



CARSON VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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Media Release—For Immediate Release

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Carson Valley Trails Association Receives Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Grant for Genoa Foothill Trail System Project

The Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) has received a \$396,378 Question 1 grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands to help fund required environmental assessments, land surveys and construction of the first two of three phases of the non-motorized Genoa Foothill Trail System, to be located in the foothills of the Carson Range west of the Town of Genoa, and to the north and south, from Adams Canyon (west of the Eagle Ridge development) to the Kingsbury Grade. CVTA will work in partnership with Douglas County, the U.S. Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy, The Tahoe Rim Trail, The Town of Genoa and private landowners to complete the project. Work on the environmental studies is expected to begin in the Spring of 2009. Final construction and opening of the trail system is expected in 2012.

The Question 1 conservation initiative was approved by Nevada voters in the November 5, 2002, general election. The initiative authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds to carry out the program. The Nevada State Legislature authorized the Nevada Division of State Lands to establish a conservation and resource protection grant program and administer the issuance of general obligation bonds totaling \$65,500,000. From this amount, \$7,250,000 was allocated to state agencies, counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the construction of recreational trails.

Before trail construction begins, environmental assessments must be conducted on the U.S. Forest Service lands where the Genoa Foothill Trail System will be constructed. The studies must demonstrate that the project meets National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards requiring federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions. In addition, land surveys must be completed where the Genoa Foothill Trail System corridor is in close proximity to private lands.

Phase I construction will include 2 miles of the Foothill Trail from Adams Canyon Trailhead to Sierra Canyon, and 5 miles of new trail up Sierra Canyon that will connect to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Phase II construction includes three more miles of the Foothill Trail from Sierra Canyon to just south of Genoa Canyon, and two 1 mile connector trails that will meet and create a loop beginning at a public access location in the Town of Genoa.

CVTA is required to match 40% of the the \$396,378 grant with cash and in-kind volunteer hours. CVTA matching funds will help pay for NEPA assessments, land surveys, trail building equipment and operation, and U.S. Forest Service oversight. Non-cash, in-kind matches will cover planning, trail construction, project management and administration.

When completed, the Genoa Foothill Trail System project will:

- Follow the Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan/Map
- Create public access to national forest land
- Construct non-motorized linear and loop opportunities
- Connect Carson Valley to the Lake Tahoe Basin and Tahoe Rim Trail
- Provide spectacular Carson Valley views
- Establish a portion of the greater Carson Valley Foothill Trail
- Occur simultaneously with The Nature Conservancy's trails plan at River Fork Ranch

“CVTA is excited about this new project, “says president, Kerstin Wolle. “The addition of the Genoa Foothill Trail System will significantly enhance the quality of life within the Carson Valley.” CVTA trailbuilder, Jeremy Vlcan adds, “This new trail system will allow local residents to really experience their own backyard. You will have spectacular views of the Pine Nut Mountains, the Carson River, and the entire Carson Valley from the new trails. This will be a wonderful resource to pass down to future generations.”

In addition to the Question 1 grant, CVTA has written and been awarded several grants to support the organization's work to access, build and maintain existing and future trails within the Carson Valley. These grants are:

- \$3600 from the American Hiking Society for signage trail maps at the Faye-Luther and Job's Peak Ranch trails
- \$5000 from the Sierra Pacific Foundation to build a trailhead kiosk at the Adams Canyon trailhead of the Genoa Foothill Trail System
- \$17,555 from the State of Nevada Recreational Trails Program (with a CVTA matching share of \$10,660) for directional and interpretive signs at the Faye-Luther and Job's Peak Ranch trails.

For more information about the Genoa Foothill Trail System, visit the CVTA Web site: www.carsonvalleytrails.org or contact CVTA president, Kerstin Wolle, 775-265-3736.

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