

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions - Project Summary

Round 12

Project Name: Tahoe Meadows

Preliminary Ranking: 1

Funding Requested: \$307,900

Recommended for SNPLMA

\$307,900

Tab #: 4



Acquiring Agency: USDA FS

Nominating Entity: Nevada Land Conservancy

County: Washoe

Acres: 1.79

Water: N/A

Location: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, in the Carson Ranger District

Project Description:

The Tahoe Meadows/Sheep Flat property is 1.796-acres located at approximately 8,500 feet near the western edge of the Tahoe Meadows, immediately north of and adjacent to State Route 431, the Nevada Scenic Byway known as the Mount Rose Highway. The property is bordered on three sides by U.S. Forest Service Lands, and sits just above the Incline Lake project area. The site is undeveloped and contains no structures or roads, but does contain historic remnants of the fencing, the Ophir Creek flume, and shepherd's cabin from the 1800's. Tahoe Meadows was originally nominated by Washoe County and the Nevada Land Conservancy in Round 5 of SNPLMA as the Incline Lake Leon property, but could not be completed due to differences of opinion over value. Nevada Land Conservancy considers this acquisition an extremely high priority and has worked to acquire and safeguard the property until such time as it can be transferred into public ownership.

Resource Values:

The parcel contains significant natural, aesthetic, riparian and cultural values, as well as specially designated species: Galena Creek Rockcress, Tahoe Draba, and the Northern Sierra endemic ant. A majority of the site is characterized by high elevation alpine/wetland meadows, and contains the headwaters and upper reaches of Ophir Creek. Lodgepole pine, several species of willows, numerous wildflowers, and various sedges and native grasses are plentiful. The entire Tahoe Meadows contain significant archaeological values, including habitation and processing sites dating back 4,000 years. The Comstock-era Ophir Creek Flume originated on the property, and some evidence of that water conveyance system remains. The Remnants of an historic sheep herder's cabin, which led to the area being commonly known as Sheep Flat, are also found on the property. The area has high recreational use throughout the year including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, hiking and birdwatching.

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Round 12

Project Name: Rosenlund Property

Preliminary Ranking: 2

Funding Requested: \$569,700

Not Recommended

Tab #: 3



Acquiring Agency: USDA FS

Nominating Entity: The Nature Conservancy

County: Nye

Acres: 139.00

Water: N/A

Location: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (Tierney Creek)

Project Description:

The Rosenlund property is comprised of two non-contiguous by close by private inholdings totaling +/- 139 acres; no water rights are included. The parcels lie within the federally designated Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nye County, Nevada along Tierney Creek. Cultural remnants remain on the property from an old stone house structure. Acquisition of the property is important for protection of wildlife habitat including various bird species, mule deer, and elk; for cultural and recreation values; and especially for preservation of important habitat for and a population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT), a federally listed threatened species. The property provides good habitat for many wildlife species. The property was originally nominated in Round 10 as the Rosenlund and Coverston properties (Coverston's defaulted on purchase of the parcel from Rosenlund, reverting title back to the Rosenlund's) and recommended for FLTFA funding which is no longer available.

Resource Values:

The property is important for its wildlife, cultural and recreation values. It contains important habitat for and a population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT), a federally listed threatened species. The property provides good habitat for many wildlife species including various bird species, mule deer, and elk. The property contains riparian areas, which are communities of very high biodiversity that are special and rare in this dry region. There is one known cultural site in the area that has not been evaluated for eligibility for special designation, and it is likely that there are more sites on the property due to the flat topography and proximity to water. The property will also provide access to federal lands and the recreational opportunities of dispersed camping, hunting and hiking.

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Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions - Project Summary

Round 12

Project Name: Locatelli Property

Preliminary Ranking: 3

Funding Requested: \$1,216,700

Not Recommended

Tab #: 1



Acquiring Agency: BLM

Nominating Entity: BLM Southern Nevada District Office

County: Clark

Acres: 2.50

Water: N/A

Location: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Calico Basin)

Project Description:

The Locatelli property is a 2.5-acre parcel, more or less, located in Calico Basin within the federally designated Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA). The property abuts BLM-managed public lands to the west and south, and private lands to the north and east. The western side of the parcel has views to the north, south, and west of Red Rock Canyon. All structures on the property including a 1,300 sq. ft. modular home, a 800 sq. ft. shed/warehouse, a chain link fence, two portable storage containers, a power pole, and a septic tank and leach field will be removed and a well and holding tank will be properly abandoned and plugged, all by the seller at the seller's expense prior to transfer of title to the United States. Access to the property is provided along an easement on public land formerly known as the Hutchinson property.

Resource Values:

This property will enhance BLM's ability to meet the increasing recreational and management needs of the RRCNCA. This in-holding has recreational value as well as habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and three (3) sensitive wildlife species, which are known to occur on or adjacent to the area. Acquisition will improve access to public lands within the NCA, provide opportunities for future development of non-motorized, multi-use trails, enhance recreation opportunities, and reduce land uses that are incompatible with management objectives. Acquiring the subject property will eliminate a source of ground water withdrawal that has potential to impact nearby springs and their dependent species, and improve management of critical habitat in the NCA.

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Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions - Project Summary

Round 12

Project Name: Rivertree Ranch Conservation Easement

Preliminary Ranking: 4

Funding Requested: \$2,872,000

Not Recommended

Tab #: 2



Acquiring Agency: BLM

Nominating Entity: The Nature Conservancy

County: Douglas

Acres: 194.86

Water: N/A

Location: East Fork of the Carson River in southwest Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

Project Description:

The property is located within the Carson Valley in Gardnerville, Nevada. It lies along the East Fork of the Carson River in Douglas, County and flanks about 4,800 feet of the river. The nomination is for a conservation easement (CE) over 194.86 acres of the Ranch along its Carson River frontage; a additional 40-acre portion of the property containing residential and ranch structures will not be part of the conservation easement. The portion to be protected is adjacent on two sides to another large CE acquired in 2006 by the United States and managed by the Sierra-Front Field Office, over land owned by Hussman Land & Livestock Company and will provide for better and more consistent management of the resources to be protected by both easements. The easement will protect important plant and animal riparian and wet meadow habitats.

Resource Values:

The Ranch encompasses important riparian wildlife habitat, cottonwood riparian and wet meadow habitats. Approximately 4,800 ft. of the Carson River pass through the land and sustain many important species of plants and animals. The property contains habitat that supports 3 special status species. The conservation easement will protect the floodplain from development detrimental to the watershed and that could cause or exacerbate erosion and contaminate runoff that reaches the river, diminishing water quality. By prohibiting development, the easement will also protect aesthetic qualities, such as historic viewsheds of the Sierra Nevada and Pinenut Mountains, of the East Fork of the Carson River.