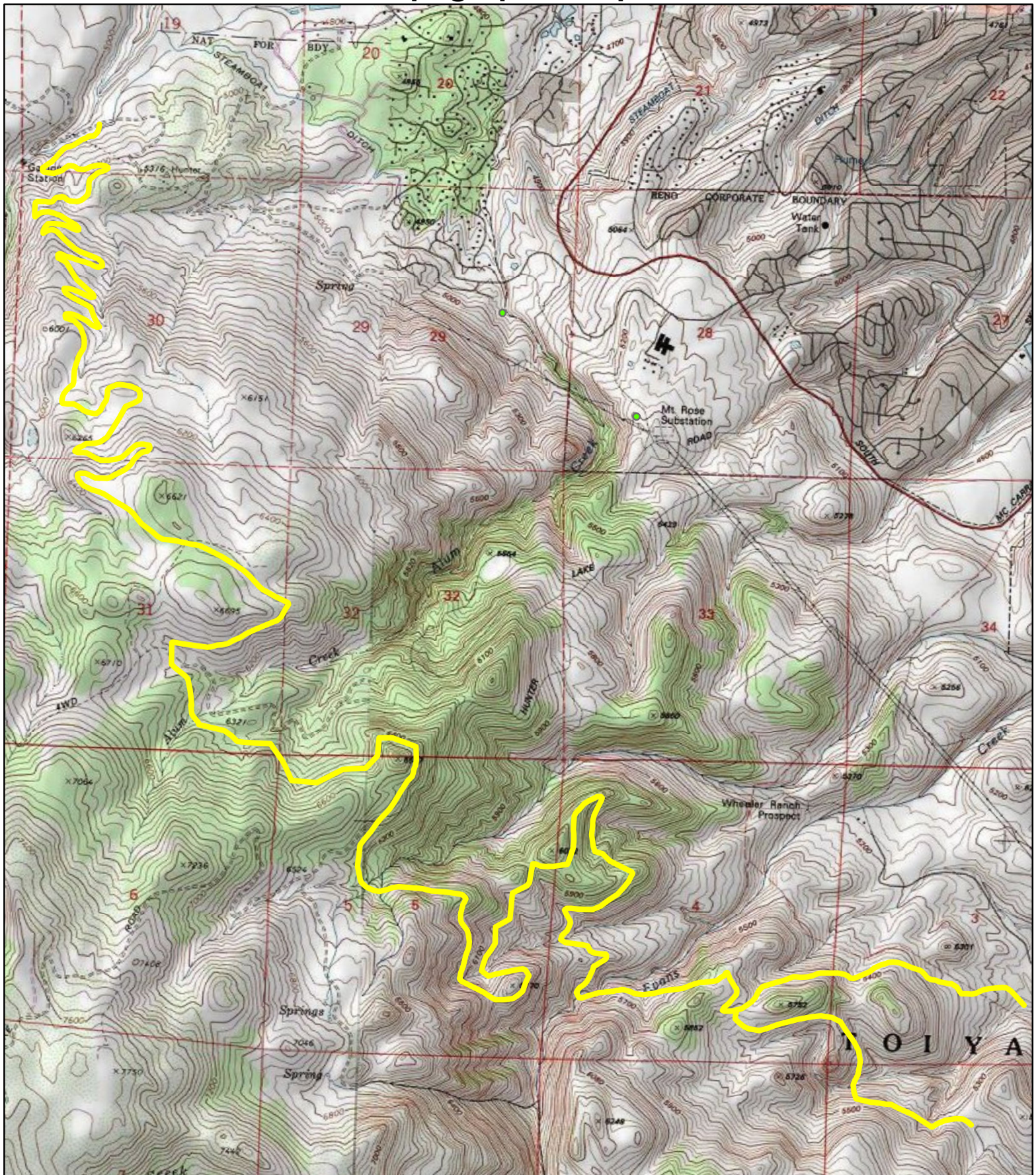
MATTHEW D. ZUMSTEIN
District Ranger



Sierra Front Trail Planning Project Location Map



Sierra Front Planning Topographic Map



— Preliminary Sierra Front Trail Alignment

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

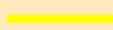
Sierra Front Trail Planning Project Detail Map

Michael D. Thompson
(Hunter Creek)
Trailhead

Ballardini Ranch
Trailhead



Trailheads



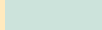
Preliminary Sierra Front Trail Alignment



Existing System Trails



Existing Social Trails



Forest Service Land



Washoe County Open Space

Trail length:
Approx. 13.5 miles




0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Figure 1: Sierra Front Trail South

View of south portion of the Preliminary Sierra Front Trail Alignment

Legend

 Preliminary Sierra Front Trail

Google Earth

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Image Landsat / Copernicus

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO




3000 ft

Figure 2: Sierra Front Trail North

View of north portion of the Preliminary Sierra Front Trail Alignment

Legend

 Preliminary Sierra Front Trail



Google Earth

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Image Landsat / Copernicus

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

1000 ft