

For Immediate Release

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Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch to Host Design Workshops and Charrette

Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR) was recently awarded an in-kind grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The purpose of this grant is to undertake a design charrette for Silver Saddle Ranch and the adjacent Prison Hill Recreation Area as well as the recently acquired Anderson property. It will also include the Carson River Corridor from the Douglas County line north to the BLM facility at Morgan Mill Road. The charrette is being called: "Creating a Community Vision: Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River".

A charrette is an intensive brainstorming session where volunteer participants sketch and illustrate their ideas for planning and design solutions and present to the community for feedback. FOSSR is working in partnership with both the Carson City and the Bureau of Land Management and is the lead partner on this project. The purpose of the charrette is to create a community wide vision for the Silver Saddle Ranch, the surrounding open space and the Carson River Corridor.

There will be two public workshops leading up to the charrette. These workshops are scheduled for April 24th and May 8th. The charrette itself will be held in May. At the conclusion of the charrette all materials will be assembled and a cohesive plan will be developed. This plan will be used to increase awareness and stewardship Carson City's open space, Silver Saddle Ranch and adjacent recreational areas as well as the Carson River corridor. Additional outcomes will be greater connections between area trails; increased environmental and outdoor education programs at Silver Saddle Ranch; and development and implementation of a plan to protect and enhance Carson River natural areas.

According to Anne Dove, of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program, "charrettes bring together subject experts and community members to develop ideas on how to improve natural and/or cultural resources and recreation opportunities". The output are maps and designs that offer solutions to issues such as preservation, access and use, interpretation, and development.

Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR) was incorporated in 2001 as a community based non-profit organization. The mission of FOSSR is the preservation of Silver Saddle Ranch and its cultural, historical, and natural resources both as open space and as a working ranch. FOSSR offers environmental programs including birding and hiking.

Silver Saddle Ranch, Carson City's best kept secret, is located just minutes from downtown Carson City. To reach the ranch head east on 5th street, continue past the roundabout at Fairview Drive and turn right at Carson River Road. Continue on for 1.4 miles and look for the ranch entrance on the right. The ranch is open everyday. Winter hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. In the summer the ranch is open from early morning until dusk. The ranch offers access to both the Carson River and the Prison Hill Recreational Area.

Additional information on the ranch and FOSSR as well as the charrette can be obtained by contacting Nancy Santos at 884-1570 or going to www.fossr.org. #####