

Watershed Connections

Delivering News to the Carson River Watershed Community

Stillwater Wildlife Refuge, Photo by Katie Smith

Water Connects Us All

Promoting Watershed-Literacy in the Carson River Watershed

By Katie Smith, AmeriCorps Member & Watershed Program Technician

During Earth Week 2021, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) launched the second film in the *I Am Carson River Watershed* campaign series, [*"Water Connects Us All"*](#). This public service announcement spurs Carson River Watershed residents to adopt personal actions that reduce pollution including recycling used motor oil, using a car wash, maintaining septic systems, and cleaning up pet waste. The film features 40+ community members from around the watershed who ask their neighbors to include these simple actions into their lives to protect the quality of our drinking water and our watershed.

The *I Am Carson River Watershed* campaign is an outreach and education effort aimed at improving watershed-literacy in our community. The campaign messaging is based on a watershed-wide survey conducted by CWSD. The survey revealed many residents are unaware they live in a watershed and that their actions affect the quality of the environment. CWSD contracted Neon Agency to create a series of captivating videos to inform and inspire residents about how they are connected to the place they live and how water really does connect us all. "CWSD wants residents to know

that everyday actions can have a profound impact on improving water quality," stated Shane Fryer, CWSD Watershed Specialist, "so as the film asserts, your actions matter!"

These individual actions are essential for the reduction of polluted runoff, the protection of our environment, and the quality of our drinking water. "Everyone lives in a watershed," said Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Program Manager. "We hope these messages inspire everyone to help protect the quality of the environment wherever they live." The *I am Carson River Watershed* campaign is funded through Clean Water Act 319(h) funds with support from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and CWSD. Visit iamcarsonriver.org or contact Brenda Hunt at Brenda@cwsd.org to learn more about the campaign.

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Visit iamcarsonriver.org to see
'Water Connects Us All' and learn more about
the actions you can take to protect our watershed!

New Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Outdoor Equipment Rentals

By Dan Earp, Carson City Recreation Superintendent

While 2020 was a rough year, one silver lining was the increased appreciation for the outdoors, trails, and personal health. On some Carson City trails, usage increased 400%. We all witnessed the toilet paper shortage, but have you noticed most outdoor recreation equipment is also in short supply? Specialty retail items like bikes, kayaks, campers and more have been backordered for months. If you're looking for your own bit of outdoor solitude, but can't find the equipment to do it, don't worry, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space has you covered. You can rent the item you're looking for from us!

In 2020, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space was the recipient of a generous grant from Carson Tahoe Health to acquire outdoor recreation equipment for the purpose of offering outdoor education programs. After all, dozens of studies show that outdoor recreation is not only good for your physical health, but mental health as well. Who couldn't use a little mental R&R after this past year? We are grateful for Carson Tahoe's support in preventative health in the community.

The goal of this newly formed outdoor program is not only to promote health, but to improve access to the outdoors. Through the grant, Carson City Parks and Recreation will be offering a variety of outdoor educational opportunities. We will be leading a variety of kayaking day trips and overnight trips, including Intro to Backpacking and Snowshoeing. All trips are designed with the beginner in mind. You can check out and register for these trips at www.carson.org/ccpr, see dates Page 8.

If guided trips aren't your cup of tea, all the gear is available to rent for a self-guided adventure. Part of improved access is providing the needed equipment for a particular activity. We figured, if we are going to acquire all this equipment, we might as well make it available to the public when not being used for trips. This summer, come check out our kayaks, backpacking, and

camping gear. We even have disc golf discs. You can take a kayak anywhere you'd like for a day trip or a weeklong trip. Another part of improved access to the outdoors is making recreation more affordable for the community. The cost is just \$25 for a day (24 hours) or \$40 for a whole weekend. We wanted to keep the gear as affordable as possible while making sure the program was sustainable to replace equipment when needed. Hopefully this service will be available for years to come.

If you'd like to check out some equipment this summer, advanced reservations are required. All equipment is located at the Robert "Bob" Crowell Multi-Purpose Athletic Center (The MAC) at 1860 Russell Way in Carson City. To reserve equipment, email Dan Earp at djearp@carson.org. We hope to see you out on a lake this summer!



Photo by Dan Earp

Kayak Training on Lake Tahoe



Photo by Shane Fryer

Carson City kayaks make their maiden voyage down the Middle Carson River in April.

Where A Paddle Can Take You

By Shane Fryer, CWSD Watershed Program Specialist

On the Carson River it is astonishing where a paddle can take you. A single stroke can send you gliding through ancient galleries of cottonwood trees, amongst bustling rookeries of night heron and egret. The next stroke can propel you through wondrously deep canyons and across playfully turbulent rapids. With a paddle you can follow the Carson River's path through our communities, ranches, and most loved landscapes. With a paddle you can float by the vestiges of our past and into the hopes for our future.

On April 29th, 24 stakeholders from our watershed's counties, the Washoe Tribe, non-profits, agencies, and NV State Parks began a journey by picking up a paddle to taking the first stroke into what will hopefully become a more user friendly Carson River.



Photo by Shane Fryer



Photo by Shane Fryer

The main goals of CWSD's Middle Carson River trip were to get our decision makers on the river to share an incredible experience, and to garner support to conserve the river while managing recreation along its incredible reaches.

Our sizable flotilla of kayaks and canoes launched from Cradlebaugh Bridge where the river flows under Highway 395. For the next four hours we gently floated along the Bentley's Kirman Track and State Lands discussing floodplain protection, stream bank restoration, and extending Carson City's current Aquatic River Trail. The dream is to create an extensive water trail system with put-ins and take-outs allowing boaters, depending on skill

levels, to float from Douglas Co. through Carson City, and into Lyon Co. Critical infrastructure is needed to portage dams, access/egress the river safely, and create a unified signage system. Clear information at boating access sites and online is necessary to inform boaters of hazards, safeguard the environment, and to identify private lands and prevent trespass.

CWSD thanks all our partners for their energy and ideas for making this day an amazing success. Carson City is an incredible partner, supplying 10 of their new kayaks for the trip's use! Many of the participants lent boats out too! Once the river comes up, we will be out again, so make sure you are signed up for our newsletter and receiving our CRC emails.

Alpine Watershed Group's Markleeville Creek Day is back! Sept 18, 2021

Markleeville Creek Day will take place on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 9a.m.

Please save the date, and join us for a day of watershed restoration projects in Alpine County!

Stay tuned for more details by visiting our Creek Day webpage:

<https://www.alpinewatershedgroup.org/creek-day>



Douglas County Lands Bill– A Conversation with Jacques Etchegoyhen

Jacques Etchegoyhen, Legacy Land & Water Interview, by Shane Fryer and Katie Smith

This is a small excerpt from our informative interview with Mr. Etchegoyhen.

[Watch the full interview on Carson River Watershed YouTube Channel](#) or [read the full transcript on our website](#).

What is the Douglas County Lands Bill? What do you want people to know about it?

The goal of the Bill is to thoughtfully auction off and transfer some land from federal to county ownership and jumpstart the open space protection program and the floodplain protection program in Douglas County. Really, the keystone of the whole bill is a little 28-acre piece of land (North of Jack's Valley Road between Target and Best Buy) surrounded by very intense development that belongs to the US Forest Service. If you drove there today, you'd find a dumping ground. It's unmanageable by the Forest Service but, to sell that land at auction and hopefully have it commercially developed, the proceeds alone would probably protect three or four family ranches in the Carson Valley.

How will this Bill benefit Douglas County?

Since 1988 the BLM has slated over 10,000 acres for sale in Douglas County and some of the land proposed in this Bill has been on that disposal list for many years. Without the Douglas County Lands Bill, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would sell that land at auction and all the proceeds would go to the US Treasury in Washington; none of it would stay in Douglas County. Around the Western U.S., land is sold at auction, privatized, and sometimes the developers come in and ask for zone changes. Rather than leave that to happenstance, Douglas County decided they would like to pass their own Lands Bill and control how the proceeds generated, and the land is used.

Specifically, how will the bill benefit floodplain protection, recreation access, and agricultural producers in the Carson Valley?

I believe 85% of proceeds would be used for land conservation. The County would set the criteria for the land that would be protected, but I strongly suspect that many folks would support the idea that land in the FEMA 100-year floodplain should be a priority. The proceeds can also be used for trailheads, connecting trails, easements for access, that sort of thing. The Bill also gives Douglas County a seat at the table with the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA 1998) where we can access funds for parks, trails, and natural areas adjacent to the Carson River in Douglas County.

"I'd rather see the sandhill cranes and the bald eagles than see a subdivision with the streets named after what's not there anymore."

— Jacques Etchegoyhen

There are also a few thousand acres that would be transferred from the BLM to Douglas County that was identified years ago to attenuate flooding out of the Pine Nut Mountains around Johnson Lane and Stephanie Way. It's thought that it would be relatively inexpensive to do very low-tech attenuation basins that would reduce flooding and also enhance the groundwater recharge. Slowing that water down and helping it soak in would be very beneficial to this whole Watershed as opposed to having floodwater just flush downstream.

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Photo by Genie Azad

60-acres of land presently owned by BLM & USFS, including that 28-acre parcel previously identified, will be sold into private ownership to create a fund to support further land protection. Have lands been identified that will be protected through this funding source?

It's really up to the Douglas County Commission to decide how the funds would be utilized. Specific target lands haven't been identified beyond the general concept of conserving ranch land in Carson Valley. I can tell you firsthand, there are numerous ranchers in Douglas County who would love to participate in this or other programs. This region has a really rich history and we try and celebrate and protect it, so that's the goal of this plan - let's protect these resource rich irrigated lands.

We understand that the Bill is stuck in committee despite there being broad bipartisan support. Can you explain that to us?

Our Nevada senators and congress-people in Washington have wanted to package the Douglas County Lands Bill with other Northern Nevada land bills. There are a few out there I am aware of in Washoe County, Pershing County, etc. The Douglas County Bill has all the components to make it a very attractive stand-alone bill and it has been attached to others, I think, really to help them along. I certainly don't understand the machinations that happen in Washington DC but we are, for the moment, attached at the hip with other land bills that are much more complicated.

"I've always said that the only permanent planning tool is a conservation easement. The rest can be changed by any given County Commission on any given Thursday."

— Jacques Etchegoyhen

Control click these links:

- ✦ **[For a map of the areas identified for sale or transfer;](#)**
- ✦ **[To read the full text of the Douglas Co. Lands Bill.](#)**

What can we as a community do to support the Bill?

As always, letters of support are always helpful. Back in Washington, they like to feel that the bills they're pushing forward are broadly supported and this one certainly is, but it's always good to refresh everyone's memory. This has been a multi-year process. We were hoping it would be done quite some time ago but as long as it has taken, the goals are still very relevant. Again, the downside of if the Douglas County Lands Bill not passing is that the BLM could sell all this land and Douglas County residents would get absolutely no benefit. So letters of support and calls are always important for policy makers to feel like they are on good solid ground. Contact details for Nevada's Congressional elected officials are listed [here](#).

Carson River Coalition's Watershed Wednesdays — Weaving Water Quality into All We Do

By Katie Smith; AmeriCorps Member & Watershed Program Technician

The Carson River Coalition's 2021 Watershed Forum made a splash as the first virtual adaptation of the annual conference. Dubbed [Watershed Wednesdays](#), this year's forum encompassed five morning sessions over the five Wednesdays in March emphasizing a distinct aspect of integrated watershed management in the Carson River Watershed. Hosted by the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD), the series debuted more than 50 presentations on five topics: Outreach & Education, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Climate Action: Regenerative Agriculture, and Floodplain Management. Early each Wednesday morning presentations premiered on the Carson River Watershed YouTube Channel giving participants time to watch at their own pace. Late morning, presenters and interested participants convened for a live Zoom Q&A, fostering discussion and connections between each of our expert speaker panels.

Watershed Wednesdays brought interdisciplinary stakeholders from around the Watershed together, showcasing the variety of work being planned and accomplished in our region. Highlights from the series included a sneak peak of CWSD's community drinking water PSA, ["Water Connects Us All"](#), and a presentation and personal Q&A with Ray Archuleta, the former NRCS specialist who brought Regenerative Agriculture to the national spotlight in the 2020 documentary *Kiss the Ground*. The forum provided an invaluable platform for partners to connect and update one another, and for the public to

learn about the multitude of topics such as virtual youth environmental education, recreation partnerships, floodplain protection funding, regenerative ag and soil health, river restoration, floodplain mapping, and harmful algal bloom monitoring. Each presentation built upon the greater theme of weaving water quality protection into all we do.



Watershed Wednesdays Participants

Partially funded by NDEP Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds, CWSD wholeheartedly thanks NDEP, our presenters and all our viewers for making this another successful Carson River Coalition event. The Carson River Coalition represents non-profit organizations, tribal & governmental agencies, and private landowners, all connected by an enduring interest in the health and long-term protection of our Watershed. If you missed Watershed Wednesdays, you can still view them! All the [presentations and Q&A sessions from Watershed Wednesdays](#) will remain available on the Carson River Watershed YouTube channel to serve as a resource for those interested in learning more about the work being done to preserve water quality and the health of the Carson River Watershed. Please go check them all out and let us know your thoughts!

Storey County Officially Joins CWSD

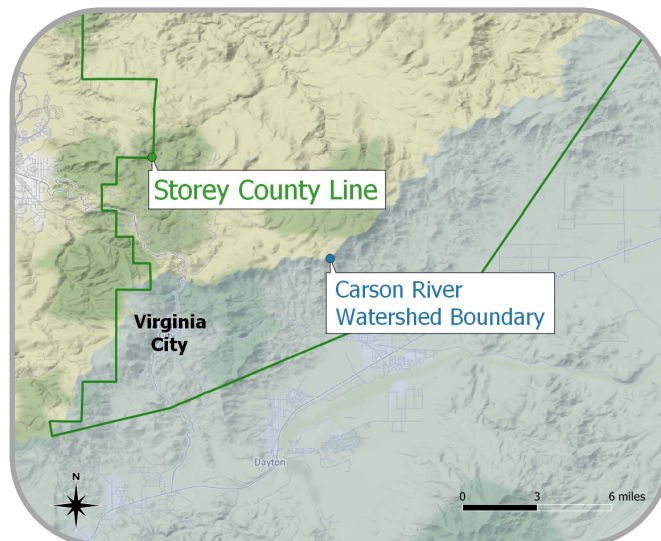
By Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Program Manager

On May 27th, 2021, the Governor approved SB98, officially revising the Carson Water Subconservancy District's legislation to include Storey County effective July 1, 2021. Primarily sponsored by Senators James Settelmeyer, Pete Goicoechea, and Jim Wheeler the bill:

- ◆ Expands CWSD's boundaries to include the portions of Storey County within the Carson River Watershed;
- ◆ Expands the membership of the Board of Directors to include two members from Storey County increasing the Board from 11 to 13 members.

Storey County has been a non-voting advisory member of CWSD Board for over a decade. We welcome them as official members of CWSD and look forward to working with their new appointees.

Next up, Alpine County!!!!



New Board Member Spotlight

By Catrina Schambra, CWSD Administrative Assistant & Katie Smith, Watershed Program Tech

This January, CWSD welcomed five new members to their Board of Directors/Carson River Watershed Committee. CWSD welcomes Dave Nelson, John Engels, Mark Gardner from Douglas County, Lisa Schuette from Carson City, and January Riddle from Alpine County. This month, we are highlighting members January Riddle & Lisa Schuette and our Winter 2021/2022 Newsletter will focus on our new Douglas County members.



Dr. January Riddle, of Markleeville, was appointed Supervisor for the 1st District of Alpine County Board of Supervisors by CA Governor Gavin Newsom, November 2020. Dr. Riddle earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Arts in English from San Jose University. She was a Lecturer in Journalism at San Diego State University from 1982 to 1995 and an Associate Professor of Communications at Bethany College from 1995 to 2001. Dr. Riddle served as an Educational Resource Specialist for the U.S. Peace Corps in South Africa from 2002-2004 before becoming a Humanities Faculty Member at the University of Phoenix from 2009-2018.

Born and raised in Carson City, Lisa Schuette was elected to the Carson City Board of Supervisors in 2020. Lisa has served this community as a Sheriff's Deputy, Juvenile Probation Officer, and Middle School health Teacher, being named Carson City Teacher of the Year in 2013, and Nevada Department of Education HIV Educator of the Year in 2009. Lisa founded Carson Animal Services Initiative, spearheading the effort to build and equip the new animal shelter and currently serves on the Ron Wood Family Resource Center's Board of Directors. In 2018 she was honored as one of Northern Nevada's Top 20 Powerful Women by Northern Nevada Business Weekly. Lisa and her husband, Steve, share their home with Hank, the dog.





★ The AMERICORNER ★



CWSD AmeriCorps Signing Off

By Katie Smith



Exploring Grimes Point Archeological Site near Fallon with Darcy Philips, our wonderful tour guide.

It feels like just yesterday I was writing my 'Welcome to the Watershed' blurb in the last edition of Watershed Connections and now, here I am, saying goodbye. The last six months I have spent with CWSD have been immensely educational, extremely enriching and just plain fun. I am so grateful for all of the experiences I've gained from this AmeriCorps term. From helping with Watershed Wednesdays to floating the Middle Carson River on a workday, I have learned so much about watershed coordination and the wonderful community surrounding the Carson River. I am so excited to apply all that I have learned here in the Carson River Watershed to future endeavors and am thrilled that I won't be moving too far just yet! I'll be starting a position with the Sierra District of California State Parks in June and am excited to come visit often.

Thank you to all of the staff and CRC partners who have taught me so much in my short time with CWSD. Seeing so many stakeholders united by the goal of maintaining the health of this watershed has been truly inspirational. It has been such a pleasure to meet and work with so many of you! The Carson River Watershed will always have a special place in my heart.



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CWSD works within existing governmental frameworks to promote cooperative action for the watershed that crosses both agency and political boundaries.

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Thanks to Contributors!
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Follow us!



More from Around the Watershed

Register Here for Carson City Kayak Trips

Donner Lake	June 29 th	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Cave Rock	July 7 th	6 p.m.- 8p.m.
Caples Lake	July 17 th	9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sand Harbor	August 19 th	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Silver Lake	August 28 th	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Baldwin Beach	September 8 th	11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Ice House Reservoir	September 16 th	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Click logos below for webinars and videos!



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WITH FIRE**

