

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, January 19, 2015
Lower Level Conference Room
Breckenridge Town Hall
150 Ski Hill Road

5:30	Call to Order, Roll Call	
5:35	Discussion/approval of Minutes – December 15, 2014	4
5:45	Discussion/approval of Agenda	
5:50	Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)	
6:00	Staff Summary	2
	• Breckenridge Ski Resort On-Mountain Amenities NEPA Decision Update	
	• Kingfisher Claims Update	
6:15	Open Space	
	• Breckenridge Ski Area 2015 Summer Work Proposal	9
	• Blue River Restoration Background Discussion	17
	• 2015 Open Space Work Plan	22
7:30	Executive Session	
8:00	Adjourn	

For further information, please contact the Open Space and Trails Program at 970-547-3155 (Scott) or 970-453-3371 (Chris).

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space Staff
Re: January 19, 2015 Meeting

Staff Summary**Breckenridge Ski Resort On-Mountain Activities NEPA Decision Update**

As discussed by BOSAC last [February](#), the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) has proposed new on-mountain infrastructure which is currently being analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service under a NEPA review. The proposal, which includes zip lines, canopy tours, new mountain bike trails, and other associated amenities would be consistent with the *Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act* of 2011 by focusing increased summer and winter visitation on the ski area, where ski lifts, restaurants and other on-mountain infrastructure exist to accommodate visitors. BOSAC and Town Council developed and submitted the attached comment letter regarding BSR's original proposal. The USFS is expected to release the draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) shortly, which will include alternatives to be considered for public comment. Staff will review that information with BOSAC at its upcoming February meeting.

Kingfisher Claims Update

The Town closed on a partial interest in the 18.89-acre American Gulch-based Kingfisher Claims (43.75% interest). As previously discussed, the Town and Summit County now split 87.5% ownership in the parcel, which includes a portion of the Wapiti town site. The Town's purchase from Summit County closed on January 9th.

Open Space**Breckenridge Ski Resort 2015 Summer Work Proposal**

Annually, the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) submits a summer work proposal to the U.S. Forest Service to address on-mountain work. Unlike the on-mountain activities EIS proposal above, the summer work proposal does not require a large-scale NEPA review (EA or EIS), but rather undergoes a "categorical exclusion" (CE) analysis. The attached scoping notice seeks public input for BSR-related work, including grading a portion of the Monte Cristo trail and installing a snowmaking pipe extension for the lower Peak 6 runs. The attached maps and description outline BSR's 2015 proposal.

Staff requests BOSAC review the attached information and answer the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions regarding BSR's summer 2015 proposal?*
- 2. Does BOSAC have any comments regarding BSR's proposal?*

Blue River Restoration Background Discussion

As requested during the December meeting, staff will provide BOSAC with an overview of Blue River restoration efforts in town during the past 30 years. Attached, please find the most recent memo to Council from Public Works Director Tom Daugherty regarding the Blue River restoration. The two map attachments will help orient BOSAC for the discussion.

Staff will present BOSAC a PowerPoint slideshow outlining previous Blue River restoration efforts. This is the same presentation that Town Council received in July 2013 from Peggy Bailey of Tetra Tech. The goal of this presentation is to educate BOSAC on prior and current restoration projects along the Blue River. The McCain property is the next reach to be restored in 2015 and 2016 with funding coming from the open space and general funds. Also, the draft McCain property master plan will likely be presented to BOSAC at its April 20th meeting. This master plan will provide the broader context for the McCain parcel, overall site programming, and public interaction with the river corridor.

Staff requests BOSAC view the staff presentation and answer the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions regarding the history of the Blue River restoration?*
- 2. Does BOSAC have any additional information requests regarding this topic prior to April's meeting or this construction season?*

2015 Open Space Work Plan

Attached is the draft 2015 open space work plan. This document, updated annually, outlines the program goals for the year. Please note that there are two pages: ongoing duties and 2015 work plan. Staff will review both categories with BOSAC and seek answers to the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions regarding the tasks outlined?*
- 2. Does BOSAC have any edits or additions to the document?*
- 3. Does BOSAC approve the work plan, as revised?*

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the December 15, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Chris Tennal, Elisabeth Lawrence, Jeffrey Bergeron, Jeff Carlson, Craig Campbell and Elizabeth Miller. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Chris Kulick and Tony Overlock. Mayor John Warner, Breckenridge Town Councilmember Ben Brewer, Brian Lorch from Summit County Open Space and Trails, Shelly Grail from the U.S. Forest Service and Breckenridge resident Matt Powers were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Tailor Lode USFS Referral

Staff presented a U.S. Forest Service referral related to a proposed driveway easement for the Tailor Lode, a 10-acre private mining claim located on the Breckenridge Ski Resort between Peaks 6 and 7. BOSAC also reviewed a draft response letter for Mayor Warner's signature.

Mr. Campbell – How do they enforce seasonal access and other permit conditions? (Ms. Grail – If they violate the conditions of the seasonal requirements, they will lose the easement.)

Ms. Grail – The U.S. Forest Service is required to provide private property access to landowners with inholdings. (Mr. Bergeron - Can they give access strictly through the ski area instead of use the Breckenridge Nordic Center?) We are striving to provide the most logical access on existing routes wherever possible. The administrative access via the green gate and the access road to the Kensho Chair is the most direct existing route.

Monte Cristo Road Plowing Conditional Use Permit Application

Town of Breckenridge staff responded to a Summit County referral regarding a Conditional Use Permit application to plow portions of the Monte Cristo Road, on the southeastern flank of Quandary Peak. An area landowner has requested permission to plow the road for driveway access and has more recently attempted to deny public access to a historic County Road and recreational route. The Town's comment letter requests that the applicant maintain four inches of snow on the road when plowing (for recreational users) and that the applicant acknowledge public use of the road. The proposal will be further discussed at the December 18th Summit County Upper Blue Planning Commission meeting at the County Courthouse.

Open Space

2015 State of the Open Space

Staff presented the third edition of the State of the Open Space report, which provides detail on the Town open space program's successes since the 1996 passage of the open space tax. This status report is intended to provide an annual update of the program for BOSAC, Town Council, and the general public.

Mr. Campbell – I think it will be helpful to add the Open Space Mission Statement for context at the beginning of the document. (Mr. Kulick – We will incorporate the Mission Statement at the beginning of the document.)

BOSAC recommended posting the State of the Open Space on the Town website and broadcasting its existence via social media and a press release.

Field Season Review/Trail Use Data Report

Staff provided an overview of the Town trail crew's 2014 field season, including new trail construction projects, volunteer contributions, and maintenance tasks. Mr. Overlock also summarized the trail use data collected in 2014.

Mr. Powers – I have heard several times from out-of-town users that they definitely appreciate the care and maintenance we put into our trails. The trails crew's work does not go unnoticed and our trail system pales in comparison to many others.

Mr. Bergeron – It may be a good idea to place “paid for by Open Space” signs at prominent trailheads to promote how the program is wisely using its funds to benefit trail users.

Town Council Report

Town Council Member Elisabeth Lawrence outlined Town Council's discussion regarding BOSAC's program recommendations for a potential future open space fund surplus.

Ms. Lawrence – We are considering a bridge to improve aquatic of the river habitat at Coyne Valley Road. We will bring more information on this potential project in 2015 and the Council will want to hear feedback from BOSAC on all the potential options.

Mr. Tennial - Could a bridge at Coyne Valley have enough height to accommodate wildlife? (Staff – Although the height may be sufficient, the main beneficiaries of the bridge would be fish, since the primary wildlife corridor in that area is down Barton Creek and along the Blue River to Fourmile Bridge.)

Mr. Tennial – Some of the philosophical struggles BOSAC has had previously is the gray area between acquiring backcountry land and developing in-town park space. (Dr. Warner - We are clearly in a gray area when it comes to relief from development and developing in-Town park space but we are getting really positive feedback from the community on those type of acquisitions.)

Dr. Warner - I would love to use some of our Town open space funds to maintain some outlying trails (e.g. CO Trail, Blair Witch, Red Trail, Burro Trail, Baker's Tank) on USFS land and bring them up to our standards. (Staff – If that is direction from BOSAC and Council, then we will investigate assisting with maintenance on trails on the National Forest.)

Mr. Brewer – In-town open space purchases comply with the Open Space plan as long as we don't use open space funds for infrastructure improvements. Also, I feel strongly that we should sunset the parcel's density. It is a good thing to take the density out of the backcountry and bring it into the urban center which eliminates sprawl and lessens the community's development footprint. We are in

a race against time to acquire open space before land prices rise to a level that make acquisition costs prohibitive.

Mr. Bergeron – Do we get the value out of a park that is only used a couple months of the year compared to open space that is used year round? (Dr. Warner – The relief from development of the park is appreciated year round.)

Mr. Cospolich – Has there been any recent consideration of an indoor playground? (Ms. Lawrence – Council may relook at that concept.)

Pro Forma Update

Recent revisions to the open space pro forma have indicated a fund balance surplus, primarily due to increased sales tax revenues. At the November meeting, the BOSAC had a long discussion regarding areas where these surplus dollars could be focused. The BOSAC identified four focus areas to which they recommended additional expenditures be allocated: paydown of debt associated with the B&B property loan, habitat/river restoration, land acquisitions, and trails construction/Hoosier Pass repath. BOSAC's reviewed a revised open space pro forma that includes four additional expense line items in bold that address each of these program priorities.

Mr. Brewer & Ms. Lawrence – Suggested returning the Open Space fund contribution to the McCain river restoration to 30% of the total project cost from a potential 50% contribution reflected on the draft pro forma. (Mr. Bergeron – I agree that it should be 30%.) (Ms. Miller - I prefer the 50% allocation because it would enhance the river restoration.) (Mr. Grosshuesch- Given the in-town location of the project and the Town Council and BOSAC support for allocating more resources for river restoration projects, staff suggested the increase to a 50% share of the project cost.)

Mr. Campbell - I would like to spread the total sum of the proposed 50% over several river restorations instead just allocating it to McCain. The Swan River is considered part of town. It is accessible, just up Tiger Road, and I think we should support all local river restoration projects as a program. (Staff – Only the McCain and the Swan River restorations are ready to implement during the next few years.)

Mr. Lorch - The County seeks a \$300,000 contribution from the Town to match the County's contribution. The County is contributing \$250,000 to the project from the Denver Water Board settlement and an additional \$300,000 from the recent water quality ballot measure. We are seeking a matching \$300,000 from the Town for the Swan River restoration, as I understand that the Town is using its Denver Water Board settlement funds for the McCain restoration. (Mr. Carlson – I think the Swan River restoration is just as important as the McCain. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Miller – Agreed.)

Mr. Bergeron – Should the County contribute to the McCain restoration? (Mr. Lorch – The Swan restoration is on joint land, and the McCain is not.)

Mr. Truckey – Since the BOSAC has recommended to maintain the 30 % contribution on McCain, the “habitat/river restoration” line item could be adjusted to \$150,000 per year. This would be adequate to support the Swan River project and other projects.

BOSAC recommended using the first two years of this line item, a total of \$300,000, for the Swan River restoration.

Mr. Carlson – Is the Hoosier Pass Recpath a realistic project to have as a line item? (Staff – The intent would be to establish a reserve fund to incentivize the construction of the trail, at least to Blue River, in order to provide an additional recpath amenity and a commuting route to and from Blue River.) (Mr. Tennal – The worst case scenario is it becomes a fund reserve, so I am supportive of retaining a line item.)

BOSAC – Recommended supporting the Swan River restoration project at \$150,000, per year, over the next two years, fund 30% of the total cost of the McCain river restoration, and spread the remainder of the projected budget surplus on the other focus areas (i.e. acquisitions, debt paydown, and trails).

Reed Canary Grass Eradication Update

Staff presented the inaugural report on the reed canary grass eradication effort in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. As BOSAC knows, 2015 was the first of a five-year plan to remove this invasive species in the area, along with several other noxious weeds. Given the restrictions on the use of herbicides in Cucumber Gulch Preserve, the reed canary grass eradication effort is planned to occur via manual removal over a five-year period (i.e. mowing and digging up of root mass). If successful, the eradication project will also serve as model research for other entities seeking to eradicate reed canary grass without using herbicides.

The report indicates reasonable progress in the first year of the eradication effort, as well as the need to continue the mowing, digging, and reseeding efforts for several more years to accomplish the objective.

BOSAC encouraged staff to continue the eradication effort.

Friends of Dillon Ranger District and Colorado Fourteener's Initiative Grant Requests

In 2014, BOSAC recommended providing grant support for two trail-based volunteer organizations to support work in the Upper Blue basin. The Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) received \$10,000 to complete several trail maintenance projects in the Upper Blue basin related to trails of interest to the Town (e.g. Peaks, Mountain Pride, Pinball Alley, Quandary Peak, and Colorado Trails). Also, the Colorado Fourteener's Initiative (CFI) received \$1,000 in 2014 for peak steward volunteer projects on heavily-traveled Quandary Peak. Both of these grants were reviewed by BOSAC and recommended for approval. The Town Council grants committee then approved BOSAC's recommendation

BOSAC reviewed two trail-related grant requests from FDRD and CFI for 2015. Both applications are similar to 2014, and have increased in amount (\$12,000 and \$2,500, respectively). BOSAC's final recommendations regarding these applications will be reviewed for approval by the Town Council grants committee.

Mr. Bergeron – Are we satisfied with the quality of work from the FDRD? (Staff – In general we are, and think it is important from a community standpoint to support FDRD's efforts.)

Mr. Bergeron – Can they focus their efforts in 2015 on Horseshoe Gulch and the trails by the Keystone ranch (e.g. Red Trail, Colorado Trail) like Mayor Warner mentioned? (Staff – It may be possible, but it is out of the Upper Blue Basin. We will look into it.)

BOSAC – Supported both grant requests under the condition that both entities provide a detailed written report (preferably with before and after photos) on the trail work conducted.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, January 19, 2015, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

Mr. Tennal motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Carlson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair



March 12, 2014

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor
c/o Roger Poirier, Project Leader
U.S. Forest Service
120 Midland Avenue, Suite 140
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Dear Mr. Fitzwilliams:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping notice for the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) project proposal under the 2013 Master Development Plan (MDP) Addendum, dated February 4, 2014. The Town of Breckenridge appreciates the opportunity to comment on BSR's proposal. We understand that this is the initial scoping comment period, and that there will be additional opportunities to comment on a draft EIS document to be prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). We also appreciate BSR and USFS staff members attending recent Breckenridge Town Council and BOSAC meetings to better articulate the proposal in detail.

In general, the Town of Breckenridge supports BSR's goals to expand year-round recreational offerings on the ski area pursuant to the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011. The use and expansion of existing on-mountain infrastructure to provide safe, secure nature-based recreational activities for visitors is consistent with the Town's recreational amenity and visitor experience goals. If completed, the proposal would be a significant year-round economic driver for the Breckenridge community.

The Town and BSR have successfully collaborated on many previous projects, including the permanent protection and ongoing management of Cucumber Gulch Preserve. We appreciate BSR's collaborative approach to this and other issues. It is in this partnership spirit that the Breckenridge Town Council offers the following issues to be more thoroughly vetted via the planning process and draft EIS document. We believe that by outlining the following topics to be further analyzed during the scoping period, the Town, BSR, and the USFS will be able to successfully meet our shared expectations for the proposal.

Issues warranting USFS analysis are identified as follows:

- Surface drainage from Peak 8 into the existing Boreas Creek inlets and Upper Cucumber Gulch continues to be a shared priority for both the Town and BSR. In fact, the Town and BSR recently split expenses in a wetland restoration effort in Upper Cucumber Gulch which has successfully returned a beaver population to the area. Protection of this precious wetland resource continues to be a mutual goal for the Town and ski area. BSR has previously acknowledged and acted on its responsibility for enhancing drainage and ski slope revegetation efforts to reduce sediment loads in Cucumber Gulch Preserve via the 60" culvert. The additional

infrastructure included in this proposal emphasizes the need to install and appropriately maintain the on-mountain sediment traps to reduce sediment transport into the protected wetlands of Cucumber Gulch. We ask that the USFS review this issue in the draft EIS document to ensure wetland protection efforts are consistent across jurisdictions.

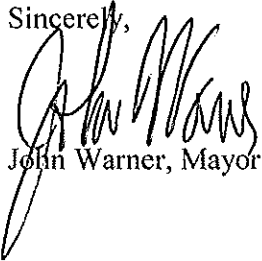
- The revegetation element of the proposal is also a high priority for both the Town and BSR. Improving native vegetation on the ski area (e.g. ski runs) promotes groundwater infiltration, minimizes runoff volumes and peak flows, reduces sediment transport, and supports joint BSR/Town downstream wetland protection efforts. We support BSR and the USFS articulating and executing native revegetation efforts across the ski area. To be truly effective, any on-mountain revegetation efforts will need to successfully promote native grass and plant growth while not relying heavily on chemical fertilizers and herbicides, both of which affect wetland health and are prohibited in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Applying fertilizers and herbicides on areas that drain into the 60" culvert could affect water chemistry, vegetative growth, amphibian viability, and overall wetland protection efforts in Cucumber Gulch. We ask that the USFS and BSR cooperatively develop a coherent, benchmarked on-mountain plan to maximize native ground cover revegetation while minimizing the use of fertilizers and herbicides:
- Recently, BSR submitted to Town staff a draft base area master plan for the portions of the ski area **not** on National Forest lands. The addition of more on-mountain infrastructure proposed by BSR emphasizes the need for an integrated base area plan that provides clear direction for the future management of crowd control, special event management, and infrastructure needs. We appreciate the USFS and BSR working cooperatively with the Town to ensure that the Town-focused base area plan supports the infrastructure plans located on the National Forest, and vice versa. These two planning efforts should support inter-jurisdictional, cooperative land management.
- As has been previously discussed with both BSR and USFS staffs, extending the Peaks Trail through the ski area to bypass Cucumber Gulch and the pedestrian-only Peak 8 base area would improve trail connectivity between Town and this popular trail. As part of the Town Council approval to operate the Breckconnect gondola during summer months, BSR agreed to pursue the NEPA analysis and construction of this route. The projects proposed under the MDP Addendum offer an opportunity to complete this vision, and we appreciate BSR including the concept in the proposal. We request that BSR and the USFS thoroughly evaluate the proposed Peaks Trail extension via this NEPA process, even though portions of the proposed trail would occur outside of the ski area permit boundary.
- Wildlife impacts resulting from the proposed additional infrastructure warrants thorough evaluation during this NEPA analysis. Currently, summers provide a respite for wildlife because on-mountain activities are limited geographically and seasonally. New facilities and programming on the ski area, as outlined in this proposal, will inevitably encroach on wildlife habitat and could affect wildlife viability. Specific wildlife-focused concerns include the following:

- The proposed Ore Bucket-based canopy tour and mountain bike trail increase human disturbance and activity in a habitat area that currently receives limited summer recreational use.
 - The proposed Sawmill zip line and canopy tour could also fragment wildlife habitat that currently has few human visitors during summer months.
 - Above timberline activities should be limited to the extent possible to protect alpine wildlife habitat.
 - Minimizing tree cover loss should be a high priority in this proposal to protect wildlife habitat.
 - To be consistent with Cucumber Gulch Preserve management, seasonal and temporal trail closures should be considered to reduce wildlife impacts during sensitive wildlife periods.
 - Overall, directing summer recreational activities on the already-impacted interior portions of the ski area, rather than the periphery, warrants USFS evaluation.
- The visual impacts of the various proposed zip lines, ropes courses, canopy tours, and observation towers should be analyzed to determine whether the associated infrastructure will affect Breckenridge's visual backdrop. In the past, BSR has demonstrated a willingness to place lift towers and other infrastructure to protect scenic vistas and discourage ridgeline development. We ask the USFS to work with BSR to analyze the visual impacts of the proposed recreational infrastructure. Our shared goal is to ensure that any new facilities are minimally visually intrusive from Town and the surrounding areas.
 - The proposed goal to realign upper Four O'clock Road to make the route more sustainable is commendable, but highly constrained topographically. In general, the Town supports on-mountain travel system improvements that enhance recreational and administrative use, improve hydrologic function, improve vegetative regeneration, and limit sediment transport. We recommend that the USFS thoroughly evaluate this realignment proposal with these goals in mind.
 - The proposal to increase on-mountain off-highway vehicle tours could negatively impact the area wildlife habitat and the 'forest experience' sought by summer visitors. We request the USFS evaluate this portion of the BSR proposal with the goals of minimizing impacts to the recreational experience of other, non-motorized visitors, ensuring the routes used for the off-highway vehicle tours can sustainably support the proposed use, and minimizing the above-timberline tours in an effort to preserve functional alpine wildlife habitat.
 - The Town of Breckenridge generally supports improvements to the existing mountain biking and hiking trail network on the Breckenridge Ski Area. Expansion of the summer trail system, with a goal of providing lift-served access to intermediate flow trails, would significantly improve the Breckenridge's broader bike-related offerings. Additional details are needed regarding the design and construction of the proposed "15 miles of new and rerouted mountain bike trails". Admittedly, increased human recreational access across the ski area will inevitably result in wildlife impacts. However, as mentioned above, we ask the USFS and BSR to creatively design the proposed infrastructure to locate it in the core of the existing facilities and

away from currently undeveloped (or lightly developed) peripheral areas. Also, we believe two specific public concerns regarding this proposal warrant further review: 1) Ensuring that necessary improvements and upgrades to the *existing* trail network are planned and implemented, and 2) Establishing and designating access routes for uphill, non lift-served users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Scott Reid at 970-547-3155 or ScottR@townofbreckenridge.com.

Sincerely,



John Warner, Mayor



File Code: 1950; 2720

Date: January 5, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest is seeking comments on projects proposed by Breckenridge Ski Resort and Copper Mountain Resort for implementation during summer 2015. This letter also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposals as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed projects at Breckenridge and Copper Mountain is to improve the mountain biking and skiing experiences for guests while improving the efficiencies of on-mountain infrastructure.

Proposed Action

Breckenridge Ski Resort proposes to:

- Widen and grade a section of the Monte Cristo trail on Peak 7 to improve the flow of skier traffic to the base of Peak 7. The project would involve approximately 2 acres of disturbance including tree removal and grading.
- Install a snowmaking pipeline from the Monte Cristo Trail to the lower section of Barton's Breezeway on Peak 6. This pipeline would provide snow for Lost Horizon, Delirium and the lower section of Barton's Breezeway. An above ground pipe would be installed where it crosses Cucumber Gulch to avoid impacts to the creek and surrounding wetlands.

Copper Mountain Resort proposes to:

- Install a new ski lift on the north side of Tucker Mountain (Tucker Lift). The lift is located entirely within CMR's existing special use permit area. The Tucker Lift was previously approved in a different alignment in the 2006 Copper Mountain Trail and Facilities Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Since that time, an alignment has been identified within the developed ski area that would require less ground disturbance and tree removal. This proposal analyzes ground disturbance associated with the new lift alignment. The tree clearing associated with this project was analyzed and approved in the 2006 Copper Mountain Trails and Facilities ROD.
- Additional project components to the Tucker Lift: In addition to the lift alignment, Copper Mountain is also proposing project components that have not yet been analyzed nor approved in the 2006 ROD/EID. Copper Mountain proposes to grade approximately 2 acres at the bottom terminal of the proposed Tucker Lift, install a restroom with composting toilets (no running water) at the bottom of the Mountain Chief lift, install a communication tower associated with the lift structure, and install snow-fences along the Tucker ridgeline.
- Construct a new section of mountain bike trail in the vicinity of the American Eagle Lift. The trail would involve approximately 0.50 acres of disturbance. There are no wetlands in the project area. Minimal tree clearing may be necessary but unlikely.

Implementation of these projects is anticipated for spring and summer, 2015.



Environmental Analysis

Based on resource information gathered to date, I believe these projects fall within a Forest Service category of actions under 36 CFR 220.6 that may be excluded from documentation in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude its use. Scoping comments (Forest Service specialists and public comments) along with a complete resource analysis will determine whether these projects can be categorically excluded. These proposals are consistent with category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3): "*Approval, modification or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.*" While these proposals are being scoped together, each resort proposal would be authorized in separate decision documents.

How to Comment and Timeframe

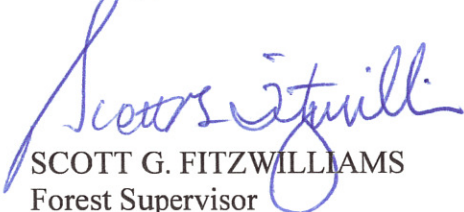
The comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to comment on the proposed action before the Responsible Official makes a decision.

If you wish to comment, please submit your written, facsimile, hand-delivered, or electronic comments concerning this action by **January 30, 2015**. Written comments must be submitted to: Scott G Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor, c/o Shelly Grail Braudis, Dillon Ranger District, PO Box 620, Silverthorne, CO 80498-0620. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc), and should be sent to wrf_scoping_comments@fs.fed.us.

Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any; 2) name of the proposal on which the comment is being submitted; and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for me to consider. Copies of the decision document will be mailed to those people who have submitted comments and to those who request a copy.





For more information about these projects, please call Shelly Grail Braudis at (970) 262-3484. Thank you for your interest in the management of your public lands. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor

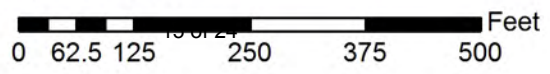


Legend

-  Area of Proposed Tree Removal
1.286 acres
-  Area of Proposed Tree Removal & Grading
0.526 acres
-  Area of Proposed Grading
0.118 acres
-  Wetlands



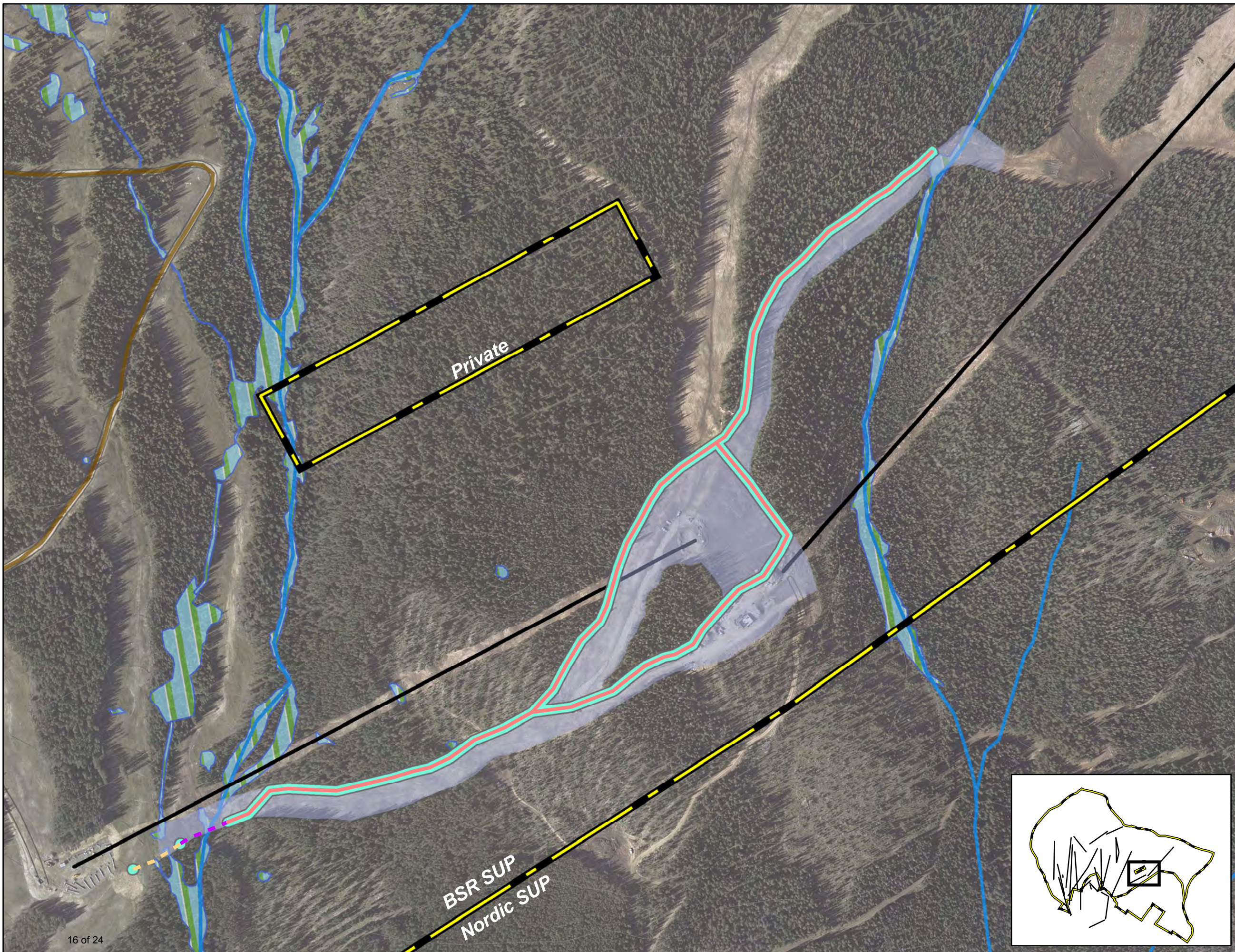
1 in = 208 feet













**Peak 7 - Monte Cristo
Trail Improvements**

BSR 2015 Summer Construction Plans



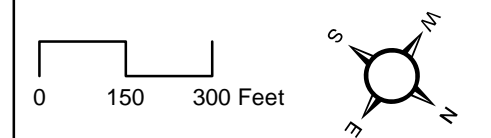


**Peak 6
 Proposed Snowmaking**

- Proposed:**
-  Aboveground Snowmaking Line
 -  Bored Snowmaking Line
 -  Trenched Snowmaking Line
 -  Snowmaking Coverage
 -  Disturbance
- Existing:**
-  Lifts
 -  Roads
 -  Primary Maintenance Roads
 -  SUP Boundary
 -  Streams
 -  Wetlands

Proposed Lengths and Areas:

- Snowmaking Line = 5,830 feet
- Snowmaking Coverage = 17.3 acres
- Area of Disturbance = 5.0 acres



Memorandum

TO: Town Council

FROM: Tom Daugherty, Public Works Director

DATE: 12/4/2014

RE: Blue River Overview and the Coyne Valley Road Bridge

During the retreat in October, the question of whether to build the bridge at Coyne Valley Road where it crosses the Blue River was discussed as part of the CIP. We placed the Coyne Valley Road Bridge on the “B” list and I was to follow up with an overview of the Blue River.

The attached map shows the sections of the Blue River that have been reclaimed or reconstructed between Four Mile Bridge and Skelly Pond. As you can see, most of the river has been reconstructed or reclaimed. The remaining sections of river that need to be addressed are the portion associated with the Gondola Lots redevelopment and the McCain property. There are some small pieces between North Park and the confluence of French Creek that have not been reclaimed but the willows make it very difficult to see and we have not yet determined if there is any value to reclaiming that section of river.

The concepts with the river reclamation projects are intended to undo the impacts of the dredge mining and improve the aesthetics and function of the river. In addition, river reclamation projects provide opportunities for people to access and experience the river. The concept of people accessing the river is especially applicable in the downtown core area extending north to Coyne Valley Road. For example, the section between Valley Brook and Coyne Valley has been developed to have trails for fishing access as well as biking and hiking along with the paved recreation path.

The McCain master plan dedicates a corridor for the river and it is intended to be open space. The remaining portions of McCain include a variety of uses like solar panels, parking, snow storage and other municipal uses. The Blue River farther to the north of McCain is open space and is more remote without formal pedestrian access. The river environment generally becomes less programmed with uses as it flows to the north.

The Coyne Valley Road Bridge project has been listed in the CIP for years and the fact that the Town is reclaiming that portion of the river causes us to consider if the bridge will be incorporated into the river project. The development plan of the McCain property being performed by Norris Design in combination with the McCain master plan will likely provide some guidance whether the bridge would be a desired element.

The council has seen presentations previously. The last presentation was July of 2013 where Peggy Bailey presented an overview of the Blue River restoration projects. If any of you have questions about that presentation or would like a copy please contact me. The slide presentation is very big and I can make it available via thumb drives.

Blue River Walkway

- High level of landscaping
- Heavy pedestrian access



Blue River Restoration

Between Coyne Valley Road and Valley Brook

- Natural landscaping
- Bike/Hike Path moderate pedestrian access

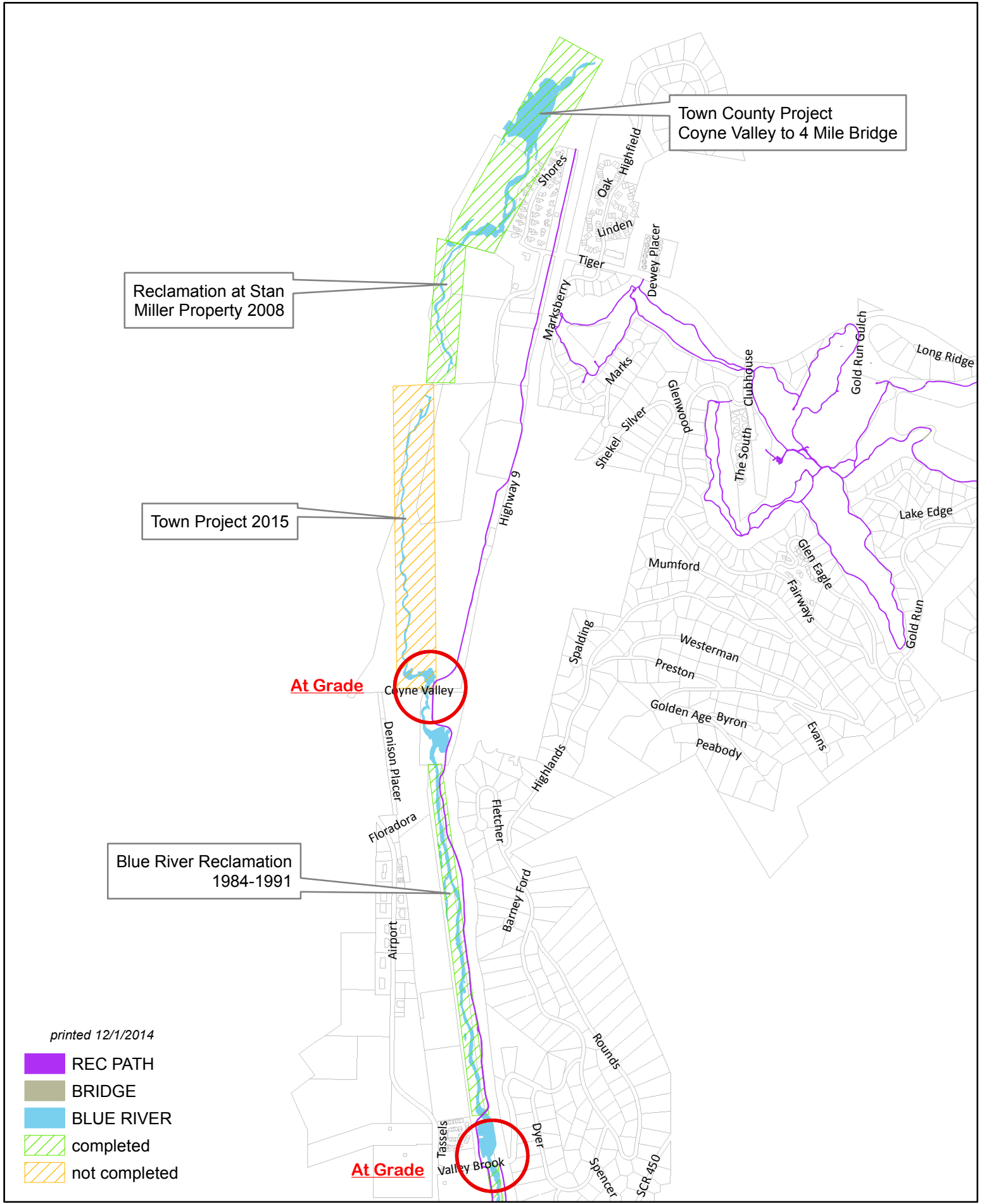


Blue River Restoration

County Open Space @ Four Mile Bridge

- Natural landscaping
- Access is less formal





printed 12/1/2014

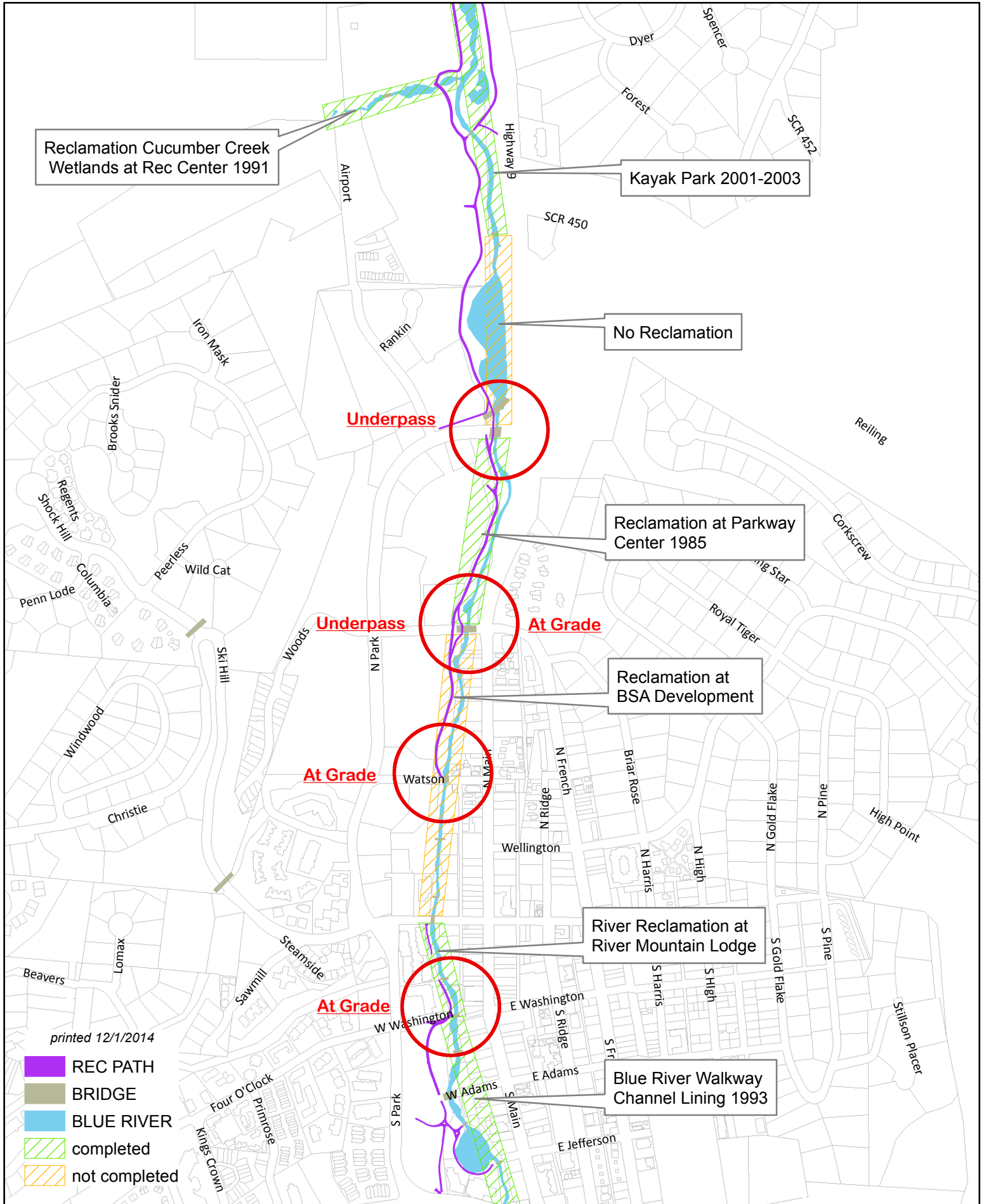
- REC PATH
- BRIDGE
- BLUE RIVER
- completed
- not completed



Town of Breckenridge and Summit County governments assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the data, and use of the product for any purpose is at user's sole risk.

Blue River Reclamation North





Blue River Reclamation South

Town of Breckenridge and Summit County governments assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the data, and use of the product for any purpose is at user's sole risk.



Project	Proposed Completion Date	Priority	Notes
Assist USFS and Summit County Government with Travel Management Plan implementation	Summer 2015	High	Focus on route closures, road maintenance, NEPA routes, signage, existing route maintenance.
Perform overall trail system evaluation and repair	Summer 2015	High	Staff reviews all trails and maintains an annual trail maintenance log.
Implement forest health management via replanting, seeding, and weed eradication	Summer 2015	High	Seedling planting and seed distribution will occur in spring on previous forest treatment areas (e.g. Rac Jac, Slalom, Detroit Placer).
Manage Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program	Summer 2015	High	Continue priority research; streamline costs and efficiencies.
Continue reed canary grass and other weed eradication efforts in Cucumber	Summer 2015	High	Year two of five-year project aimed to remove reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and other noxious weeds in Cucumber.
Construct Golden Horseshoe non-motorized routes as outlined State Trails grant	Summer 2015	High	Two-year grant application submitted in November 2013 includes Weber Gulch, ZL, Galena Extension, Aspen Alley and Mineral Hill Trails.
Complete several new trail construction efforts (outside grant)	Fall 2015	High	See draft list below.
Relocate pump track and skills area	Spring 2015	High	Relocation to occur to Stilson area with contractor help.
Evaluate and improve signs and sign posts throughout trail system	Summer 2015	High	Improve existing trail posts. Address new trail signage needs.
Construct Wellington Bridge and complete Wellington Trail	Summer 2015	High	Requires Xcel permission for portion near substation and trail crew to construct bridge crossing.
Partner with Public Works to complete first phase of McCain/Blue River restoration	Summer 2015	High	Implement open space funding to assist with completion of two-year river restoration project through McCain.
Work with Public Works to complete Blue River Parks Plan	Summer 2015	High	Develop a more specific river-parks plan through Block 11; pursue GOCO grant support for parks plan.
Evaluate partnership opportunities for improving USFS and Summit County trails to enhance overall trail network	Summer 2015	High	Specific routes and scope of work to be defined but could include Baker's Tank, Burro, Spruce Creek and other trails close to town.
Assist Summit County with the proposed Swan River Restoration plan	Autumn 2015	High	Grant writing, fundraising and selecting a design/build contractor are next steps.
Continue trail counts and system-wide monitoring program	Summer 2015	Medium	Ongoing process.
Pursue options for relocating the Peaks trailhead	Unknown	Low	Property acquisition failed; USFS not accepting new trail or trailhead proposals at this time.
Manage OS&T-related social media and website	Summer 2015	Low	Distribute information on acquisitions, trail projects, trail conditions, etc.
Develop management plans for open space parcels deemed appropriate	Unknown	Low	Swan's Nest Parcel candidate for 2015.

Proposed Trails projects include: Shekel Trail, Lower Flume minor realignment, Klack Placer Trail, Claimjumper Trail, Wirepatch Trail completion, and Toxic Forest realignment.

Ongoing Duties

Project	Priority	Notes
Oversee open space acquisitions, including acquisition priorities	Required	Strategically and cost-effectively acquire open space properties based on BOSAC and Town Council direction, partnerships, and goals outlined in the Open Space Plan.
Review and respond to development-related open space and trail referrals	Required	Respond to referrals produced via Town Planning, Summit County, U.S. Forest Service, and others. Town responses summarized or formally presented to BOSAC and Town Council as needed.
Staff BOSAC meetings	Required	Produce packets, manage site visits, provide administrative support, and assist with Town Council/ BOSAC communications.
Direct trail crew-related work	Required	Undertake routine system maintenance annually. New trail construction specified annually in workplan.
Implement forest health treatments on open space lands	Required	Promote healthy, diverse forested landscapes while managing wildfire risk in the WUI pursuant to the MPB Hazard Analysis on Open Space or other reports.
Manage Open Space and Trails data	Required	Update open space data layer (property ownership) and trails data layer regularly to reflect program management needs.
Fulfill B&B Mine consent decree requirements	Required	Complete Wellington/Oro water treatment plant operations, VCUP projects, property use limitations, and reporting requirements as outlined in the B&B Mines consent decree.
Update open space pro forma to reflect BOSAC and Council priorities	Required	Revise and present pro forma to address budgeting allocations and revenue projections based on policy direction from BOSAC and Town Council.
Review federal land conveyances	Required	As opportunities arise, implement federal land exchanges to acquire federal lands for Town or Town/County open space parcels.
Perform routine evaluations of Town trail system	Required	Maintain familiarity with all Town trails to determine maintenance needs and trail conditions.
Oversee open space concessionaires	Required	Nordic Sleigh Rides, Good Times Adventures, and Breck Bike Guides are current concessionaires under license agreement with the Town.
Oversee open space-related special event permitting	Required	Review approximately 20 trail-based special events to determine approval conditions, costs, and impacts to open space and trail facilities.
Implement Golden Horseshoe management tasks	Required	Work cooperatively with USFS and Summit County partners to implement Golden Horseshoe Management Plan.
Manage Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program	Required	Track water quality, vegetation, wildlife, and wetland health to inform management decisions; report on overall wetland health as outlined in the Cucumber Gulch Management Plan.

Ongoing Duties

Project	Priority	Notes
Assist with TDR transactions involving joint open space	Required	Coordinate Town role with Summit County Upper Blue TDR program, including TDR bank and wetland TDR exchanges.
Establish long-term trail priorities and secure trail easements	Required	Secure existing social trails, provide long-term vision for future trail connections, and revise Town Trails Plan and Upper Blue Master Plan (Summit County) accordingly.
Coordinate Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) volunteer program	Required	Encourage community stewardship, sweat equity, and open space program support via a volunteer program as outlined in the Open Space Plan.
Oversee Gold Run and Breck Nordic operations	Required	Ensure long term trail access is secured for both nordic centers and managed per USFS, Summit County, and Town requirements to protect open space values.
Provide annual report for open space program	High	Report program expenditures, property acquisitions, and trail system management in annual State of the Open Space.
Manage Town open space-related public outreach	High	Respond to public inquiries, promote the Town's open space program, and manage the Town website as a public interface for educating citizens on program goals, current projects, wayfinding, trail conditions, etc.
Implement weed and pest control on open space	High	Eradicate noxious weeds on open space properties to improve native habitat and reduce the spread of invasive species.
Pursue funding opportunities for trail projects	High	Identify, apply for, and secure grants for trail and open space projects (e.g. State Trails, GOCO).
Manage Bike Friendly Community Program	High	Oversee infrastructure and education for Town bike-friendly program. Pursue bike-friendly higher recognition levels.
Monitor state and federal legislation that impacts open space management	High	Keep Town administration, BOSAC and Town Council apprised of open space-related legislation.
Participate in statewide open space planning organizations	Medium	Learn from other programs and remain statewide leaders in open space management through participation in Colorado Open Space Alliance.
Assist with historical site preservation, stabilization, and interpretation on open space lands	Medium	Work with Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, Summit County, USFS and other partners to determine next steps for preservation and management of the historical sites on open space, including the Reiling Dredge.
Work cooperatively with other agencies to address wildlife issues basin-wide.	Medium	Track area wildlife trends, manage wildlife habitat, and assist with education for wildlife/human interactions.