**LAGI Narrative**

At its innermost core, Burning Man is built on and evolves through community. All the way back to the underground secret societies like the Cacophony Society and the Suicide Club from which Burning Man emerged, the key to accomplishing any goals lies within doing so with a community of like-minded people. People who tire of what is commonly referred to as “normal life”. By reaching out to one another and assembling together, members of these societies achieved great feats in the name of “cultural jamming” such as the Salmon Run (an event organized by members of the Cacophony Society in which they hand crafted human sized salmon costumes and ran opposite the flow of traffic at marathons or other organized races). By congregating and performing simple acts they invite innocent bystanders to reexamine their own lives and consider the fact that they hold the power to create their own reality rather than just consume or comply with what the universe seems to offer them. This fact may seem painfully obvious or it may seem unrealistic to some, and it may be a phrase that typically warrants a response no more significant than a subtle eye roll. However, if by seeing people clad in salmon costumes running “upstream” of a crowd of runners, just one person internalizes the fact that they are the ultimate beholder of their own reality and decides to do something about it, then the Cacophony Society has done its job.

There are three jewels that are key to Buddhist practice. The three jewels are the Buddha (the teacher), the Dharma (the teachings), and the Sangha (the community). It is taught that in order to effectively practice and learn from Buddhism, a person must embrace all three jewels equally as each is just as important as the next. These jewels are practiced (although perhaps without intention) by the Suicide Club and the Cacophony Society. Both these societies as well as Buddhism have similar goals that they are striving to achieve through their practice: Mindfulness. The goal of this design is to create a space in which the pursuit of mindfulness can be facilitated in a way that human intervention and occupation is not parasitic to the ecosystem but actually helps regenerate damaged portions of the site and offer value to the Washoe and Gerlach community as well as set a precedent for communal off the grid living.

In the Fly Ranch Roadmap, it is stated “We have two state-permitted dams on site, which the Nevada Division of Water Resources has let us know are in need of repair. These dams were previously used as roads, and they need some reinforcement and removal of plants like greasewood. We’ll have to undertake some repairs to remain in compliance with the NDWR’s requests and connect this road with a North/South corridor through the property”. Because these dams are effectively preventing further damage to the ecosystem by mitigating flooding that would be caused by the continual water flow from the Fly Geyser, it is worth wile to consider taking advantage of the infrastructural development that will likely need to happen there. Unlike a hydroelectric dam where water flows through in order to generate power, an occupied dam could use the water to generate power as well as utilize and consume the water in order to minimize the potential damage it may cause to the ecosystem by flowing further down the site. The water could be used for generating power, drinking, cooking, watering plants, passive cooling, bathing, and any other needs of the occupants. Doing so would create a harmonious relationship by benefit not only the occupants by the ecosystem as well.

The largest element in this design is the aquaponic greenhouse which minimizes need for soil and water in order to grow adequate amounts of food. The size of the greenhouse will allow for potential of outputting up to 90,000 pounds of organic matter annually. The organic matter produced will primarily consist of food to sustain residents and visitors of the Fly Ranch property and distribute to the Gerlach and Washoe community as well as organic building materials. While it will be necessary to use materials with high embodied energy levels such as concrete and steel as the foundation of the dam in order to ensure longevity and utility, there is opportunity to utilize advancements in building technologies using organic materials such as hemp and mycelium. These materials could be grown on site inside the greenhouse and used for future expansion and any potential repairs. Using these materials will cancel out the CO2 output and embodied energy of the concrete and steel assemblies as mycelium alone consumes four times its weight in CO2 as it grows. Mycelium is effective as a cladding material because it can be molded into any desired shape. Much like concrete, simply build a mold of any shape except fill it with organic material such as grain or oats and then inoculate the organic material with the mushroom spores. The mycelium will grow in a tight web of fibrous threads, holding all the loose material together leaving a solid material that is soft, lightweight, flexible, impact resistant, sound resistant, fire resistant, and 100% compostable. Fungi and mushrooms are keynote species in almost any ecosystem around the world. Wherever you find life, you will likely find a fungi or mushroom species (usually multiple) that regenerates the ecosystem for all the plants and animals that live there. There are over a hundred thousand different species of fungi and mushrooms and even more that are yet to be discovered. Many of them offer utility to us that may seem unexpected. Most regenerate soils, some can filter water of harmful bacteria, some have medicinal qualities, some have been used to help clean oil spills in the ocean, in recent years some have been discovered in landfills eating plastic (50 species of mushroom species have been discovered that have the ability to break down and eat plastics, leaving behind only an edible mushroom). It is important through this intervention to shine light on the symbiotic relationship that we have with fungi and the unknown utility they have to offer to us and to regenerating ecosystems.