Hidden Valley Regional Park Comments

4-30-2022

- 1. We are in favor of a revised "Concept A" being selected for the draft master plan, as it is the least developed alternative for this rural regional park.
- 2. Item #40 on the Washoe County Master Plan notes a potential trail and vehicular access through the park from the east terminus of Mia Vista Drive to the proposed Sunny Hills Ranchos on the south end of the park. We are opposed to showing this access on the master plan, as well as the concept itself. Trail access to the BLM land and Veterans Parkway already exists at Hidden Highlands Drive and East Hidden Valley Drive we don't need another access. The "potential" vehicular access was added to the plan at the Sunny Hill Ranchos developer's request, not the park users or residents. A public street extension through a County park to a private subdivision would be highly unusual (We certainly hope the County is not trading a reclaimed water easement for a vehicle easement!!). Currently vehicular access to the Sunny Hills Ranchos (22-40 acre parcels) is only a proposal, originating from Story County. (Per Washoe County Division of Land Map #44.)
- 3. We do have concerns about the proposed ponding of the reclaimed water. The consultant pointed out some potential issues for mosquitos, and the ponds becoming an attraction for the wild horses- we share both of those concerns. The horses have been a problem for the neighborhood for quite some time, and are a safety issue for cars. Hidden Valley already has mosquitos all summer from the Double Diamond and Rosewood Lakes areas. Houses at the top of Mia Vista Dr. have also had long term water issue in crawl spaces from underground water flow below the park. The ponds could potentially leak water into the downhill home's crawl spaces and basements over time. Rather than the fenced ponds we would prefer to see the enhanced greenways shown on the master plan extended to where the ponds are proposed, with additional trees for both shade and windbreaks. This is a very windy park most times of the year and the additional trees (evergreen and deciduous) would be welcomed.

4. A Mia Vista Drive access is opposed for several reasons:

A) The street length for a cul-de-sac in Washoe County is a maximum length of 1,500 feet, with a maximum average daily traffic of 300 (30 lots) - per the Washoe County Development Code Street Design Standards. Mia Vista Drive is signed as a dead end street and is already 1,300 feet

long to the park entry, with another 330 feet to the turn-around in the park. Added to that length is both Pony Dr. and Loma Vista Dr., another 1,250 feet. From Mia Vista Drive to the end of Loma Vista Drive is 2,550 feet, far exceeding Washoe County requirements. There are also 21 homes on Mia Vista Drive, including Mia Vista Ct. and an additional 7 homes on Loma Vista, for a total of 28 homes. Loma Vista Drive does not have a fire turn-around or fire hydrants. The last fire hydrant is located at the very top of Mia Vista Drive at 6172 Mia Vista Drive. Truckee Meadows Fire may not be able to adequately fight a fire where they cannot turn around and or have adequate water. Extending Mia Vista Drive through the park to more development creates a dangerous condition.

B) Hidden Valley is directly adjacent to thousands of acres of wildlands subject to fires. Having good emergency access to our homes is critical. Truckee Meadow Fire should be contacted before any gates are added to the Mia Vista Dr. entrance, since the required turn- around is well inside of the park.

C) We are opposed to enduring years of road and home construction traffic on Mia Vista Dr. With the current traffic, there have already been several car accidents and near misses near or at the corner of Pony Drive, the entrance/exit to the Hidden Valley Regional Park and Mia Vista Drive. More traffic at this area would certainly result into a more dangerous condition.

D) Giving Sunny Hills Ranchos vehicle access from the Hidden Valley community would allow the project to move forward with proposed zone changes and density development. The developer will likely concentrate homes in the small buildable areas of their 800 acres, including this area south of Hidden Valley Park. We have heard from the County that the developer is proposing between 4 and 20 lots in this area, but that could go much higher with an approved zone change.

E) In conclusion, if the Item #40 (designations for vehicular access from Mia Vista Drive) is not removed from the plan, we will oppose it moving forward to the County Commission.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Dale and Charmaine Doerr 6172 Mia Vista Dr. (Adjacent to the park south entrance) Reno, NV 89502

Comments on Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan

Tom Fusso <hammer360@gmail.com>

Mon 5/2/2022 3:11 PM

To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov>;Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>;Tom Fusso <hammer360@gmail.com>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Intended for Park Commissioners Meeting 5/3/2022

Below are our comments on the proposed Hidden Valley 2022 Master Plan. We have lived in Hidden Valley since 2014 with our backyard up against the west park boundary, so we have been observing the park for 8 years.

(1) Security Gates: We need automated security gates or an on-site park ranger to secure the park at night. Just last night we had a 2-3 hour after-hours party in the south park, with pounding music, car lights, drunken yelling, etc. We have had bonfires and even gunshots last summer. We typically have 2 nights a week marred by late night visitors during the summer months. HV residents are reluctant to call the sheriff every incident, limiting our complaints to large parties, very late at night, and fires/gunfire. Please install security gates at both north and south parks to keep visitors out after dark.

(2) Monitor Wastewater Effluent Ponds: When wastewater effluent was first discussed, HV residents were under the impression effluent would be injected via wells into the ground, not routed into open ponds that can have odor and impact on homeowners' pre-existing septic systems. Hence the initial push-back by HV residents to the extensive use of ponds of standing effluent water and greenery. Washoe County needs to offer assurances that issues with (a) Odor, (b) Damage to pre-existing septic systems adjacent to the park, and (c) Protective child-proof fencing around the ponds are quickly addressed by Washoe County

(3) Upgraded Trails: The northern part of the Highland Loop Trail is a beautiful trail and a real asset to Washoe County, yet is in such disrepair that it is dangerous in at least 3 places, with the potential for hikers to fall several hundred feet down 75 degree slopes. These trails need to be repaired and continuously maintained on an annual basis.

(4) We applaud the renovations to make the park relevant to the changing needs of users. Bicycle trails, pump tracks, enlarged pickleball courts, renovated playgrounds, dog parks are in demand while disc golf and the equestrian arena are low demand. We have not seen anyone use the equestrian arena in the 8 years we have owned our property.

(5) Maintain the Vistas and Limit Perimeter Planting of Trees: The park is known for its vistas of the entire Truckee Meadows, from Slide Mountain to Peavine to downtown Reno to the airport to Sparks along its paths and trails. That's the main reason people hike there! Please place any trees around the developed areas, and NOT along the perimeter. Perimeter planting of trees will ruin the vistas for hikers/walkers on the park paths.

Mail - Evans, Denise - Outlook

(6) Preserve the High Desert Aspect of the Park: Currently, 65 acres of the HV Park are developed with green fields, trees, shrubs, plantings, etc. Most of Truckee Meadows is being developed and "greened," and we will need parks that remind residents of our desert heritage. A lot of users are attracted to the park by its native-Nevada environment.

(7) Only Build What the Parks Department Can Maintain in Lean Years: In 2015, we had an afternoon cloudburst over the park, and multiple adjacent property owners were flooded and sustained damage from HV park floodwaters. It became apparent the diversion ditches on the westside of the park had not been cleaned of silt by the Parks Department since the budget shortfall of 2009, over 6 years of neglect! We suggest caution in developing this park. Only build what you can maintain in both fat and lean budget years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed plan.

Denise and Thomas Fusso, Hidden Valley, hammer360@gmail.com

Hidden Valley MTB Trails

Farrell Vaughn <farrellvaughn51@gmail.com>

Mon 5/2/2022 8:13 AM

To: Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Olease Olán on an upper trail system as well. Mountain bikers bring money into the destinations where they ride!

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Regional Parks Planning Commission Meeting dated May 3,2022, Agenda Item 11

Laura Carman < llmsc@charter.net>

Mon 5/2/2022 3:20 PM To: Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov> [NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Regional Parks Planning Commissioners:

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to relay my concerns about a few of the detailed plans for the Hidden Valley Regional Park. As with many other residents in our beautiful Truckee Meadows area, we appreciate and enjoy its natural landscape and beauty. On any given day, one may witness all the bicyclists, walkers, dog owners, and children on the playgrounds enjoying their surroundings.

Now, with the proposed improvements and additions, the park will be even more enjoyable. That being said, there are several proposals in the plan that bear some further scrutiny. That is, the current spot for the wetlands area so close to the residences abutting the park may prove to be hazardous for young children if there is no fencing around them.

The many trails are a great feature for this 480acre park. The trail/vehicular access indicated on Line 40, however, opens up the park as well as the surrounding neighborhood to more traffic and ultimately more crime.

Lastly, the proposal of using the park easement for 20 homes in the Sunny Hills Ranchos development appears to fly in the face of the Parks and Recreation Act enacted over fifty years ago. This park is designed for recreation, not as an easement for potential homes. It is my understanding that the aforementioned development has thousands of acres to utilize for their plans. One may conclude the developer is certainly not landlocked.

As Karen Mullen, former Washoe County Parks Director once stated, Hidden Valley Regional Park is the jewel of Truckee Meadows. Let us strive to keep it that way.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Carman

5815 Lone Horse Drive

Reno, NV 89502

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioners

PLEASE HAVE MY COMMENTS MADE A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding Agenda Item 11, Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

There has been much discussion in the Hidden Valley community regarding updates to the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan. Our community looked forward to updates to the park; however, we never imagined wetlands nor the possibility of relinquishing a portion of the entrance to Mia Vista neighborhood park to a developer to provide entrance to property yet to be planned or approved.

The 480 acres deeded to Washoe County by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the singular purpose of providing open space and park facilities now appears to be envisioned as a holder of reclaimed water, utility easements from Alexander Lake Sewer Plant and potentially vehicular traffic/trails connection of a portion of the park to Veterans Parkway through private land. If there is a necessity to utilize excess reclaimed water from the new tower, it is suggested that any wetlands created for that purpose be fenced and moved much further from existing residents.

Improvement to the existing trails, use of reclaimed water, instead of potable water, to reduce costs, additional activity centers, automatic gates, etc., are all to the benefit of the region. However, there is a great need for security in the park, especially in the evening and nighttime hours. There has been no suggestion in the plan to reestablish the ranger/caretaker residence to prevent crime and fire danger. Any trail, walking or vehicular, to Veterans Parkway should not be considered due to the possibility of crime and additional traffic in our community.

As to the Mia Vista neighborhood park, there appears to be no appetite by the Parks Department to include a restroom in the plan. Considering the distance from the developed north park to the neighborhood south park, I would encourage another look at that possibility.

I will not dwell on the on-going negotiations between Washoe County and Sunny Hills Ranchos. However, considering the vast amount of acreage the developer owns both in Washoe and Storey counties, it would appear the properties skirting the southern portion of the Regional Park <u>are not landlocked</u> as suggested. If the "carrot" from the landowner is the promise of easements for trails through their land, I would suggest that the major portion of the deeded 480 acres is available for that purpose. I trust the Parks Commissioners will look askance to approving any Park Easement Application from Sunny Hill Ranchos that would allow access from the Mia Vista park entrance. It is my understanding that not only County Commission and BLM would have to approve such an action but also the National Parks Service would be involved.

If and until Sunny Hills Ranchos proves that they cannot build on the parcels adjacent to the Regional Park due to a landlocked situation, I do not believe denial of any potential Parks Easement Application would be a denial of their right to develop their property.

Sincerely,

Marge Frandsen, President Hidden Valley Homeowners Association <u>margefrandsen@gmail.com</u> 775-772-1815

RE: Park Commission -- Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update

Fran DeAvila <fdeavila@sbcglobal.net> Sun 5/1/2022 5:11 PM To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov> Cc: Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov> [NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.] Dear Sophia and Denise (AND all other County persons that need to hear comments about the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update)

First of all, thank you for providing an alternate for providing comments for those unable to attend the May 3rd meeting in person. I do hope that the park commissioners and other involved persons will give consideration to these written comments equal to those spoken in person.

In looking at the webpage I did find it difficult to decipher some of the finer details but it does appear to be somewhat different than I recall as presented in the previous meetings.

We are in favor of Concept A - the upgrade without the excessiveness of the other concepts. We agree with the upgrades for hiking trails, turf and trees. However, we are not in favor of any vehicle road between the North and South parks. We do not want to accommodate easy or quick access for those with criminal intent. Some additional specific thoughts are as follows:

1 - Item 40.

- Having an easement for a single property owner across a public area seems to favor a single owner over the many other property owners in the immediate area who would be negatively impacted
- There are other ways to access this property
- We certainly do not need more traffic on Mia Vista
- Concerned that the possibility of only 4 homes to start would easily grow to the 20 or more
- This dead end area of Mia Vista, Pony and the park entrance is already a traffic safety issue without adding more vehicles

2 - Water Features

- Having a body of water would have potential issues of mosquitos and attracting the wild horses
- Already have a safety issue because of fencing issues to keep horses out of the park and off the street (a concern for both safety of the public and for the horses

- so why try and attract them by having a water source?)

• We already have underground water issues under our home (also a couple of other homes on Mia Vista) since the watering system went in the park. Perhaps the improved water channel for the storm drain might help with this issue.

3 - New Vehicular Gates

- Will these gates accommodate emergency vehicles and allow for turnaround capabilities within the park's parking area? Thinking fire engines as we are next to open space and there is no turn around space available outside the park.
- What real purpose will these gates serve? If they are automatic, vehicles (good folk and bad) have 24/7 access?

We do appreciate the improvement plans to our Mia Vista Park but we are concerned that safety and security of our area is put at risk with some of the suggestions and ideas. We already have criminal activity in our neighborhood and in the Mia Vista park and are 'allergic' to changes that would possibly increase negative impacts of our safety and security.

Sincerely, Rick and Fran De Avila 6171 Mia Vista Dr Reno NV 89502

From: Kirschenman, Sophia [mailto:SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:28 PM
To: Kirschenman, Sophia
Subject: Park Commission -- Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update

Good Evening,

Thank you for your continued participation in the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan update. The draft plan that will be presented to the Park Commission at their upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd starting at 1:30 pm (please note that this is earlier than the typical meeting start time), is available for review on the <u>Hidden Valley Regional Park webpage</u>.

You are invited to provide comments on the plan, in support or opposition (or both), to the Park Commission either by attending the upcoming meeting or by sending emailed comments to me and Denise Evans (devans@washoecounty.gov). If you email comments, please indicate that they are intended for the park commissioners and send them no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, May 2nd.

The Park Commission agenda will be available tomorrow afternoon on the <u>Park Commission webpage</u>. The public is welcome to attend the Park Commission meeting in person at the Washoe County Chambers (1001 E. 9th Street) or via Zoom (the Zoom meeting information will be provided on the agenda). If there are others in your community who you think would be interested in reviewing and/or weighing in on the plan, please pass this information along. Thanks again for your time, interest, and input. Have a great night,



Sophia Kirschenman Park Planner | Community Services Department 775.328.3623 | 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512 DOM: My working hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

COMMENTS for the Park Commissioners - Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan

roger teamjewett.com <roger@teamjewett.com>

Fri 4/29/2022 7:02 PM

To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov>;Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>

Cc: Jewett, Roger <roger@teamjewett.com>;pat teamjewett.com <pat@teamjewett.com>;Marge Frandsen <margefrandsen@gmail.com>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Sophia Kirschenman Park Planner - Community Services Department 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512 775.328.3623

Sophia

Here is a "re-cap" of what I heard and my comments after our recent meeting last week at the south end of Hidden Valley Regional Park to discuss the Line Item 40 of the Regional Park Plan Update which provides an easement to the owner of the property that is adjacent to the park on the southwest corner. In addition, we discussed the possibility that traffic on MIA VISTA would now be increased due to the park enhancements. Along with that we were informed of a concern that some potential issue may develop for the OWNER/DEVELOPER if the easement was not granted as the parcel may be landlocked. It was also stated that only a few homes would eventually be built on the parcel that could/would use the easement if the easement was granted. And lastly, the easement was added to the PLAN to assist getting an easement for Washoe County in another area.

Here are my thoughts:

1. DELETE Line Item 40 from the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update and request the OWNER/DEVELOPER to submit a plan in the future when ready for the development of the parcel (016-840-11) to determine if there is still a NEED for that easement.

 Further, the development of the Hidden Valley Park will increase traffic and "speeders" on MIA VISTA by an unknown amount, which may cause congestion or traffic issues for the residents of that street negating the easement for the parcel in question because of the additional traffic.
 Also, the meeting attendees were informed that the OWNER/DEVELOPER would only build 4 to 5 (or 20-30) homes on the parcel that would use the easement. 4. The information expressed to the meeting attendees was that the parcel in question could end up "landlocked", the parcel in question is 40 plus acres and in addition all of the adjacent parcels to the EAST and SOUTH of this parcel (016-840-11) are under the same ownership.
5. The idea that the parcel (016-840-11) may be landlocked appears to be mute as all of the parcels to the SOUTH and the EAST are owned by the OWNER of the parcel requesting the easement for a total of 60 plus PARCELS comprised of 2400 PLUS acres.

6. There is also a large number of adjacent parcels in STOREY county to all of these parcels, there needs to be a combined plan of how this land is developed in the County of Washoe, the City of Reno and STOREY County 7. Is there a precedent in our area to provide an easement through a public park to access private homes?

8. I understand that the easement was requested because of requirement to provide reclaimed water to the Hidden Valley Park, there must be a way to get the water to the Hidden Valley Park without the granting of this easement through the park.

9. I believe that every property owner has the right and privilege to develop their property to its best USE according to the Master Plan for the area.

10. HIDDEN VALLEY PARK was planned for the benefit of all residents. In my opinion there is no need to disturb that tranquility with this easement request.

Roger Jewett Hidden Valley Area Resident

From: Kirschenman, Sophia <<u>SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov</u>>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:27 PM
To: Kirschenman, Sophia <<u>SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov</u>>
Subject: Park Commission -- Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update

Good Evening,

Thank you for your continued participation in the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan update. The draft plan that will be presented to the Park Commission at their upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd starting at 1:30 pm (please note that this is earlier than the typical meeting start time), is available for review on the <u>Hidden Valley Regional Park</u> webpage.

You are invited to provide comments on the plan, in support or opposition (or both), to the Park Commission either by attending the upcoming meeting or by sending emailed https://outlook.office365.com/mail/AAMkAGU0Y2M3MGJkLTEzMDMtNGQ0Yi04MjA1LWVmYTQzZDk0ZDc1NwAuAAAAABUEpfnXyeSSLOG6rE8Lh... 2/3 comments to me and Denise Evans (<u>devans@washoecounty.gov</u>). If you email comments, please indicate that they are intended for the park commissioners and send them no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, May 2nd.

The Park Commission agenda will be available tomorrow afternoon on the <u>Park Commission</u> <u>webpage</u>. The public is welcome to attend the Park Commission meeting in person at the Washoe County Chambers (1001 E. 9th Street) or via Zoom (the Zoom meeting information will be provided on the agenda). If there are others in your community who you think would be interested in reviewing and/or weighing in on the plan, please pass this information along. Thanks again for your time, interest, and input.

Have a great night,



Sophia Kirschenman Park Planner | Community Services Department 775.328.3623 | 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512

My working hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm

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2022 Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update

Samuel Echo <samuel_echo@ppcis.com> Wed 5/4/2022 7:21 AM To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov> Cc: Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Sophia,

Please plan for a mountain bike specific trail system in the upper park similar to Parliment Trails.

Love the park to death and ride there and above frequently. Thank you for all you do!

Samuel Echo

Schedule a Meeting



Samuel T. Echo

OWNER/PRESIDENT D 888 414 1777 C 775 857 9872 [null]samuel_echo@ppcis.com

Agenda Item 11, Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated May 3, 2022

Tom Judy <tomj@unr.edu>

Mon 5/2/2022 11:55 AM

To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov>;Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioners

PLEASE HAVE MY COMMENTS MADE A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding Agenda Item 11, Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Aside from the issue of whether or not it is appropriate dedicate a part of an existing park for a road from nearby proposed development, I would like to discuss the issue of the road itself. As I understand it, the road proposed is to provide access from the planned development to Veterans Parkway. I understand that this road would serve only a limited number of homes (I believe four) in the intial development of the Sunny Hills Ranchos, however, as the whole development continues to build out it is likely that subsequent construction of homes will lead to more use of this proposed road. My concern is that the potential of a larger number of homes using this road would result in much more traffic on neighborhood streets internal to Hidden Valley, specifically Mia Vista and Hidden Valley Drive. These streets are not designed for the amount of traffic that could ultimately and likely come from this project. It seems inappropriate and likely unsafe to make these internal streets now feeders for a much larger development. Whatever is done with the rest of this park project, I respectfully request that you not take actions that would approve the dedication of of this road easement into the Hidden Valley Regional Park.

I thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Tom Judy

2755 Parkway Drive

Reno, Nevada, 89502

Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update

Tom Van Ruiten <tomvanruiten@outlook.com>

Tue 5/3/2022 11:26 AM

To: Kirschenman, Sophia <SKirschenman@washoecounty.gov>;Evans, Denise <DEvans@washoecounty.gov>

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.] Hi,

I would like you to consider building directional mountain bike trails in the upper region of the Hidden Valley parks similar to what the Bicyclists Of Nevada County has done with the Parliament trail system off highway 20 near Scotts Flat Lake and Nevada City. As a county that values outdoor activities and the use of our open space, we are currently lacking trails that meet the needs of a very large segment of our mountain biking community. This forces many riders to leave Washoe County to find trails that provide the experience we desire. Adding a directional, bike-only system would improve the diversity of offerings for outdoor enthusiasts in the county, and would also help relieve overcrowding and congestion in areas like Evans/Keystone canyon.

Sincerely, Tom Van Ruiten