

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, November 15, 2010
150 Ski Hill Road

4:30 Site visit to the Shock Hill Trail realignment

5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call

5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – October 18, 2010

5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda

5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

5:50 Staff Summary

- Forest Health Management Update
- Historical Interpretive Signs
- Cucumber Monitoring Program for 2011

6:15 Open Space and Trails

- Swan River Restoration
- Reiling Dredge
- Pro Forma

7:30 Commissioner Issues

7:40 Executive Session

8:00 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 15, 2010 meeting

Staff Summary**Forest Health Management Update**

Town of Breckenridge forest health management efforts on open space parcels have concluded for the 2010 season. The following is an update of that work:

- In 2009, approximately 78 acres of open space were treated. Much of the lumber was transported to sawmills, but the remainder was masticated/chipped, lopped and scatted, or piled for burning. The prescribed burns addressing the lumber were successfully burned on 11/8/10 by the Red White and Blue Fire District. Staff will continue to monitor and revegetate the cleared areas through seeding and tree planting efforts.
- In 2010, approximately 56 acres of open space were scheduled for treatment, 20 of which was on the jointly Town/Summit County owned Barney Ford open space parcel. The majority of the work was completed this summer, but some contractor delays required us to withhold partial payment and complete the task in 2011. All burn piles (e.g. Discovery Hill) will be burned one year from now. Many of the sites have already been seeded with native grass seed. Trees will also be planted to assist with revegetation.
- In 2011, the remainder of the Town open space parcels outlined in the Town's *Mountain Pine Beetle Hazard* Assessment report will be treated, while also substantially meeting the three year treatment timeframe goal set by Council. The number of acres to be treated in 2011 will be significantly less than previous years, and staff will work to implement the remainder of the cutting program.

Future open space forest health management efforts will prioritize hazard tree removal, tree planting, reseeding, and thinning (of the regeneration forest).

Historical Interpretive Signs

Several post holes have been dug in preparation for installation of the French Gulch historical sign installation. The posts will be installed before the ground freezes, and then the signs will be installed in a few weeks, following fabrication. Staff will keep BOSAC updated on any future progress. OSAC discussed this project at their last meeting and wanted to contribute \$5000 towards this project to show their support.

Cucumber Monitoring Program for 2011

Town Council discussed the 2010 Cucumber Gulch summer impacts at their November 9th meeting. The recommendations that were made by BOSAC at the October meeting were supported by Council. These were as follows:

- Impacts to avian species should be evaluated later in the season (beyond the week following the beginning of the gondola operations) to determine if the situation will normalize after the initial impacts.
- The “value” of the species affected should be considered (i.e. whether the changes affected cowbirds or other more desirable species).
- The Town should incorporate this study into the annual Cucumber monitoring program. The study should begin prior to maintenance days for the gondola operation to ensure an accurate pre-operational evaluation.
- The gondola impacts study should be compared to the greater pool of information collected to evaluate larger scale trends.
- Users should be directed to the new Peaks Connect trail. The ski resort should create a better connection across the base of Peak 8 (including a bridge over the Alpine Slide) to avoid the congested base area.

Town Council has already appropriated an additional \$10,000 in 2011 to evaluate human impacts to wildlife in the Preserve. The need for this study was underscored during Council’s November 9th discussion. Council requested that BOSAC prioritize the 2011 Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program to obtain the necessary information in a cost effective yet inclusive fashion.

Staff plans to bring this topic to BOSAC’s December meeting to outline ideas for expanding the monitoring program to address the request for more information. Budget numbers to support these actions will also be researched and made available at the upcoming meeting.

Open Space and Trails

Swan River Restoration

Corey Lewellen and Paul Semmer from the Dillon Ranger District will present the proposed Swan River Drainage restoration project. Town and County staff, together with representatives from the Blue River Watershed Group, have been meeting on this issue over the last couple months. This proposed project could be an opportunity to expand the river restoration efforts that have been planned on the B&B properties along the Swan River and may be eligible for federal funding to address restoration and rehabilitation needs in the entire Swan River drainage. Some of the recommended actions include:

- Removal of non-native brook trout

- Restoration of a cutthroat trout metapopulation¹
- Restoration of a total of 19 miles of stream for Colorado cutthroat trout

In order for these to occur, there may need to be some changes in land management in the upper Swan River. These changes will be discussed as a part of the presentation.

Reiling Dredge

The Breckenridge Heritage Alliance met with Town and County staff to discuss potential stabilization efforts for the Reiling Dredge in 2011. The total budget for the project is approximately \$30,000 and may be a joint project between the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County. Tony Harris has looked at the stabilization needs and is in the process of developing a proposal that addresses possible stabilization actions and phases and associated costs.

The project between the Town of Breckenridge and the Colorado State Historical Society, which utilized Western Mapping and the National Park Service Submerged Resources Unit to survey and virtually recreate the Reiling Dredge, is almost complete. The final report will be due to the Town on January 31st. This report will include recommendations on future management actions and may influence decisions on the 2011 activities. A video that was developed by Western Mapping and the NPS will be shown at the BOSAC meeting.

The final Western Mapping/NPS report and a more concise project proposal for stabilization will be brought back to BOSAC at a subsequent meeting. There will also be further discussions on how to utilize the information from the mapping project, such as including a specific display at the Breckenridge Information Center and additional interpretative information on kiosks around the Reiling Dredge itself.

Pro Forma

There were changes made to the Open Space Pro Forma for 2011 as part of the Town Council budget discussions in October. The primary change was the use of \$150,000 from the Open Space Fund for a landscaping/revegetation project along the Blue River. Other changes included pushing out the TDR sales for the Shock Hill project to 2017 and 2019, and including a divestiture of B&B properties (identified before we closed on the property as the Williams Placer). A copy of the most recent version of the pro forma is included in your packet and staff will be prepared to discuss the recent changes and their ramifications.

¹ A metapopulation is generally considered to consist of several distinct populations together with areas of suitable habitat which are currently unoccupied.

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the October 18, 2010 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:39 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Jeff Cospolich, Erin Hunter and Jennifer McAtamney. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Heide Andersen, Peter Grosshuesch, Bree Schacht, and Mark Truckey. Brian Lorch from Summit County was present as was Turk Montepare. Kurt Kunkel from the Colorado Environmental Coalition and Pat Campbell from the Breckenridge Ski Resort were also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Cucumber Gulch Events and Josie's Cabin Update

Mr. O'Neil: So I understand that there will be no more special events in Cucumber Gulch Preserve?

Ms. McAtamney: Council decided to try to handle everything on an equal playing field. We decided that this is a protected place and we need to remove the event issue altogether. Also, putting gas and electricity in the Josie's Cabin would just bring more people down there and we wanted to keep it as a quiet place. Council is opposed to dinners and other organized events in the bottom of Cucumber.

Mr. Reid: We found vandalism at Josie's cabin this weekend. Two windows were shattered and a chair was destroyed. We plan to fix it and lock the cabin with a combination lock.

2011 Budget

Mr. Truckey: I just want to make sure that BOSAC understands the landscaping expenditure along the Blue River the Council directed.

Ms. McAtamney: The Council saw that expenditure as open space management. The sooner we plant trees, the better. \$150,000 was earmarked for landscaping efforts along the river.

Mr. Cospolich: I would personally like to see fewer street striping expenditures and more for landscaping and bridges from the open space fund.

Open Space and Trails

Hidden Gems

Ms. Andersen outlined the current wilderness proposal by Congressman Jared Polis. She highlighted the changes that were made between the negotiations and the bill proposal,

specifically in the Hoosier Ridge and Tenmile Areas. Potential staff suggestions include designating a larger companion designation area to address motorized incursions into Horseshoe Basin and the adjacent ridge. The Tenmile Area also shrank due to the presence of mining claims. We'd like to see the companion designation area expanded here as well.

Mr. Kunkle: The USFS thought the mining claims would complicate management.

Ms. Andersen: Most of the protected land is on the Copper Mountain side of the Tenmile, not the Upper Blue. The proposal used to include Quandary and Mohawk Lakes. Portions of the Peaks Trail, Miner's Creek, Ophir Mountain etc. were to be part of the companion designation as worked out by Town staff, the Hidden Gems Campaign and the Summit Fat Tire Society. Polis wanted to submit a clear, discreet bill for immediate action, so he removed some of the land on the eastern side of the Tenmile.

Mr. Kunkle: Yes, Polis eliminated controversial portions so he could submit a neat and clean bill. We're supportive of the bill as it stands and hope to backfill in some of the parcels that are at issue. We had to make some changes to account for trail realignment, the ski area boundary, etc. We also want to evaluate and research areas before submitting them. In the case of the companion designations, we think those are the Summit Fat Tire Society's initiative, not ours, so we would defer to them to make that a reality.

Cucumber Gulch Preserve Monitoring

Ms. Andersen outlined the general goals and progress of the Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program, including the visitor use monitoring and the summer gondola hours. The questions remains: what do we do with this information? Do we change our management approach? Do we continue and repeat these studies for multiple years? Should we alter the timing of the study to account for pre-operational tests? What is the impact threshold and ultimately what should we do with this information?

Ms. McAtamney: Where did the Wilson's warbler go?

Ms. Andersen: We don't know.

Mr. Cospolich: The methodology is not right here. I think the species should be evaluated before operations and later in the summer, say in August. What was the cost and will we have to do it again? This also seems like a small sample size from which to draw conclusions.

Pat Campbell: \$11,000 or so was the cost.

Ms. Andersen: Yes, those parameters were set in part due to cost.

Mr. Yule: Cowbirds have been cited as problematic in the past. Why weren't they included in this analysis? More specificity regarding the type of birds and if they were impacted by cowbirds is needed in this study.

Mr. Grosshuesch: This study brings up two questions: What are the future studies we want to pursue and what is the policy approach to address areas of concern?

Mr. Kuhn: There are no real surprises here to me, as far as use patterns. We have established a good baseline.

Ms. Andersen: We can also graph some of the 2009 use data to help with comparison.

Ms. McAtamney: Council seeks a clear road to determining how best to preserve and manage this area. Especially given all of the development around the Gulch, are we already beyond that point?

Ms. Andersen: The motion cameras are a very useful tool. If we see reduction in the wildlife images of certain species, that may indicate impacts.

Ms. Hunter: I think anecdotal information from the trail crew or Christy's crew would also be helpful. I would also like to see the 2009 use numbers to compare with 2010 numbers.

Ms. Andersen: Also, the Breckenridge Ski Resort had very few users in Cucumber Gulch as a part of their hiking tours this summer. June- zero. July- eleven. August- two. September- zero.

Pat Campbell: These numbers are because the weather was good and allowed us up on the ski area and we did not have to use the Gulch as an alternative on wet or thunderstorm days. Our objective was to stay out of the gulch as much as possible.

Bree Schacht: The Recreation Department only went into the Preserve twice this season with very limited numbers.

Mr. Yule: We need to direct more users to the new Peaks Connect trail. We should also close the Toad Alley trail during the gondola study period to get more accurate information. Seasonal closures might be the best way to protect this area. I'd like to see fewer users overall in the area. The new Peaks Connect trail is working well, but we need a better connection across the base of Peak 8.

Ophir Mountain Forest Health and Fuels Project

Ms. Andersen outlined the U.S. Forest Service Ophir Mountain fuels reduction proposal.

Ms. McAtamney: Fuels mitigation work is popular with people because we are being proactive in addressing this concern. Please encourage the USFS to scarify the temporary roads well. Will the areas be actively revegetated? (Not likely) I am pleased that there may be funding to see this in reality.

Mr. Grosshuesch: The USFS thinks they potentially have the money to take this project on. They also think that these areas will regenerate faster if treated or cut.

Mr. Kuhn: I think it is self evident. I am supportive.

Mr. O'Neil: Is this project tied to the small but dangerous fire behind the high school?

Ms. Andersen: No, this is part of the Upper Blue Stewardship project, reincarnated.

BOSAC was supportive of the fuels reduction project in general but would like to see the letter from the Town request that the USFS scarify the temporary roads well and minimize impacts to existing system trails.

Mushing at Gold Run Nordic Center

Ms. Andersen outlined the proposal to operate a dog mushing/sled dog ride business and potentially a mushing special event to operate on the Gold Run Nordic Center. The intent is to educate people on mushing. This would also require the support of Summit County if it went into the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Kuhn: Is the golf course staff alright with this concept? It seems like the Frisco Peninsula is a better location than Gold Run Gulch Road.

Ms. Andersen: With some caveats, the golf course staff is OK with further pursuing the concept. The dinner/sleigh ride business has a license agreement for some of the area already, which may present a problem. It would have to be worked out if the mushers could also utilize the sleigh ride groomed trail. They would have to share the costs of grooming and give a percentage to the Town. It would be up to the sleigh ride concessionaire though.

Mr. Markey: Descending Gold Run Road would be a challenge because it is so fast.

Ms. Andersen: It may be time to have directional traffic signage anyhow (e.g. uphill on looker's left, downhill on looker's right).

Mr. O'Neil: What about one event and one weekend per month to try it out for the year?

Mr. Cospolich: I don't see this less as education and more as a business. I don't see much difference between this and what Good Times offers. I am also concerned about dog waste issues.

Ms. Hunter: I understand skijoring, but not mushing.

Mr. Yule: Do they need groomed trails?

Ms. Andersen: Yes, it needs to be packed down, I think.

BOSAC agreed to allow two weekends of use and a race event, then to evaluate the use to see pros and cons to mushing on open space.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Kuhn: I would like to see the Royal Placer next week or some time.

Mr. O'Neil: The River Trail is in great shape. Jack's Cruel Joke needs some attention.

Executive Session

Devon O'Neil motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. Ms. McAtamney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. BOSAC entered into Executive Session at 7:25 pm. Ms. Hunter made a motion to exit Executive Session; Ms. McAtamney seconded the motion. BOSAC came out of Executive Session at 8:19 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is on November 15, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A separate site visit is scheduled on October 28 at 3:30 pm to visit the Royal Placer.

Ms. McAtamney motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair

OPEN SPACE PRO FORMA

	Audited	Actual	Projected	Budgeted										
EXPENDITURES	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Comments	
Misc. Land Acquisitions	77,795	742,908	489,250	570,000	587,100	604,713	622,854	641,540	660,786	680,610	701,028	722,059	Budget line item 54421--3 % annual growth	
Cuc Wedge/Claimjumper Acquisition				1,140,000									Originally budgeted for 2008, based on latest appraisal info	
B&B Clean-up	1,383,756	55,607	144,000	144,000	148,320	152,770	157,353	162,073	166,935	171,944	177,102	182,415	54422, 3k VCUP expenses, and 50k O&M Wellington/Oro treatment plant	
Debt Service B&B	188,766	303,103	342,738	339,238	335,488	331,488	332,238	327,488	322,488	317,238	317,238	317,238	55524, \$4.5mil bond @5% 20 yrs; based on principal and interest payments scheduled	
Debt Service Cucumber	493,214	398,973	385,324											
Nordic-Nature Bldg													Nature/nordic center eliminated for time being to balance budget	
Swan Mt Bike Path						90,000								
Administration	287,158	247,742	261,713	272,704	280,885	289,312	297,991	306,931	316,139	325,623	335,392	345,453	51111-51138 (wages and benefits), 52214-53321 (printing and postage), 53372-53374 (training, travel, and BOSAC), 5800 (garage fund), 3% annual growth	
Legal Services	0	0	2,500	5,000	5,150	5,305	5,464	5,628	5,796	5,970	6,149	6,334	53352, B&B Consent decree followup	
Consultants	84,889	74,002	70,000	80,000	82,400	84,872	87,418	90,041	92,742	95,524	98,390	101,342	53355, 3% annual growth, Cucumber monitoring, permitting	
Forest management	142,465	196,557	216,500	166,500	171,495	176,640	181,939	187,397	193,019	198,810	204,774	210,917	53359 3% annual growth, forest mgmt, weed control, GH forest mgmt/health planning	
Other contracted services	12,518	10,130	10,000	10,000	10,300	10,609	10,927	11,255	11,593	11,941	12,299	12,668	53399 surveying and appraisals	
Wellington Oro Operations		91,702			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trails construction and maintenance	181,843	62,988	178,500	203,500	209,605	215,893	222,370	229,041	235,912	242,990	250,279	257,788	54426, 54427, 54430, Town trails and landscape construction, GH trails, Friends of Breck, 10 k bike lane striping, 3% annual growth, placeholder W bridge 2011	
Landscaping (river corridor)				150,000									54430 for Blue River corridor by Block 11	
TOTAL EXP	2,852,404	2,183,712	2,100,525	3,080,942	1,830,743	1,961,601	1,918,554	1,961,394	2,005,411	2,050,648	2,102,651	2,156,213		
REVENUES														
Sales Tax	1,805,729	1,628,934	1,608,516	1,610,516	1,626,621	1,642,887	1,659,316	1,675,909	1,692,669	1,709,595	1,726,691	1,743,958	Based on 1% annual growth	
Interest	111,925	21,173	12,063	15,509	11,377	4,512	3,545	2,286	3,330	4,129	2,970	1,518		
B&B Land Sales								425,000					Potential divestiture properties (Williams Placer--revenues split with County)	
TDR Sales	87,202	72,643	38,088	5,500	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	132,000	50,000	703,000	Expected sale of 6 TDRs to Shock Hill in 2017 and 38 TDRs in 2019	
Grants		40,580	161,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	2010 Middle Flume 16.5k, 2009 SC Wildfire Council grant 71.16 k, 2010 state forest mgmt grant 73.839k	
Summit County reimbursement			72,000	72,000	74,160	76,385	78,676	81,037	83,468	85,972	88,551	91,207	Wellington/Oro treatment plant costs	
Trails map sales			17,500	17,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500		
Miscellaneous	6,972	4,375	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	5k Rental income (dogsled rides) and 9k W/O zinc sales	
TOTAL REV	2,011,828	1,767,705	1,923,667	1,745,025	1,793,658	1,805,284	1,823,038	2,265,732	1,860,966	1,963,196	1,899,712	2,571,183		
BEG. BALANCE	3,241,329	2,398,521	1,982,514	1,805,656	469,739	432,654	276,337	180,821	485,159	340,714	253,262	50,323	previous year's balance	
END BALANCE	2,398,521	1,982,514	1,805,656	469,739	432,654	276,337	180,821	485,159	340,714	253,262	50,323	465,293		