

## CHARRETTE RESULTS

Each of the three teams received some guidance regarding potential topics upon which to focus and potential products for them to generate over the two days. Since some of the participants were not as familiar with the planning area as others and the charrette took place within a compressed time period, the recommendations developed will require further evaluation prior to implementation. For each team, the following is a summary of the guidance and ideas they generated.

### Natural Resources Team

The Natural Resources Team was asked to focus on the Carson River ecosystem and natural resource issues. Their recommendations provided the baseline data for managing the Planning Area and included parameters for integrating uses of the area (i.e. recreation, use areas, etc.). Additional issues they were asked to consider included:

- Strategies to sustain the Carson River
- Water resource management
- Vegetation management
- Agricultural uses
- Invasive species
- Disturbance (i.e. flooding, fire, etc.)

Based on this guidance, the Natural Resources Team focused on generating recommendations around the themes of sustaining the river, water, vegetation and wildlife (*Appendix I: Natural Resources Team Original Notes and Drawings*). The group started by considering the overall concept of "sustainability" which would guide recommendations for these four themes described in the following sections.

### Sustainability

- The existing conditions do not necessarily represent what should be achieved to be sustainable
- Important #1 focus/place to start is defining floodplains and 100-year flood zone
- Define a special flood hazard area
- Within this area, there should be no permanent structures or major capital improvements with the following exceptions:
  - Agriculture
  - Recreational activities/amenities (that are appropriate/compatible)
  - Grazing: a management plan is needed to determine what is and is not appropriate
  - Define best management practices (BMPs) for uses within these areas
- Riparian corridor protection



*Natural Resources Team members*

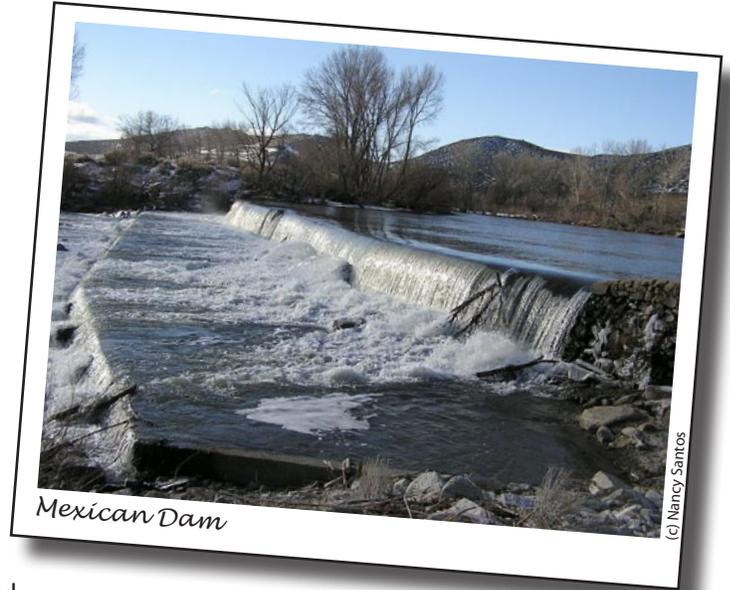
Photo: Anne Dove, NPS

## Carson River

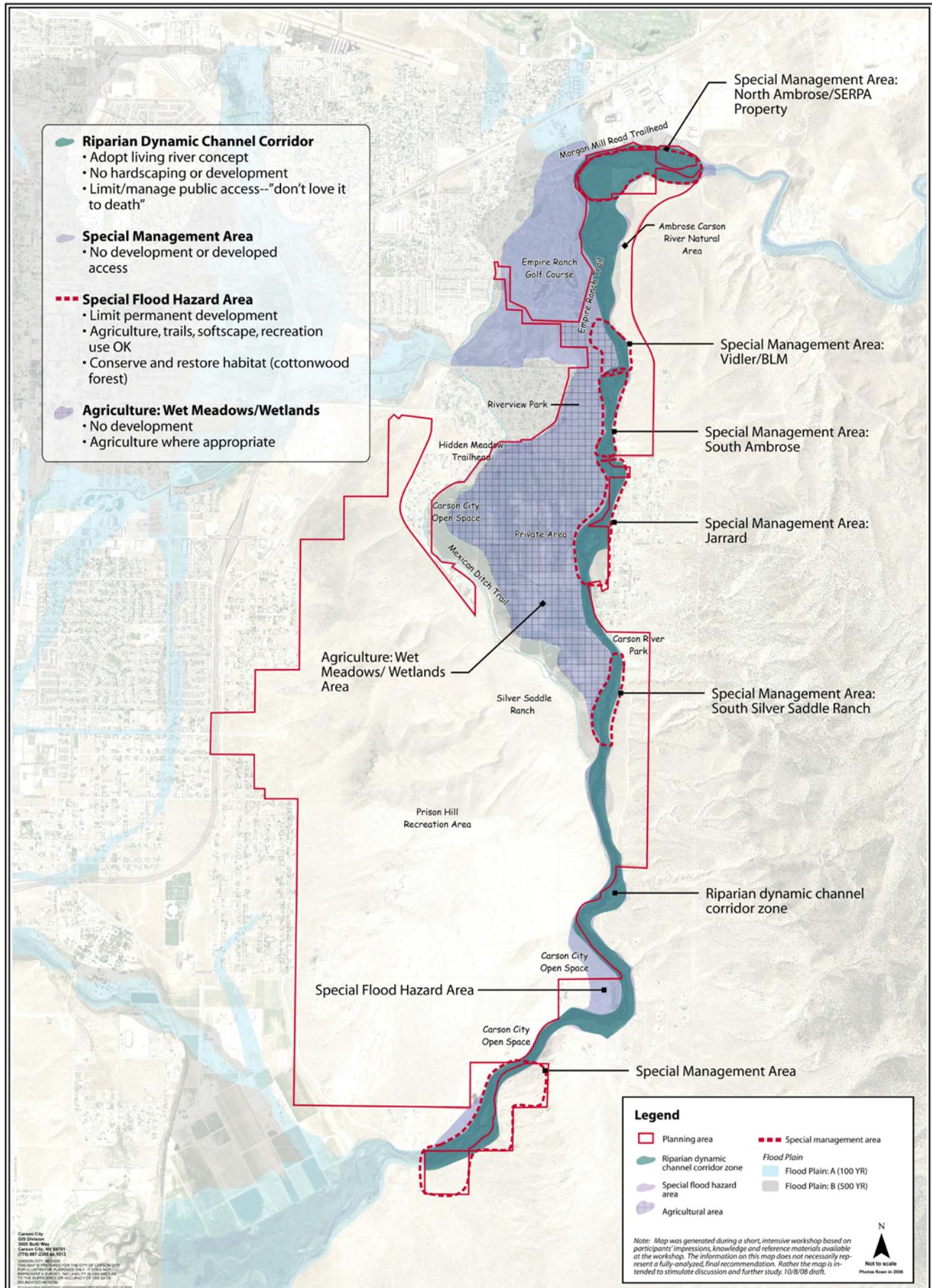
Recognizing that the Carson River is one of the key components of the ecosystem, the group developed the overarching concept of "Sustaining the Carson River" as an organizing principle (*Figure 10: Natural Resources Team-Sustaining the River*).

Specific strategies for defining the river's existing condition and monitoring future conditions include but are not limited to those identified below:

- Conduct a resource/soils assessment
- Adopt the Living River concept for future management
- Ensure that floodplains remain undeveloped
- Encourage agricultural land uses in the floodplains
- Restore and connect wetlands and oxbows to the river
- Acquire water to improve baseline flows in late summer and fall
- Maintain grade controls at the Andersen diversion and Mexican Dam
- Decommission/reclaim trails with grade in excess of a X% (recommended slope to be determined in the future based on more detailed analysis) to manage erosion and water quality



- Follow the City's *Carson River Master Plan*, including trail setbacks from river
- Comply with federal Clean Water Act
- Determine and plan/design within the river's carrying capacity
- Develop guidelines for flood resistant design that does not impair river floodplain function



**Natural Resources Team: Sustaining the River**  
 CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION: SILVER SADDLE RANCH & THE CARSON RIVER

Figure 10. Natural Resources Team: Sustaining the River

## Water Resources Management

Recognizing that water management is a key issue that relates to sustaining the river as well as supporting the agricultural uses that contribute to the rural character of the area, the team also generated recommendations for how to manage water resources in the Planning Area (*Figure 11: Natural Resources Team-Water Management*).

Specific recommendations addressed issues related to:

- Water quality issues related to storm water management, erosion, and specific sources of contamination
- Water supply and availability, including use of water for wetlands and the river as well as potential uses of effluent

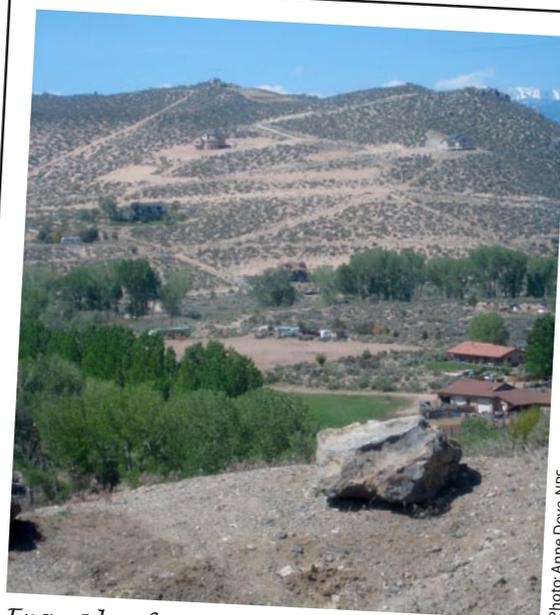


Photo: Anne Dove, NPS

*Example of potential erosion from hillside vehicular use*



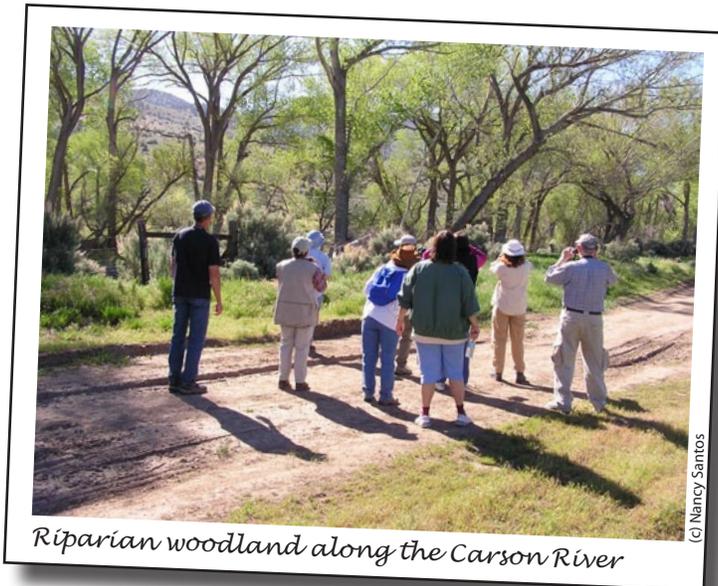
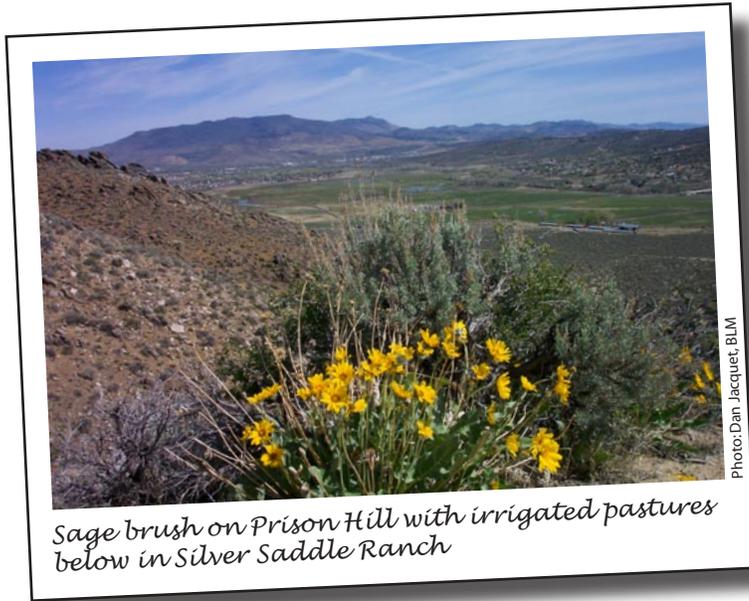
Photo: Anne Dove, NPS

*Flood irrigation at Silver Saddle Ranch*



## Vegetation

Based on the concept of sustaining the Carson River ecosystem the following list of recommendations for vegetation protection, management and revegetation were identified (*Figure 12: Natural Resources Team-Vegetation*). The list is not necessarily complete but identifies those ideas considered during the planning process.



1. Protection of desirable (non-invasive, native) species
  - Various successional stages (ex. understory vegetation)
  - Contiguous (unfragmented) vegetation
  - Soils: survey to determine carrying capacity (appropriate activities)
2. Management of invasive/non-native/noxious plant species
  - Identify, monitor and remove weed populations, especially in disturbed (designated trails, social trails, construction) and developed areas
  - Outreach, community education, stewardship
  - Regulatory authority, comply with
3. Revegetation of desirable species (restoration)
  - Cottonwood regeneration—riparian corridor
  - Establish/succession vegetation stages (ex. understory)
  - Reclamation/revegetation of disturbed sites

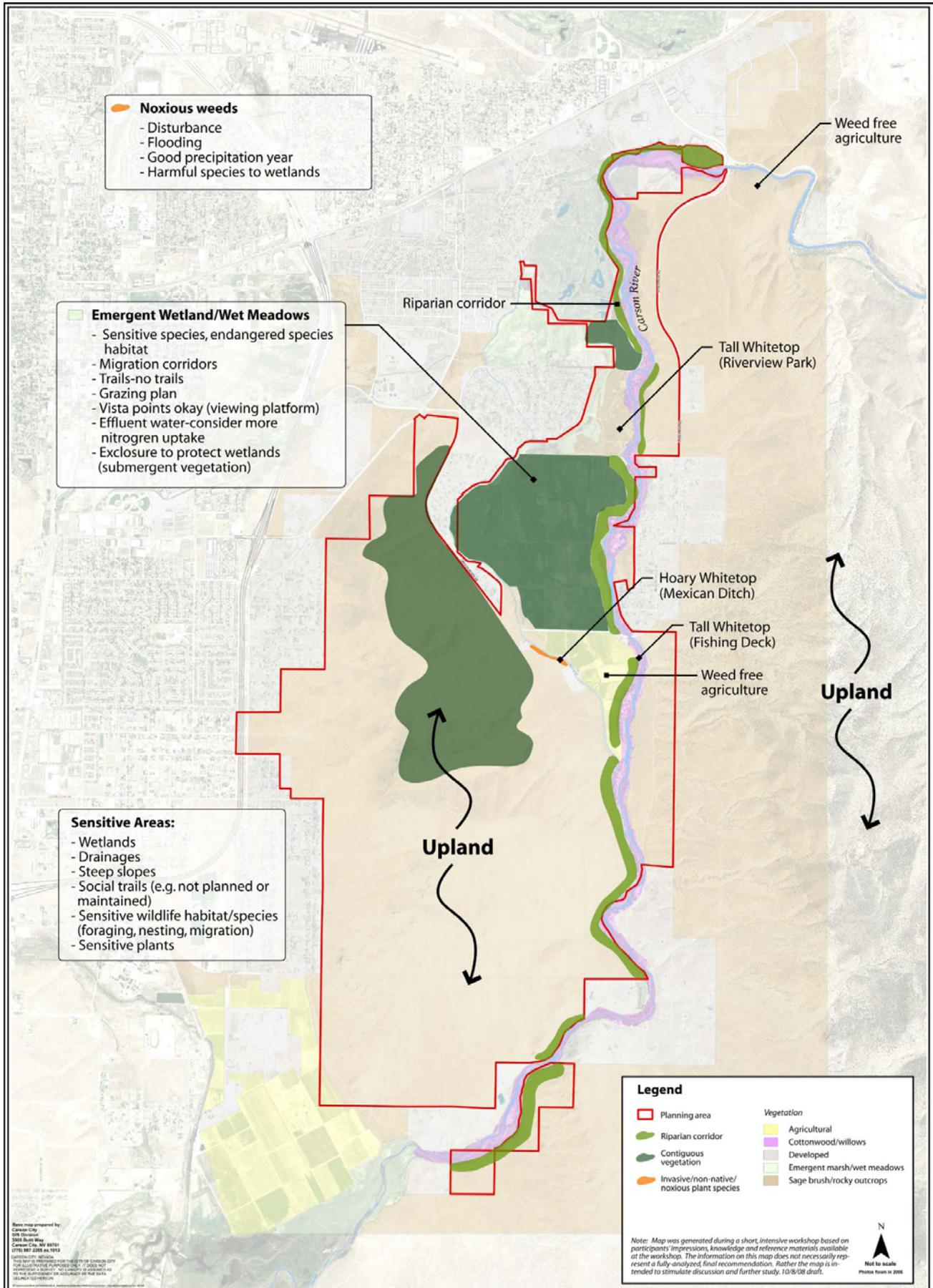
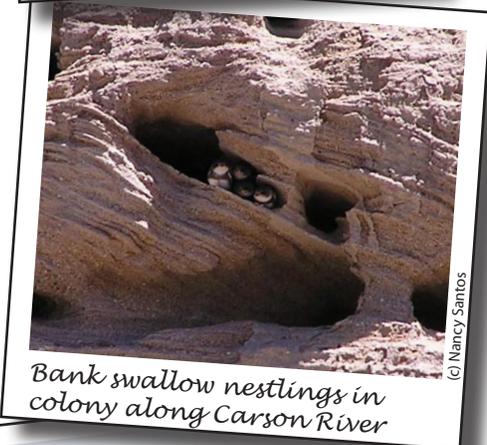
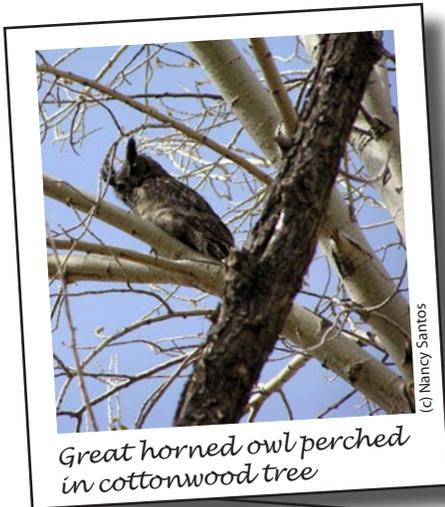


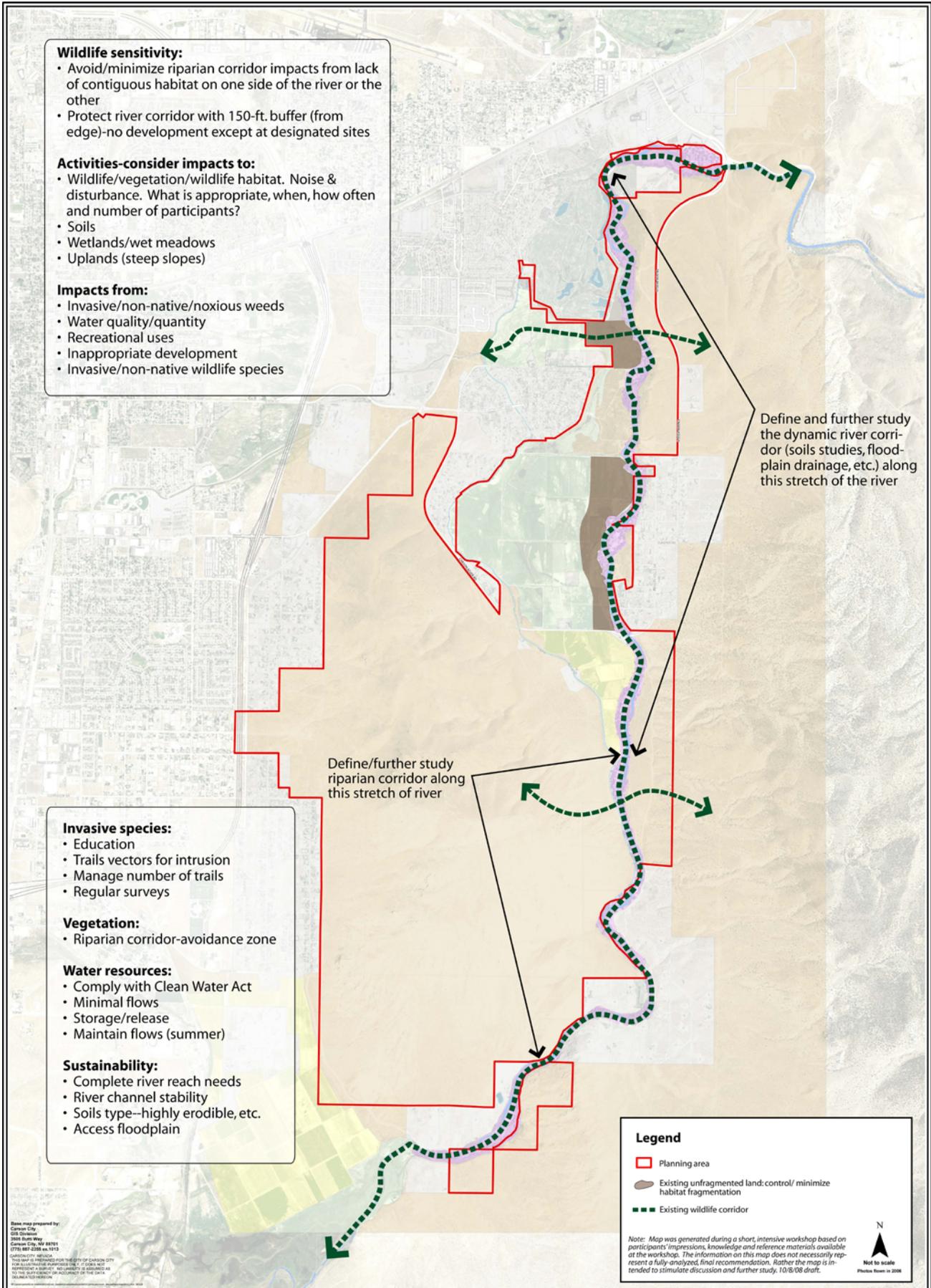
Figure 12. Natural Resources Team: Vegetation

## Wildlife

Based on the concept of sustaining the Carson River ecosystem the following list of recommendations for wildlife protection, management, and habitat conservation were identified (*Figure 13: Natural Resources Team-Wildlife*). The list is not necessarily complete but identifies those ideas considered during the planning process.



1. Protection of special-status/sensitive species and their habitat including nesting, foraging, denning and migration
  - Regulatory authority: federal/state/local
  - Riparian corridor: no disturbance within 150-foot buffer from edge of corridor. No development except at designated sites
  - Wildlife movement/migration corridor
2. Management of special status/sensitive species and their habitat
  - Avoid/minimize habitat fragmentation (ex. existing trails, proposed trails)
  - Utilize existing BLM Interdisciplinary Management Plan for the Silver Saddle Ranch and the Ambrose Carson River Natural Area and Carson River Master Plan pending development of new planning area management plan.
  - Invasive/nonnative species, impacts of
3. Develop habitat conservation plan
  - Develop Planning Area conservation plan
  - Consider impacts (noise and disturbance) to wildlife
  - Consider activity levels (ex. number of participants, time of day/year, frequency)



**Natural Resources Team: Wildlife**

CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION: SILVER SADDLE RANCH & THE CARSON RIVER

Figure 13. Natural Resources Team: Wildlife