

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, November 16, 2009
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, BRECKENRIDGE TOWN HALL
150 Ski Hill Road

5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call

5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – October 19, 2009

5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda

5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

5:50 Staff Summary

- Lucky Jig Roof
- Wellington Bridge
- Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan Revision

6:15 Open Space and Trails

- Hidden Gems Proposal
- Mountain Bike Branding/ BRC Discussion
- Eagle's View/Burro Trail Access
- Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update
- Trail Map
- 2010 Workplan
- White River National Forest Breckenridge Forest Health and Fuels Project

7:30 Executive Session

8:30 Commissioner Issues

8:35 Adjourn

For further information, please contact the Open Space and Trails Program at 547.3110 (Heide) or 547.3155 (Scott).

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Heide Andersen, Open Space and Trails Planner III
Mark Truckey, Asst. Director of Community Development
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner II
Re: November 16, 2009 meeting

Staff Summary**Lucky Jig Roof**

Based on BOSAC's direction from 2008, staff is working closely with Tony Harris of Harris Construction and the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance to construct a roof over the Lucky Jig, located directly uphill from the Reiling Dredge trailhead. The goal of the project is to protect the jig structure at the Lucky Mine by preventing snow and rain from continuing to degrade this historical feature. The work is underway as of this staff report, with the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance and Summit County splitting the \$12,000 cost. This project represents completion of the three highest priority stabilization efforts on joint Town/County open space as outlined by Eric Twitty in his cultural resource survey (Jesse Mill Site, X10U8 Mine ore chute, and Lucky Mine jig).

Wellington Bridge

The proposed Wellington Bridge, designed to cross French Creek in the area of the Wellington Neighborhood, has been removed from the 2010 open space budget. The removal of this project from the workplan reduces the trails line item in the 2010 open space budget by \$30,000. Given the slowed rate of construction in the Wellington Neighborhood, the lack of a secured public trail easement, and improved public access via the B&B Mines Trailhead upstream, the bridge was deemed a lower priority for construction in 2010. Staff will bring this topic back to BOSAC for a more complete discussion in the upcoming year.

Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan

As directed by BOSAC, staff is initiating a revision of the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan. The document, originally approved by Town Council in November, 2001 needs to be revised to reflect changes in nordic skiing operations and terrain, including the existence of the Gold Run Nordic Center, groomed routes in the Golden Horseshoe, the pending New Nordic World proposal for Breckenridge Nordic Center, buildout of Shock Hill, and others. Staff will initiate this revision and keep BOSAC updated on any progress.

Open Space and Trails

Hidden Gems Proposal

Attached, please find a draft letter addressed to the Hidden Gems Wilderness advocates and Representative Jared Polis. Staff will update BOSAC on the current status of the Hidden Gems wilderness proposal and seek direction from BOSAC and Town Council to finalize a formal response to this current wilderness proposal.

Mountain Bike Branding/ BRC Discussion

As requested by BOSAC and Town Council, staff has invited representatives from the Breckenridge Resort Chamber (BRC) to the BOSAC meeting to discuss the mountain bike branding document drafted during the past few BOSAC meetings (attached). Town Council requested BOSAC discuss this topic with the BRC, with the intent of passing along important information about how the Town is marketed with regards to mountain biking.

Eagle's View/Burro Trail Access

As briefly discussed at the October BOSAC meeting, staff has been working with homeowners in the area of the Snowy Point/Eagle's View to help provide and manage public access to the National Forest and the Burro Trail. Area homeowners have requested staff remove trees and debris to improve the existing access easement to improve ski access for visitors seeking the lifts at the base of Peak 9. BOSAC previously directed staff to maintain the easement area in its current state to serve non-motorized, trail based recreation in lieu of ski-area lift access.

Since that meeting, area homeowners have requested an audience with staff and BOSAC to further discuss this issue. The homeowners request that staff remove one dead lodgepole pine and move a rock to improve the "skiability" of the pitch for younger and beginner skiers. Staff indicated that removal of the tree and rock would require landowner permission (because it is on private property across which the town holds a 20-foot access easement) and BOSAC direction. Homeowner representatives will present their case and request BOSAC change its current stance to consider utilizing town resources to improve access for visitors seeking Peak 9 lift access.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) program had its most successful volunteer year yet, in which 3800 hours of volunteer time were logged on town open space for a total value of over \$81,000 to the program. Please review the attached memo outlining this year's projects and volunteer donations. Tony Overlock will be present at the BOSAC meeting to outline the various successes of the FOBT in 2009.

Trail Map

Staff is working to overhaul the existing Town summer trails map for production in time for the 2010 summer season. Based on the need to provide improved wayfinding for the public, and coinciding with the anticipated January 2010 release of the U.S. Forest

Service (USFS) travel management plan, staff proposes changing the scale of the trail map to include all non-motorized trails in the Upper Blue basin, including Town, County and USFS jurisdictions.

In addition, this map is intended to highlight designated trail loops, which, when coupled with improved trail markings, will improve wayfinding for the general public. As in previous years, this map would be available for free on the town website, but contrary to previous years, staff is recommending that this map be sold for distribution through the Breckenridge Welcome Center and local outdoor stores (approximately \$7) to help offset production costs.

Staff recommends that the new map costs and revenues be split with Summit County Government and that 5000 maps be printed in time for Memorial Day in 2010. OSAC approved splitting of this proposed cost at its November meeting.

Staff will provide more information and samples at the BOSAC meeting, and seeks BOSAC's answers to the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC support staff's proposal to expand the scale to include the entire Upper Blue basin and all trail jurisdictions?*
- 2. Does BOSAC support the proposal to charge a fee for hard copies of this revised map?*

2010 Workplan

Attached, please find a draft copy of the 2010 workplan, which includes many BOSAC member suggestions from the October meeting, uncompleted 2009 tasks, and several new projects proposed by staff.

Please review the attachment and come to the meeting prepared to discuss this document, which will help direct staff work flow next year.

White River National Forest Breckenridge Forest Health and Fuels Project

On November 4th, 2009, the Dillon Ranger District announced its proposed forest health and fuel reduction project in the vicinity of Breckenridge. As stated by the U.S. Forest Service, the project will "focus on treating forests within the wildland/urban interface that have been severely affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic." The deadline for public comments on this proposed project is December 3, 2009.

Town staff has been working with the White River National Forest interdisciplinary team on defining this project. We believe that the stated purposes of the project are on target for the protection of human and forest resources in our area. These purposes are as follows:

- Provide defensible space adjacent to communities,

- Reduce impacts of a potential wildfire to National Forest and community infrastructure,
- Reduce impacts of a potential wildfire on the forest resource,
- Increase lodgepole pine and aspen regeneration, and
- Utilize some materials removed to generate salvage revenues and supply forest products or biomass to local industries.

Town staff has been in the field with Forest Service staff to evaluate the focus areas and to discuss the specific prescriptions for each area. We are working to dovetail our open space forest health efforts where appropriate with what the Forest Service will be doing to maximize our resources and prevent duplicative processes.

Staff would like to solicit comments from the BOSAC in order to draft an official statement for Town Council review. To this end, we would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC support the premises behind this project?*
- 2. Does BOSAC support the stated purpose(s) of this project?*
- 3. Does BOSAC agree with the focus areas?*
- 4. Are there areas that should be added or subtracted from this proposal?*
- 5. Are there any stipulations that BOSAC would like to suggest?*

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the October 19, 2009 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Erin Hunter, Jeff Cospolich, Peter Joyce and Scott Yule. Ellen Hollinshead participated via telephone. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid and Mark Truckey. Brian Lorch from Summit County Open Space and Turk Montepare were also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Several were added to the agenda: Hidden Gems update, the Black Loop realignment update, Hoodoo Voodoo work, Sallie Barber Road gates, Betty's Trail, Wellington Trail and Burro Trail accesses.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Forest Health Projects on Open Space

Mr. Joyce: Do we have a forest health projects plan for 2010? (Yes, grants are under review and the forest health report addresses the priority treatment parcels.)

The Black Loop Realignment

Ms. Andersen explained why the Black Loop realignment will not occur this year. The easement cannot be approved and recorded before winter sets in.

Hoodoo Voodoo

Ms. Andersen: Work is complete on the Hoodoo Voodoo trail for this season. BOSAC members should check out the work if they are interested.

Burro Trail Access

Mr. Reid outlined the issues surrounding the Burro Trail access and the request to clear trees to improve ski area access for homeowners and guests.

Mr. Kuhn: I am not supportive of this use for open space. We should stay out of this business.

BOSAC was not supportive of providing ski area access and improving the access easement for ski area access. BOSAC opted to retain the easement as it currently exists.

Wellington Path

Mr. Reid updated BOSAC on the status of the Wellington Path. It will hopefully still be paved before winter.

Betty's Trail

BOSAC agreed to name the new trail adjacent to French Gulch Road "Betty's Trail".

Sallie Barber Road gates

Mr. Reid: At the request of Summit County, three gates are currently being installed on Sallie Barber Road to help control access. Summit County will choose when to open and close the gates to different users.

Hidden Gems

Ms. Andersen updated BOSAC on the status of the Hidden Gems wilderness proposal. The Hidden Gems representatives are starting to compromise on their original vision to account for mountain bike use.

Ms. Hollinshead: IMBA would like to see some alternative designations in the proposal.

Open Space and Trails

Cucumber Pump House Access and Trails

Mr. Reid outlined the issues surrounding the construction and access of the pump house in the bottom of Cucumber Gulch Preserve. The question is whether to narrow the reconstructed trails or leave it wide enough for vehicular traffic by Breckenridge Sanitation.

Ms. Hunter: I agree to leave the route wider than originally anticipated, but we should check with Breckenridge Sanitation as to how much they need to access this area.

Mr. Joyce: Perhaps there should be more seeding on top of the road base.

Mr. Cospolich: I agree with Mr. Joyce.

BOSAC unanimously agreed to leave the route as it currently exists and to not narrow it.

Mountain Bike Branding Document

Mr. Reid outlined the purposes of the mountain biking branding document and the revisions that occurred since the previous BOSAC meeting. He also passed along Ms. Merrill's request to potentially postpone this discussion until all BOSAC members are present.

Mr. Kuhn: I think we should go ahead and have this conversation. Make sure to mention that the repath is paved. Mention dirt bikers should be expected on portions of our trail system.

Ms. Hunter: We really need to mention other trail users and the need to be courteous to them. Mountain bikers should recognize that they are not the only trail users on the trail.

Mr. Cospolich: It might be useful to define what a mountain bike is- i.e. that it is not a motorized vehicle.

Ms. Hollinshead: I think the other users on the system should be listed: hikers, skiers, equestrians. BRC will use this document for all users. Under #3: most trails don't dry until mid-June. Elevation and exposure (NSEW) limits how dry they will be. Under #4 add Sallie Barber, Boreas Pass and French Gulch Road as easy routes. Mention that the Peaks Trail is not our first

priority. It is too technical and wet, and gets too much publicity. Discourage use on the Peaks Trail may be the best way to approach it.

Mr. Yule: I agree that the Peaks trail is difficult and overused. It sees too much use.

Mr. Joyce: I think this document should not mention the Peaks Trail specifically, but instead encourage use on other trails.

BOSAC agreed to proceed with more edits of the document and to discuss this information with BRC representatives, likely at the November meeting.

2010 Workplan

Mr. Reid outlined the background of the work plan process. He requested BOSAC members provide their priority projects for the 2010 workplan.

Ms. Hollinshead: Discovery Trail connection to Galena Gulch would be a good focus for 2010. Golden Horseshoe: Galena Ditch. Rich Gulch to Lincoln Meadows ski route. Inventory Warrior's Mark and Peak 7 neighborhoods. Trail project to realign Wheeler Trail as it drops into Copper and Wheeler to Hoosier Pass.

Mr. Yule: Rich Gulch access to Lincoln. Aspen Alley from Boreas Pass to Wakefield.

Mr. Joyce: Realign Mikes from Lower Flume up to Middle Flume. Boggy sections on Mountain Pride trail. Aspen Alley connection. Turk's to Sallie Barber.

Mr. Kuhn: Turk's to Sallie Barber connection is my top priority- the Holy Grail.

Ms. Hunter: Summit to Brown Gulch connection would be my hope.

Mr. Cospolich: A connection from Wakefield/ Brooks Hill to Jack's Cruel Joke. Improvements on the pump track would be great. More signs directing people to trails and trailheads. Lower French Gulch directional sign with distance. Make French Gulch easier to find. Signage through the Golden Horseshoe would be good as well.

Executive Session

Mr. Joyce made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss property acquisitions. Mr. Cospolich seconded the motion. The executive session began at 7:18 pm. Mr. Cospolich moved to come out of executive session. Ms. Hunter seconded. The executive session concluded at 8:09 pm.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Joyce: What is the status of the Wellington Trail? (awaiting easement approval through Xcel)

Ms. Hollinshead: As a skier, I like having the same corridor as a mountain bike trail because it is easier to follow. Middle Flume realignment looks good for biking, but not skiing. Perhaps we could ski the old alignment.

Ms. Hunter: Betty's trail is getting a lot of use. It is a well received trail.

Mr. Cospolich: Is there a way to get use numbers on the B&B Trail and trailhead? (Staff will work on this.)

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 16, 2009 in the Administrative Conference Room in Town Hall.

Ms. Yule motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hunter seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair

October 28, 2009

Hidden Gems Wilderness Coalition
c/o Colorado Environmental Coalition
1536 Wynkoop Street, #5C
Denver, CO 80202

Rep. Jared Polis
Washington, DC Office
501 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Breckenridge would like to comment on the Hidden Gems Wilderness Proposal, as presented on the website (<http://www.whiteriverwild.org/>), and as discussed between Coalition leaders and the Summit Wildfire Council on November 4th, 2009.

The Town of Breckenridge generally supports the concept of wilderness and the idea of expanding designated wilderness within Summit County and the White River National Forest. At the same time, we are concerned that , as it stands now, wilderness designation could impede our ability to fight wildfires and protect our watershed in the aftermath of wildfire. These are critical needs, particularly given the potential increased susceptibility of our forests in the wake of the mountain pine beetle infestation. The Town may need the ability to take proactive fire mitigation actions (e.g., firebreaks and other fuels management prescriptions), use roads and mechanical equipment to fight a wildfire, and locate and construct water quality protection structures or ancillary roads within some of the areas proposed as wilderness. Given that this process is dynamic and will take some time, The Town of Breckenridge would like to go on record stating that our elected officials will need to feel comfortable with specific entitlement language written into the wilderness designation legislation that would allow for the necessary proactive fuels mitigation work, immediate emergency wildfire response, and post-fire watershed protection (which may include structures and roads) in order to support the wilderness proposal. We do feel encouraged by statements from the Coalition that these stipulations can likely be addressed to our satisfaction, but we will need to withhold our support for the proposal until it is clear that we will have the ability to take necessary actions without cumbersome processes for the safety of our community.

The other issue of interest and concern to the Town has been the impacts of the wilderness designation on the mountain biking experience in the Upper Blue River basin. The most recent concessions to the mountain biking community, as represented through a memo to the Town of Blue River on October 23, 2009, and as presented on the latest version of the maps on the Hidden Gems website, address the Town's biggest concerns with possible losses to mountain bike trail access within the Hoosier Ridge and

Tenmile proposed wilderness areas. Once again, we would like to reserve final judgement until the legislation is introduced and we can evaluate the associated maps.

At this point in time, the Town also feels like it would consider a an alternative designation for either the Hoosier Ridge or Tenmile proposed wilderness areas that would allow for non-motorized recreation (including mountain bikes), and any necessary watershed protection, wildfire emergency response, or proactive wildfire mitigation actions. The Town of Breckenridge looks forward to continuing to work with our congressional delegation, the Coalition, Summit Wildfire Council, Summit Fat Tire Society, and the International Mountain Biking Association to reach a solution that protects our natural resources to the greatest degree possible while allowing for public safety and welfare.

Sincerely,

John Warner, Mayor

Mountain Biking Messaging Document

Draft 11/3/09

The Town of Breckenridge and the surrounding areas offer an extensive and varied trail network that accommodates mountain bikers, as well as many other types of users. This document was created to help trail users, those marketing the Town, event promoters, potential concessionaires and other interested individuals understand the values, priorities and limitations related to mountain biking within the Town of Breckenridge and Town-owned and managed lands.

1. The Town of Breckenridge prioritizes land protection and preservation, and sustainable use and management of open space. The acquisition of open space and the protection of natural resources is the top priority of the Town's open space program.
2. Trail access and public enjoyment of Town open space is a high priority of the program, but such access must always be provided in a sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner.
3. The Town of Breckenridge is located at 9,600 feet in elevation, which reduces the percentage of atmospheric oxygen, when compared to sea level or other lower elevations. The 'thin air' can prove very challenging to visitors of all types, and especially those exerting themselves physically. Most trails in this high elevation do not dry until mid-June, some even later in the summer months. Elevation and aspect dramatically affect which trails dry when. The Peaks Trail is an example of a trail that dries late, remains muddy and is particularly technical. Other trails in the local system should receive more visitor attention because they are less technical, more sustainable and south facing.
4. Mountain biking is an acceptable and encouraged use on Town-managed trails, most of which would be considered technically difficult. Several easier level trails also exist, including the Blue River Recpath (paved), the River Trail, the B&B Trail, French Gulch Road, Sallie Barber and Boreas Pass Road.
5. Mountain bikers should expect and respect other trail users. Hikers, runners, dirt bikers and other motorized and non-motorized users should be anticipated on trails and roads in and around Breckenridge.
6. The Town welcomes events on its trail system and works to ensure that those events do not negatively impact the trails or other trail users. Trail fees are charged for all events utilizing Town trails to help offset trail maintenance costs.
7. The Town has an active volunteer program to leverage its trail management resources and encourage community support of the local trails.

8. The Town of Breckenridge encourages the use of bicycles for transportation whenever possible and plans and builds its trail system to provide trail corridors from the center of town to outlying areas, thereby reducing the need to drive to trailheads.
9. The Town is working to improve directional signage throughout the local trail system and provide a clear map for public use. Despite these efforts, many trails outside of the Town trail system remain unmarked, making wayfinding difficult without local knowledge.



MEMORANDUM

TO: BOSAC and Town Council

FROM: Tony Overlock, Lead Trails Technician
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner

DATE: November 12, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update

The Town of Breckenridge employs a four-person, seasonal trail crew, whose responsibilities include managing and protecting the existing Town trail network, constructing new trails, and overseeing the Friends of Breckenridge volunteer program. In its fifth year, the crew successfully achieved the majority of its goals during its five-month season.

2009 Highlights include:

- **Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) Volunteer Program**
 - **Lower Flume:** Constructed 150 foot-long turnpike and installed 60 feet of rock armoring.
 - **Cucumber Gulch:** In cooperation with PCL Construction and Vail Associates, constructed a 200 foot-long boardwalk, removed 7 dump truck loads of ladder fuels in cooperation with White Wolf HOA, and removed 40 garbage bags of false chamomile with FOBT volunteers.
 - **Middle Flume:** Constructed a 140 foot-long boardwalk, improved 40 feet of drainage and installed 10 feet of rock armoring.
 - **F&D Placer:** Performed basic trail maintenance with visually impaired volunteers.
 - Volunteer Recognition party with over \$1,500 dollars of food, beverages and prizes donated.
 - **Grand Total: 13 events, 98 volunteers and 519 hours for an estimated value of \$10,510.**

Other Events

- **Turk's Trail:** In cooperation with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Summit County Government, constructed 7,800 feet of new trail with assistance from 120 youth and 230 adult volunteers.
- **Betty's Trail:** As part of the Town of Breckenridge Leadership Challenge program, constructed 1,100 feet new trail, 120 feet of buck and rail and a 60 foot turnpike.

- **Make a Difference Day:** Volunteers spread over 300 pounds of native grass seed on Town of Breckenridge Open Space parcels, removed downed trees, and constructed two new freeride features on the B- Line Trail.
- **Pump Track:** Expanded pump track facility to 2 ½ times the original size with dirt and over \$2,000 worth of machine time donated by volunteers.
- **Marriott Mountain Lodge:** Planted 80 blue spruce trees and spread 50 pounds of native seed on Town of Breckenridge Open Space open space parcels.
- **Colorado Work Force:** Provided the Town of Breckenridge Open Space and Trails three employees for a total of 600 hours. Program supported by ARRA funds, at no cost to the Town.
- **Grand Total: 445 volunteers, 3281 hours, for an estimated value of \$70,451.**

Trail Crew Highlights

- **Carter Park Trail:** Improved switchbacks and drainage, installed 70 feet of rock armoring, and constructed 600 feet of new trail.
- **Freeride Park:** Constructed 2 new freeride features and reconstructed wall rides into one feature.
- **Iowa Hill Trail:** Constructed 400 feet of new trail.
- **Turk's Trail:** Constructed 10 foot by 10 foot viewing deck, 4 bridges, and 250 feet of buck and rail fencing.
- **Hermit Placer Trail:** Extended boardwalk by 30 feet.
- **Middle and Upper Flume Trail:** Installed 200 feet of geo-block, 50 feet of rock armoring, and revegetated multiple areas where trail braiding was occurring.
- **Preston Way and Sallie Barber Roads:** Installed five gate posts.

The trail crew continues to improve annually, through enhanced job performance, increased volunteer numbers, and a growing number of community and local organization partnerships. The Town of Breckenridge trail system continues to be well maintained, greatly benefitting users of the town trail system. In 2009, over 9,900 feet of natural surface trail were constructed and over 18 miles of trails were maintained. An estimated \$81,000 of volunteer time was directed towards the trail and open space system.

We are looking forward to the 2010 season in which we will continue to prioritize necessary maintenance of existing trails, improve trail signage, and construct more new trails. We also hope to begin focusing more energy and resources towards the Golden Horseshoe trail network, once the U.S. Forest Service travel management plan is finalized.

2010 Project Workplan

Project	Proposed Completion Date	Priority	Status
Assist USFS and Summit County Government with Travel Management Plan implementation	Spring 2010	High	Decision from Forest Supervisor expected in January.
Complete Golden Horseshoe Management Plan Document	Spring 2010	High	Working with Summit County staff on this currently.
Perform overall trail system evaluation and repair	Autumn 2010	High	Task list to be developed at year end 2009
Implement forest health management strategies as prioritized in the forest health plan	Summer 2010	High	Several grants have been pursued. Priorities will be determined based on funding and the report.
Work with County on forest health/fire mitigation projects on joint properties	Autumn 2010	High	Grant funding and forthcoming GH report will help direct project priorities.
Construct Middle Flume realignment with VOC assistance	Summer 2010	High	VOC has approved project. Awaiting decision on State Trails grant funding.
Complete several new trail construction efforts	Autumn 2010	High	See list below.
Redesign and reprint Trail map	Spring 2010	High	New format and scale to be determined.
Evaluate and improve signs and sign posts throughout Town system	Summer 2010	High	Maintain and improve existing trail posts; add new markings for loop system.
Oversee comments for Hidden Gems Wilderness proposal	Unknown	High	Ongoing.
Evaluate proposed new Golden Horseshoe routes and initiate NEPA for new alignments.	Autumn 2010	Medium	
Initiate NEPA for existing routes outside of Town boundaries.	2011	Medium	Aspen Alley, Wheeler Trail into Copper, Mountain Pride/Baker's Tank.
Inventory Peak 7 and Warrior's Mark Neighborhood Trails	Autumn 2010	Medium	
Revise Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan	Spring 2010	Medium	
Complete Site-specific NEPA analysis for GH Nordic Area (Preston Loop Special Use Permit)	Autumn 2010	Medium	Working with Eric Petterson to finalize necessary reports.
Proceed with additional VERP monitoring/management recommendations	Autumn 2010	Medium	Trail use numbers and problem assessment ongoing.
Discuss Wellington Bridge proposal	2011	Medium	Awaiting landowner permission.
Assist Heritage Alliance with interpretive sign installation.	Spring 2010	Medium	Trail crew will help with wayfinding signage and trail spur construction.
Complete more features and trail on B-Line	Autumn 2010	Low	Continuing with incremental additions to the trail.
Install toilet facilities at F&D Placer	Autumn 2010	Low	Still a priority?
Evaluate annexation of open space parcels	Summer 2010	Low	Not started
Develop management plans for open space parcels deemed appropriate	Unknown	Low	Cucumber Gulch and Golden Horseshoe only

Proposed Trails projects include: Discovery Hill Trail extension, Shekel Trail, Timber Trail, Barney Ford reroute, Betty's/Sisler trail extension, Lower Flume realignment, Illinois Creek realignment, Klack Placer Trail, Lincoln/Washington Trail Connection, River Trail/CMC evaluation, Claimjumper Trail.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White River
National
Forest

Dillon Ranger District
P.O. Box 620
680 Blue River Parkway
Silverthorne, CO 80498
(970) 468-5400
FAX (970) 468-7735

File Code: 1950-1/2400

Date: November 4, 2009

Dear Interested Party,

The Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest is proposing a forest health and fuel reduction project in the vicinity of Breckenridge, Colorado. The project would focus on treating forests within the wildland/urban interface that have been severely affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The Forest Service has identified approximately 5,700 acres of forest that extend from Farmers Corner on the north, to the Golden Horseshoe on the east, to Hoosier Pass on the south, and along the base of the Ten Mile Range on the west that could benefit from some kind of treatment.

The Forest Service has been collaborating with representatives from the city of Breckenridge, the Breckenridge Fire Department, Summit County Open Space, homeowners' associations and private landowners to develop this project. If you are interested in this project or possibly affected by it, your input would be appreciated. This letter also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Enclosed is a description of the purpose and need, the proposed action and a location map. For a more detailed description of the proposed action and more detailed maps, you may go to the White River National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/>. If you would prefer a hard copy of the project description and maps, you may request them from the Dillon Ranger District at 970-262-3495.

The decision to be made is one of the following: whether to implement the proposed activities on National Forest lands as described, to modify the proposed location or design of the project, to use some other combination of activities to meet the purpose and need for action, or to not implement this project at this time.

Our team of resource specialists, called an Interdisciplinary Team, is in the process of conducting an environmental analysis in order to identify issues and estimate potential impacts of this proposal. We will be using the authority set forth in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and anticipate completing the analysis and having a decision by June 2010. To make a fully informed decision, I need to know whether you have any issues with this proposal, and if so what



they are and how they could be addressed. It's important to understand that issues in this context are concerns with this proposal based on some effect you believe it would cause. In order for your input to be most useful, it should be specific to this proposal rather than generic to all projects of this type.

In addition, the Forest Service will be hosting an open house at the Dillon District Office at 680 Blue River Parkway, Silverthorne, CO, on November 17, 2009 from 4:00-6:30. Resource specialists will be available to answer your questions and help foster public understanding of this proposal. Detailed descriptions of the proposed action and maps will be available at that meeting. Because it is difficult to reach all those who may be interested or affected by the proposal, we ask that you inform your neighbors who may not have received this information, of the opportunity to provide input and /or attend the open house.

In order to keep this planning effort on schedule, we would like to have your response by December 3, 2009. Please address your comments to Scott Fitzwilliams, White River Forest Supervisor, c/o Peech Keller, P.O. Box 620, Silverthorne, Colorado 80498, or email wrfn_scoping_comments@fs.fed.us. Please include: (1) Your 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 your issues.

If you submit written input related to this proposal, you will be notified of the objection period (to be held later in this process). If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will not follow up with any further correspondence.

If you need any further information about the project you may call Brett Crary at 970-827-5182 or Peech Keller at 970-262-3495. Thank you for your interest in the management of your public lands. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan Cutts
JAN CUTTS
District Ranger

cc: Cynthia P Keller
Cary Green
Brett C Crary

Breckenridge Forest Health and Fuels Project Description

Purpose and Need

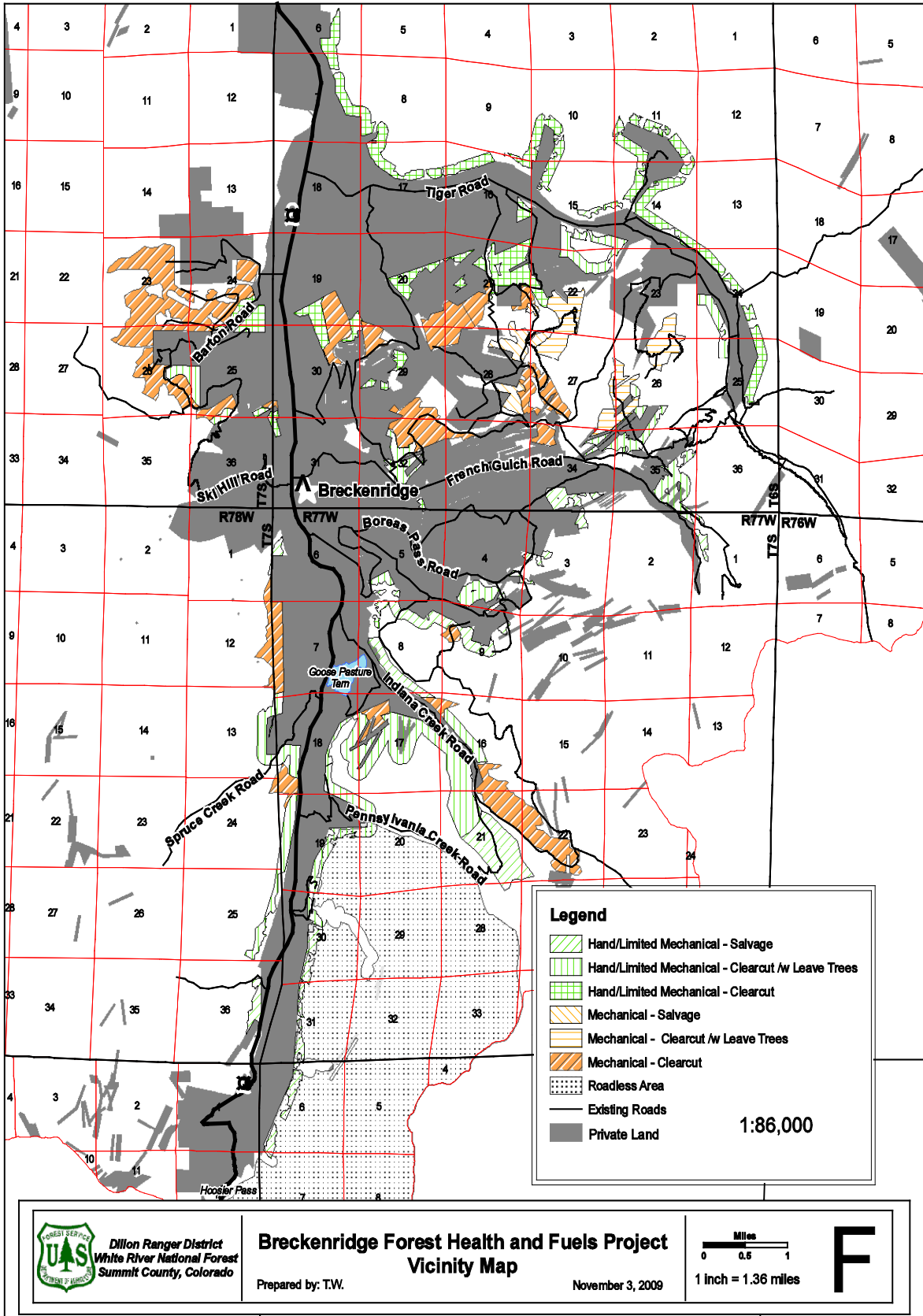
Forests in the vicinity of Breckenridge have experienced an increase in tree mortality as the MPB continues to travel into higher elevation forests. Mortality rates of mature lodgepole pine are approaching 80%. Current projections are that 90% of mature lodgepole pine is expected to die on federal and non-federal lands within the next 3-5 years. As dead lodgepole pine stands deteriorate and fall to the ground, those heavy fuels accumulations are likely to create conditions that could support large-scale wildfire characterized by high severity/high intensity fire behavior. Extreme fire behavior and the consequent high fire severity would threaten private property, community infrastructure and fire fighter safety.

The purpose of the proposed action is:

- To provide defensible space on National Forest lands adjacent to communities in the wildland urban interface that have been identified as having an elevated risk due to hazardous fuel accumulations resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- To reduce the impacts of a potential wildfire to National Forest and community infrastructure (roads, trail heads, utilities) within National Forest lands.
- To reduce the impacts of a potential wildfire on the forest resource by breaking up the continuity and reducing the accumulation of future heavy fuel loading over the long term.
- To create conditions that would increase lodgepole pine and aspen regeneration following the mountain pine beetle epidemic and provide an environment that would maximize growth rates for this regeneration in the short term.
- To promote aspen regeneration, where this species occurs.
- To generate salvage revenues while the trees are still merchantable to help offset the costs of treatment, fuel mitigation and reforestation.
- To provide a supply of forest products and/or biomass to local industries over the next 5-10 years.

Location

The project area encompasses 5,700 acres of forest that extend from Farmers Corner on the north, to the Golden Horseshoe on the east, to Hoosier Pass on the south, and along the base of the Ten Mile Range on the west. Please see map below.



Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement a variety of vegetation treatments on approximately 5,700 acres, designed to expedite forest regeneration following the ongoing MPB epidemic, salvage dead and dying lodgepole pine, create 400-600 foot community protection zones and reduce hazardous fuels within the WUI. The project area surrounds At Risk Communities within the Dillon Ranger District and incorporates the recommendations of the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (SCCWPP). Table 1 summarizes the proposed action by the method in which treatments are conducted, the type of treatment being prescribed and the number of acres that would be affected. Acres are approximate within + or - 10%.

Table 1. Total acres by harvest method and silviculture prescription.

Breckenridge Forest Health and Fuels Project			
Harvest Method	Prescription	Units	Acres
Mechanical Felling	Clearcut	101-121	1,895
	Clearcut with Leave Trees	201-204	343
	Salvage	301-304	130
	Total:		2,368
Hand Felling With Limited Mechanical Felling	Clearcut	401-434	1,136
	Clearcut with Leave Trees	501-516	1,483
	Salvage	601-624	708
	Total:		3,327

Mechanical Felling Units

Mechanical felling would consist of using ground-based machinery to harvest trees and remove them from the stand. In most cases this method is preferable to hand-felling because it would remove more fuels from the cutting units (in the form of timber), soil scarification would create more favorable conditions for natural regeneration and the value of the timber removed would help offset some of the costs of these treatments. Mechanical treatments are designed to follow vegetation stand boundaries where possible, with the intent of maintaining scenic integrity by following natural vegetation edges.

Hand Felling With Limited Mechanical Felling Units

Hand felling would consist of using chainsaw crews to fell trees. These units were identified in areas that contained lodgepole pine, but had restrictions on ground-based machinery, such as steep slopes, wetland areas and designated roadless areas. In these units, fuels would be treated in a variety of methods. In most units, trees would be felled so that the boles of the tree lie directly on the surface of the ground to accelerate decomposition. Limbs and some tree boles would be piled and burned or chipped to reduce flashy fuel accumulations. In some cases, trees may be winched out of the stand, cut into firewood and carried out of the stand, cable yarded or helicopter yarded. In these units, a small amount of ground based machinery may be used to treat vegetation if a site visit indicates that doing so would not be contradictory to requirements specified in the White River Forest Plan (2002) or the design criteria established in this analysis.

Silvicultural Prescriptions

The type of treatment being prescribed is dependent on the composition and structure of the forest being harvested. Areas that have been identified as having a majority of mature lodgepole pine would have clearcut prescriptions implemented. This treatment would create an environment favorable to natural regeneration and an environment that would maximize growth rates for this regeneration. In these units, an incidental amount of aspen and groups of spruce and fir may be left if they are present within the stand. Advanced lodgepole pine regeneration (<5" dbh with >60% crown) would be retained to the extent feasible. Cutting units that contain more of a mosaic of lodgepole pine with intermittent expanses of mixed conifer (spruce, fir and lodgepole) would have a clearcut with leave trees prescription. These units would appear as clearcuts with large groups (~1/2 acre – 2-acre) of spruce, fir and dead lodgepole pine left intact within their interior. Salvage harvesting would occur in stands that have a minor component of lodgepole pine. In these units, only dead, diseased or currently infested (at the time of treatment) trees would be harvested.

Mechanical site preparation may be used in some areas to enhance natural or artificial regeneration survival. Areas would be planted if natural regeneration has not been successful within three years.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Approximately 234 acres in the proposed action are within **inventoried roadless areas** (east side of Hwy 9 from Hoosier Pass to Pennsylvania Creek). Approximately 106 acres would receive a clear cut with leave tree treatment and 128 acres would be salvaged (lodgepole pine removed from mixed stands). No roads would be built and the treatments would be hand felled. Before this can be implemented, the Secretary of Agriculture must approve of cutting trees in roadless areas and it is possible that we may not get that approval.

Transportation

Existing roads would be used for harvest and log hauling operations, where feasible. Approximately 5.0-miles of temporary roads and 0.4 miles of constructed skid trails would be needed to access cutting units. Following hauling activities, these temporary roads and skid trails would be rehabilitated. Associated activities would include road maintenance, road reconstruction and road obliteration.

Road reconstruction would be required on portions of three roads to facilitate hauling activities. These roads include Prospect Hill Road (GH-38), Lincoln Park Spur 1A and the Indiana Gulch Road (NFSR 593).

Several of the routes in the Golden Horseshoe, which would be used to access cutting units and haul timber, are currently non-system routes. The proposed action would convert these non-system routes (NSR) into National Forest System Routes (NFSR). The existing condition number for these routes, their names, the final identification number that will be assigned to them, the type of use that would be allowed once these routes are converted and the length of the portion that would be converted into a NFSR are included in Table 2.

Table 2. Existing Non-System Routes that would be converted to National Forest System Roads.

Existing Condition Number	Existing Condition	Name	Final ID	Final Classification/Use	Length (Miles)
N7100.1	NSR	Detroit Placer Loop	GH-26	Licensed Vehicles	0.3
N7100.1	NSR	Extension Mill Rd.	GH-25	Licensed Vehicles	0.3
N7100.1	NSR	Prospect Hill Rd.	GH-38	Licensed Vehicles	2.1
N7100.1	NSR	Traylor Way	GH-34	Licensed Vehicles	0.9
N7100.1	NSR	Prospect Gulch Rd	GH-41	Licensed Vehicles	0.3
N7100.1	NSR	Lincoln Park Spur 1A	LP-1A	Licensed Vehicles	0.5

Design criteria

The proposed action was developed with site-specific directions for implementation, called design criteria, to minimize adverse effects associated with the proposed activities. The following are some of the design criteria developed for this proposal:

- To improve or maintain water quality, follow all Water Conservation Practices and Best Management Practices as agreed on with the State of Colorado;
- To reduce erosion, stabilize roads at the end of operations;
- Close of portions of Galena Gulch Road (NFSR 350.1) and Indiana Creek Road (NFSR 593) on weekdays to public access during hauling and skidding operations for Cutting Units 107, 116, 509 and 616.
- Dispose of slash by lopping and scattering to a maximum depth of 18” and piling and burning in places such as landing.
- To reduce erosion, rip (scarify) landings and main skid trails and seed them with an approved seed mix at the end of operations;
- To prevent illegal motorized use, close all temporary roads used for this project at the end of operations, installing physical barriers as available;
- To soften and blend with the native vegetative mosaic, lay out unit boundaries as uneven edges and in an irregular pattern, avoiding straight lines;
- To protect lynx foraging habitat, protect and retain clumps of spruce, fir, and aspen within treatment areas, where feasible.

Implementation

Proposed activities would be initiated in 2010 and would be completed in 5-10 years.

Treatments could be completed by using Forest Service employees, agreements, stewardship contracting, special forest product permits, service contracts and/or commercial timber sales.

Other methods may be used as they become available. The typical operating season for logging and associated activities would be June 20 - October 15, annually.