

CARSON CITY VITAL COMMUNITY ACT OF 2008

The origins of this legislation can be found in Carson City's collaborative master planning effort, "Envision Carson City," which concluded in 2006. At the end of Carson City's 2-year public process, city leaders had a clear message from their residents. The community wants to keep growth compact, maintain the integrity of the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands surrounding the town, enhance open space and maintain easy access to public lands. The Carson City Vital



Community Act of 2008 was developed in close partnership with Carson City and other key stakeholders to help fulfill these goals.

WHAT THE LEGISLATION DOES

ADDS 2,200 ACRES OF PRIME, FORESTED LAND TO THE HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

- Over 2,200 acres of high elevation, forested land owned by Carson City will be transferred to the Forest Service for protection in the National Forest System. These lands are currently surrounded by Forest Service and state park lands.
- Incorporating this large inholding into the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will allow for improved management for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and other important uses. It will also ensure that the land remains undeveloped and open for public access.

TRANSFERS 1,000 ACRES OF LOW ELEVATION, UNFORESTED LAND TO CARSON CITY FOR MANAGEMENT AS PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

- Roughly 1,000 acres of Forest Service land that border neighborhoods and commercial development – the 'wildland urban interface' – will be transferred to Carson City and permanently protected as open space.
- Transfer of the wildland-urban interface will allow Carson City to take a more hands-on approach in managing these border areas. Likewise, the Forest Service will be freed to focus more energy on its core mission of resource protection and forest health in the larger Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
- Carson City will have the flexibility to treat these lands for hazardous fuels in order to better protect the neighborhoods and businesses on the west side of town.

IMPROVES MANAGEMENT AND PROVIDES PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND CARSON RIVER AREA

- The 3,500-acre Silver Saddle and Carson River Area will be conveyed from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Carson City. The city has been a key partner in the management of the property for nearly a decade through a strong partnership with the BLM and Friends of Silver Saddle.
- The BLM will retain a conservation easement over the conveyed lands, thereby protecting the area from further development and preserving the area's scenic and natural qualities.
- Carson City has over 20 employees dedicated to its open space and parks program. This will allow Carson City to intensively manage the conveyed lands.

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PRESERVES FOOTHILLS VIEWS, OPEN SPACE AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

- Nearly 20,000 acres of BLM land on the east side of Carson City will be withdrawn from land disposal and mineral laws to protect the area and ensure it remains open and accessible.
- OHV use will be limited to existing roads and trails until the BLM completes their travel management planning process.

PROVIDES ACCESS TO SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT (SNPLMA) FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITIONS AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER

- Through this amendment to SNPLMA, Carson City will be eligible for funds to purchase land for parks and open space along the Carson River. The federal lands along the Carson River will also be eligible for funding for conservation projects.

MAKES 150 ACRES OF HARD-TO-MANAGE BLM AND FOREST SERVICE LAND AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT FAIR-MARKET VALUE

- Roughly 150 acres of isolated and difficult to manage BLM and Forest Service land would be available for auction. Proceeds from these sales would be used to acquire environmentally sensitive lands and protect archaeological resources in Carson City.

ADDRESSES THE WASHOE TRIBE'S NEED FOR MORE LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- About 300 acres of Forest Service and BLM land near the Carson and Stewart Colonies would be conveyed to the Washoe Tribe, with nearly half of those acres available for development.

PROVIDES LAND FOR CARSON CITY FOR RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES

- Roughly 1,700 acres of scattered BLM parcels would be conveyed to Carson City for recreation and public purposes and open space. The city currently controls about a third of this land through Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases.
- Carson City would use the land for much needed parks and to accommodate future flood control projects.