

Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act – Public Comment – Lori Bellis 02/21/20

This proposal has far-reaching ramifications for growth and development in the Truckee Meadows. The process needs to be clear, transparent, thoughtful and inclusive. The massively large disposal area is alarming and promotes a high level of uncertainty and distrust of the land sale and development process. Using a 'disposal boundary' and then making a long list of 'constraints' is cumbersome and confusing.

A more structured, systematic and accountable method is needed.

A TMPLMA listed goal is alignment with the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan (TMRP). The TMRP provides clear direction and rationale for the next 20 years of growth. It was created with considerable stakeholder and public input, and has been adopted by Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks. Use it to direct and inform this process. It is a perfect template to prioritize areas for potential development based on the Tiered approach.

Here's a methodology that is clear, clean, understandable and fits within the framework of sustainable growth:

1. Identify public land in each of the TMRP Regional Land Designations starting at the mixed use core urban center and moving outward from Tier 1, to 2 then 3. A GIS specialist could do this in a day. The Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency has the GIS layers.
2. Evaluate the potential for development based on a checklist of infrastructure needs and wildlife, natural resource and recreational values.
3. Identify the public lands ranked high for development potential and low for wildlife, natural resource and recreational values.
4. Only those lands should go into the Act as eligible for sale. In other words, identify what is appropriate for development and ask for it. It's what's being done for the land transfers, so it obviously can be done.

No public land north of Spanish Springs and Cold Springs should even be considered eligible for sale.

These lands are crucial wildlife habitat, high in biodiversity and abundant in recreational opportunities. Let's keep them that way. Specifically, the Virginia Range, Dogskin Mountain, Bedell Flat, Sand Hills, Petersen Mountain, Pah Rah Range, Warm Springs Mountain, Hungry Ridge, Hungry Mountain and Fred's Mountain should remain public land.

Access to trails and other outdoor recreation activities is the foundation of our \$12.6-billion outdoor recreation economy. The Truckee Meadows Trails working group has been work for several years inventorying existing trails and developing a strategic plan for a regional trail system. Expanding the trail system and keeping trail access open and available to the public is a vital component to our quality of life as well as our economy.

I support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness wilderness proposal for Northern Washoe County.

I support sustainable development that enhances our quality of life, values our wildlife and wild places near and far, and provides for abundant recreational opportunities. This process has the potential to do all those things.