



The Douglas County Conservation Bill

Continuing more than a dozen years of conservation planning

Douglas County's Master Plan envisions retaining the rural character of its community through the use of conservation easements to protect its cultural heritage, historic agricultural operations, floodplain functions, and natural resources. The Douglas County Conservation Bill is a culmination of more than a dozen years of County effort, and it is an implementation of the most important goals and policies set forth in both Douglas County's Master Plan and its Open Space and Agricultural Lands Preservation Implementation Plan. Today, Douglas County is approaching 15,000 acres of valuable and resource-rich ranch land protected by conservation easements through a combination of programs and funding sources. The Douglas County Conservation Bill provides an opportunity for additional conservation, and is a logical continuation of Douglas County's conservation planning efforts.

Goals

The Douglas County Conservation Bill would: (1) dispose of certain excess and difficult to manage federal lands, ensuring that the sales proceeds are used to acquire conservation easements in the floodplain from willing landowners in Douglas County; (2) transfer federally owned flood control management areas and important water resource infrastructure parcels to Douglas County; (3) transfer important federally owned cultural sites to the Washoe Tribe; (4) propose the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Area; and (5) improve the management of certain federally owned public recreation parcels.

Process

The Douglas County Conservation Bill has been the product of an all-inclusive joint planning effort between Douglas County, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, the BLM, USFS, other federal and state agencies, local towns and general improvement districts, and more than 90 stakeholder groups. In December 2011, Douglas County held 5 Community Open Houses to inform the public and receive comment. In February 2012, should the Douglas County Board of Commissioners approve the concepts and framework of the Douglas County Conservation Bill, Douglas County will begin working with the Nevada Congressional Delegation to craft the specific language of the federal bill.

Questions or Comments

For more information, questions, or comments, please contact: Dominique M. Etchegoyhen at: (775) 338-9840 or dominique@legacylandandwater.com



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