

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, July 18, 2011
150 Ski Hill Road

- 3:00 Meet at Horseshoe Gulch Trailhead (Tiger Dredge TH on Tiger Road) on foot for a site visit
- 5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – June 20, 2011
- 5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda
- 5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)
- 5:50 Staff Summary
- French Creek Historical Interpretive Signs Update
 - Cucumber Gulch Seasonal Closure Update
 - Town Trails Website Visits
 - Carter Park Stairs Update
 - Peak 6 DEIS Review
 - Roadless Area update
 - VOC project
- 6:00 Open Space and Trails
- Peaks Connect Bridge Discussion
 - Joint Town Council Meeting Agenda
- 7:00 Executive Session
- 7:30 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: July 18, 2011 meeting

Staff Summary**French Creek Historical Interpretive Signs Update**

The French Gulch Historical Interpretive signs, previously discussed at length by both BOSAC and Town Council, are now installed throughout French Gulch. Please visit the sites when you are able so we can provide any feedback to the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance for future, similar efforts.

Cucumber Gulch Seasonal Closure Update

To protect wildlife and wildlife research efforts, the Toad Alley Trail was closed to public use until July 1st, at which time the trail was reopened. Based on photo documentation, the closure was moderately successful, but many users disregarded the signs and entered the trail anyway. Trail use prior to July 1st will affect Dr. Carello's research efforts and may have also impacted nesting birds and other wildlife during the sensitive spring timeframe. Staff reclosed Toad Alley on July 12th due to unseasonably muddy conditions. The trail will reopen once the muddy areas sufficiently dry.

Town Trails Website Visits

The Town Trails website (www.breckenridgetrails.org) has received significant visits this year, including 481 page visits between June 1st and June 24th. Staff continues to update the trail conditions page and will keep BOSAC posted of any changes.

Carter Park Stairs Update

At its June 27th meeting, Town Council approved the \$25,000 expenditure for the Carter Park stairs project. The project is now underway and should be completed by early August.

Peak 6 DEIS Review

Regarding the Peak 6 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) review and comment raised at the June BOSAC meeting, staff has received the following direction: Town Council is leading the evaluation and comment on the Peak 6 DEIS and welcomes individual comments from BOSAC commissioners. Town Council has scheduled an open house for public comments on the Peak 6 DEIS on July 26th at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Roadless Area update

Attached is a letter submitted by Town staff to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the Roadless Area Rules. These comments are consistent with Summit County comments regarding the same issue.

VOC project

This year's Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado project, in partnership with the Town and County open space programs, is this upcoming weekend (July 23-24) and will target the trails on Little Mountain. Please find a way to attend a day this weekend, or other volunteer events this season.

Open Space and Trails

Peaks Connect Bridge Discussion

This discussion will be a follow-up to last month's site visit to the Peaks Trail, Peak 8 and Four O'clock Run. Representatives from the ski resort will be on hand to discuss possible options for connecting the Peaks Trail with the recently completed trail alignment down Four O'clock Run.

Joint Town Council Meeting Agenda

The annual Town Council/ BOSAC joint meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 23rd. Prior to this meeting, staff wanted to spend some time discussing potential topics. Below is a list of topics that staff recommends receive some consideration for the joint meeting's agenda.

- Highlights, Successes & Accomplishments
- Trail development & maintenance
- Volunteer projects
- Bicycle Friendly Community upgrades
- Events
- Cucumber Gulch research & master plan
- Acquisitions
- The pro forma

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the June 20, 2011 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Erin Hunter, Jeff Carlson, Jeff Cospolich and Dennis Kuhn. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Mark Truckey and Scott Reid. Shelly Grail from the U.S. Forest Service, Jeff Zimmerman and Gary Shimanowitz 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

Reiling Dredge Stabilization Project

Ms. Hunter: I thought we decided to put that project on hold.

Mr. Reid: BOSAC did but the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance got budget approval from Town Council who is paying for it out of their capital fund.

Breckenridge Trails Website

Mr. Reid: The Town has secured the following website domain: www.breckenridgetrails.org to host the Town trails information, including trail conditions, trail maps and bicycling wayfinding. Please encourage members of the public to use this site to review seasonal trail conditions.

Open Space and Trails

Carter Park Stairs Discussion

Mr. Reid: As we discussed on the site visit, staff is proposing a staircase to formalize the social trail that climbs Carter Park. After years of trying to block the fall-line social trail, staff is considering formalizing the trail with a rock staircase to provide hikers, walkers and runners a way to ascend the hill without interacting with descending bike traffic. The trail could be a pretty iconic route for us in the long run, and rock installation would be costly up front, but would require less maintenance in the long run. We received two bids for constructing staircase. One bid was for \$22,000 including stone and the other for \$25,000 without stone. We seek BOSAC's direction on this potential trail project.

Mr. Cospolich: My concern is that people won't use the stairs. How much of the distance would the stonework be needed for?

Mr. Reid: Since the alignment is directly up the fall-line, most of it will stone, but we will strive to reduce the costs wherever possible. Since a fair amount of people use the fall line route already and

we have had a few complaints regarding bikers' speeds, I think this would get a fair bit of use and could provide a good alternative to the switchbacks.

Mr. Kuhn: Budget-wise, we could use some of the Golden Horseshoe trail budget since we won't be able to do any work there until USFS Travel Management Plan is approved in August. Staff thinks there should be money left over from trails budget to do work.

Mr. Yule: When would we construct this potential staircase?

Mr. Reid: Probably later in summer or even in the fall, which is typically dry.

Mr. Carlson: I would like to see some diversion off one switchback to dissuade riders from jumping onto the stone steps.

Mr. O'Neil: What about running trail all the way to the ditch? I am in favor of taking the trail all the way to the ditch (Hermit Placer Trail).

BOSAC unanimously approved the trail project and recommended staff pursue constructing the trail up to the ditch with a flat bench area with seating.

Breckenridge Ski Area Bridge Discussion

Mr. Reid provided the background on the Peaks Connect trail and the goal of rerouting traffic from Cucumber Gulch. The Peaks Connect trail is intended to provide another way to get to Town from Peaks Trail. The biggest missing piece is getting folks across alpine slide/coaster area. This was related to the approval of gondola summer operations.

Mr. Shimanowitz: BOSAC expressed a concern with running gondola and having people ride back through Cucumber Gulch. The trail we constructed last year is mostly completed except for bridge across the alpine slide. We have done some research and found that there are some issues with it. Given our constraints, the bridge could be 160 feet long and cost \$80,000. This is much more than we anticipated.

Mr. Zimmerman: There are a few constraints for which we need to account. The state tramway board requires at least 13 feet of clearance below 5 chair. We also need safety zone above alpine slide of 8 feet and 8 feet on either side of the coaster for a safety zone. The height of the bridge would also require a 42 inch railing. The most optimal location we have found would require a clear span of 40 feet. Staying lower and crossing at coaster base is difficult because there is no room and the route would conflict with pedestrians accessing the coaster. Crossing coaster would be very costly. The best option would to come down to base, dismount through base area, and then climb to Trygve's.

Mr. Carlson: The four-way intersection could be mitigated.

Mr. Yule: Divulged that he works for ski area and will not speak if BOSAC is not comfortable. BOSAC unanimously approved Mr. Yule's input on this topic. Look at the newly realigned trail-Swinger's Switchbacks. Maybe after Ski Watch you provide two options: take Ski Hill Road down to Town or do some climbing) and above alpine slide and contour over to the coaster underpass.

Mr. Zimmerman: The Kid's Castle will be going away in the future as part of the building 804 construction. So, this may present some opportunity for improving the crossing.

Mr. O'Neil: We need a site visit to look at this topic

Mr. Carlson: I agree.

Mr. Truckey: What about a forced dismount at the four-way intersection. Or a chicane would also help reduce conflict.

Ms. Grail: The land where the bridge may cross the alpine slide is on the National Forest, so the new trail and bridge would have to go through NEPA analysis and would not happen this year.

Mr. Grosshuesch: What about a steady climb from the Peaks Trailhead or Peak 7 area that is more gradual to get above alpine slide? Would that be helpful?

Mr. Yule: We need better signage for trail users to direct them, to help them avoid Cucumber Gulch.

Mr. Shimanowitz: We are working to improve all of our signs, so we are willing to fabricate and install the signs to help with that effort.

Mr. Kuhn: In the short term, can Scott Reid work with ski area to get signage done by the July 4th weekend?

Ms. Hunter: How about site visit next week instead of letting summer slip away? BOSAC agreed to meet at 5:30 pm at the Peaks Trailhead on 6/27/11 on bikes to evaluate the site.

Mr. Kuhn: Is there a better location for Peaks trailhead?

Ms. Grail: We have been looking at alternative locations, but for now, the ski area will be enforcing parking there more stringently.

Mr. Cospolich: What about re-opening the trail access into Gulch near the sediment pond and closing more sensitive Peaks trailhead area?

Ms Grail agreed to will check with the District Ranger about Peter's proposal to construct a trail connect from the Peak 7 area to the top of the alpine slide.

Mr. Yule: What about pursuing the option of a trail/bridge crossing farther up the hill?

Mr. Kuhn: We can we look at that option also in field

Mr. Reid: Please prepare for a longer site visit on July 18 (next BOSAC meeting) to look at the Great Ditch. It will likely start at 3 pm to give us enough time to examine the ditch.

Other issues:

Mr. Carlson: Regarding the Peak 6 expansion EIS: should BOSAC be discussing since some issues affect Gulch? Peak 6 provides wildlife connection to Gulch and the corridor coming down is last undeveloped connection to Gulch. By developing new ski runs, wildlife will be impacted. Also, water may be redirected away from the Gulch via the ski area expansion.

Mr. Grosshuesch: Staff is reviewing the DEIS and Town Council is taking lead. We could relay BOSAC comments to Council, or you could attend the public meetings and make public comments there as well.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 18, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A site visit to the Breckenridge Ski Resort is scheduled for 5:30 pm on 6/27 at the Peaks Trailhead on mountain bikes.

Mr. O'Neil motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair



July 14, 2011

Colorado Roadless Area Review Team
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Submission of Comments on Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Revised Draft EIS

Dear Colorado Roadless Area Review Team:

The Town of Breckenridge hereby respectfully submits our comments and recommendations on the Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Revised Draft EIS. The Town has limited the geographic scope of its comments to the Hoosier Ridge roadless area, which is the only roadless area in the Upper Blue Basin, the drainage basin within which the Town of Breckenridge lies. Recognizing the significant implications that the Proposed Rule will have on local land management needs within our community, we ask that our comments and suggestions be thoroughly evaluated and seriously considered by the Roadless Area Review Team.

Exceptions in Plan Language

The Town commends the Forest Service and its Colorado Roadless Area Review Team for taking steps to protect millions of acres of roadless areas within the state of Colorado. We appreciate the attempts to involve different stakeholders in this decision-making process.

Specifically, we are very supportive of the language in the Plan that provides exceptions for tree-cutting to reduce wildfire hazards. Because of the mountain pine beetle outbreaks, there is much forest management work that needs to occur to mitigate wildfire risk on the forests surrounding our community. The Summit County Wildfire Protection Plan addresses these wildfire risk issues and the private lands directly to the west of the Hoosier Ridge roadless area are defined "focus areas" mapped in the Plan.

In addition to the exceptions already included in the Proposed Rule for forest management activities, we suggest that an exception also be provided in both standard tier and upper tier roadless areas for post-wildfire watershed protection efforts (e.g., the ability to construct water quality protection structures). If a wildfire occurs in the Upper Blue Basin, the loss of vegetative ground cover may result in major erosion episodes that could greatly increase sediment loading in area streams and lakes. The results could impact water quality and threaten the ability of water bodies such as Goose Pasture Tarn (the Town of Breckenridge's primary water source) to provide a safe water supply for area residents. Having the ability, in the aftermath of a wildfire, to construct water quality structures such as sediment retention ponds is critical in order to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the residents and businesses of Breckenridge and greater Summit County. The Town therefore requests that this exception be added for both standard and upper tier roadless areas.

Hoosier Ridge Roadless Area

The Town supports the standard tier roadless designation proposed for the Hoosier Ridge area under Alternative 2. We believe this best protects resource values while still allowing for necessary forest management initiatives. The Town is not supportive of the more restrictive upper tier roadless designation proposed for Hoosier Ridge under Alternative 4, because we feel it will limit our ability to address wildfire/forest management and watershed issues. The increased restrictions on tree cutting within the upper tier designation would detrimentally impact the identified need to protect the public health, safety and welfare of adjacent residents through prioritized wildfire hazard reduction efforts. If the upper tier designation is applied to Hoosier Ridge, we request that only the eastern half of the roadless area be designated as upper tier.

Regarding the boundaries for the Hoosier Ridge roadless area, we request that the privately owned mining claims/in-holdings just east of the terminus of Fredonia Gulch Road be excluded from the roadless area, and the "cherry stems" that buffer the Fredonia and Hunter Road should be expanded/extended east to show access to the respective privately held in-holdings.

In conclusion, the Town would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your cooperation with us and other local governments on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Peter Grosshuesch, Community Development Director

cc: John Warner, Mayor
Tim Gagen, Town Manager
Gary Martinez, Summit County Manager

