



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 13, 2022

DATE: November 3, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent,
Community Services Dept., 328-2181, cwallace@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
Community Services Department, 328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS), a Nevada non-profit corporation, for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional parks system, for a term of five years, with option for one five-year renewal [at no cost]; and authorize the Director of the Community Services Department to sign the Agreement and subsequent renewals on behalf of Washoe County. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Washoe County has 167 miles of trail within our open space parcels, trailheads, and regional parks. In the approved 2019 Parks Master Plan, hiking trails were considered a facility that Washoe County residents used most and connecting parks with trails and trailheads was considered one of the top four priorities of the plan. With the addition of our new Trails Program Coordinator, the need for maintenance of existing trails and the development and construction of new trails is on the forefront of our park and open space planning efforts. If approved, this agreement would formalize the volunteer trail building efforts by Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS) on Washoe County parkland.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability – Long Term Sustainability.

PREVIOUS ACTION

November 1, 2022 - The Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommended approval of the Agreement between Washoe County and BLTS for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks system.

September 24, 2019 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved the 2019 Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The mission of BLTS is to build, maintain, and advocate for sustainable trails throughout the greater Reno community. Washoe County has partnered with BLTS (formerly

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Poedunks) for many years on the maintenance and construction of specific trails in the Peavine Mountain area. Most of these trails are on the north side of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and connect to the United States Forest Service (USFS) trails to the north and west of the park boundary.

As Washoe County continues to grow, so does trail use. More trail maintenance and construction on the county trail systems is needed and this agreement formalizes the current relationship with BLTS. Washoe County is seeking assistance on various trail projects throughout our open space and regional park system and will work closely together on the design, construction, repair and maintenance needs of all trails.

BLTS has the following goals as an organization:

- Be a model trail building organization and International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) chapter
- Maintain a healthy honest relationship with land managers
- Seek approval for new trails
- Build a trail network all the way around Peavine Mountain
- Improve the connectivity of the Reno area's trails and trail heads
- Connect to other regional trail networks in Nevada and California
- Provide trail signage and electronic mapping
- Support local bike parks
- Assist other trail groups and community organizations

Washoe County Parks has a long, successful history of working with local non-profits to provide public services. Currently, Washoe County works with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Nevada Land Trust, Great Basin Institute, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Reno Food Systems, Silver Arrow Bowmen, May Arboretum Society, and Washoe Tennis Club to name a few. All of these non-profits provide services to the community and reinforce the strong public/private partnership that benefits the citizens and makes this a great place to work and live.

FISCAL IMPACT

The agreement with BLTS will be volunteer trail building efforts and does not have a fiscal impact to Washoe County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve an Agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS), a Nevada non-profit corporation, for the construction and maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional parks system, for a term of five years, with option for one five-year renewal [at no cost]; and authorize the Director of the Community Services Department to sign the Agreement and subsequent renewals on behalf of Washoe County.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve an Agreement between Washoe County and Biggest Little Trail Stewardship (BLTS), a Nevada non-profit corporation, for the construction and

maintenance of trails within the Washoe County Open Space and Regional parks system, for a term of five years, with option for one five-year renewal [at no cost]; and authorize the Director of the Community Services Department to sign the Agreement and subsequent renewals on behalf of Washoe County.”