

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the April 8, 2013 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Ben Brewer, Jeff Carlson, Erin Hunter, Chris Tennal, Devon O'Neil and Jeffery Bergeron. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Mark Truckey, Scott Reid, Tony Overlock, and Chris Kulick. Members of the public in attendance included Craig Campbell and Jeff Westcott.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

One item was added to the agenda: 2013 Winter Traffic Count Study

Chair Cospolich and staff recognized outgoing Commissioner Erin Hunter's four years of service on BOSAC. Her legal insight, steady direction and dog walking perspective will be missed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Trail Map Revision

Staff is working closely with staff members from the U.S. Forest Service and Summit County Government to revise and reproduce the hiking and biking trail map that is distributed through area shops and the Breckenridge Welcome Center. Proposed revisions include: adding new trails, including route numbers, revising trail names, correcting existing errors, including distance tick marks, and updating the cover photo. We intend to complete the revisions and produce the map by mid-May. Please contact staff with any questions or edits you have regarding the map.

McCain Master Plan

The McCain Master Plan is being drafted by Town Council and includes a significant focus on open space protection. BOSAC members interested in learning details about the plan should contact staff. At its April 9th meeting, Council will discuss the topic further.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Dates

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails volunteer event schedule can be located on the Town website. The first event is a June 1st tree planting in partnership with the Bristlecone Legacy Forest program.

Hoosier Pass Recpath Feasibility Study

As previously discussed with BOSAC, the Hoosier Pass Recpath Feasibility Study is nearing completion. The study, commissioned by the Summit County Open Space Department with State Trails grant assistance and Town of Breckenridge support, is intended to evaluate the feasibility of a recpath connection between Breckenridge and Alma over Hoosier Pass. As part of the study, several focus groups and community workshops have recently been held in Alma, Blue River and Breckenridge.

Public feedback for the recpath concept has been positive, with a clear preference shown for a detached, grade separated recpath on the Breckenridge side of Hoosier Pass. The feasibility study should be completed this spring with a final report provided by June 1st.

Moonstone Forest Health Project

As previously discussed with BOSAC during its May 2012 meeting, forest health and fire mitigation efforts are scheduled to occur in the northern portion of the Moonstone parcel. Staff hired a consultant to outline the best

fuels mitigation approach that will also protect vegetative screening for the adjacent homes. Tree removal work will begin in May, and once completed, trail construction will begin in the same vicinity.

Open Space and Trails

2013 Winter Traffic Count Study

Since 2010, the Town of Breckenridge Open Space division has collected traffic counts at Peabody Trailhead, B&B Trailhead, and Sallie Barber Road/Lincoln Townsite Trailhead. The monitoring is conducted during the winter months from January until April. Information is used to help guide management at these popular portals.

Methods

All data was gathered with The Trail Master Data Collector™, an infrared beam-based trail counter. Trail users who break the infrared beam by passing between the transmitter and receiver are recorded as an ‘event’. An event does not differentiate between users, their travel direction, or whether they traveled out-and-back on a given trail. The data are therefore limited in their scope, but indicate general trail use trends.

The data collectors were installed at specific sites.

- 1) Sallie Barber Rd: Near Lincoln Townsite
- 2) B&B Trailhead: French Gulch Road
- 3) Peabody Trailhead: Gold Run Road

Data outliers due to equipment malfunction (e.g. low batteries, stormy weather, poor alignment) were omitted.

Table 1. Traffic Counts for January 1st –April 1st 2013:

Averages per day, weekday and weekend counts along with largest daily counts are displayed below.

Site Name	Average per Day	Weekday Average	Weekend Average	Largest Daily Count
Sallie Barber	88.4	77.5	113.2	170 on 3/9
B&B Trailhead	77.9	72	91	279 on 2/21
Peabody Trailhead	74.3	67	118.5	250 on 3/16

Table 2. 2010-2013 Compares Average Daily Counts: January 1st-April 1st

Year	Sallie Barber	B&B Trailhead	Peabody Trailhead
2010	43.5*	33.8	70
2011	60.3	41.6	65.9
2012	64.4	69	69.1
2013	88.4	77.9	74.3

*Average daily count is artificially low due to improper data collector mounting.

Chart 1-3. Compares Weekday and Weekend Average Daily Counts for 2013: January 1st-April 1st

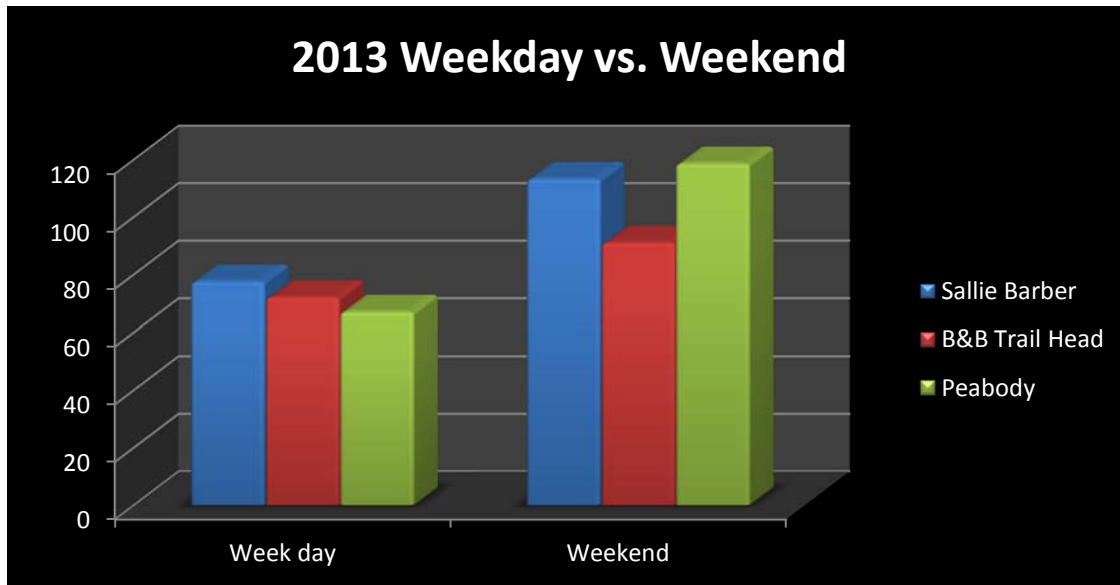
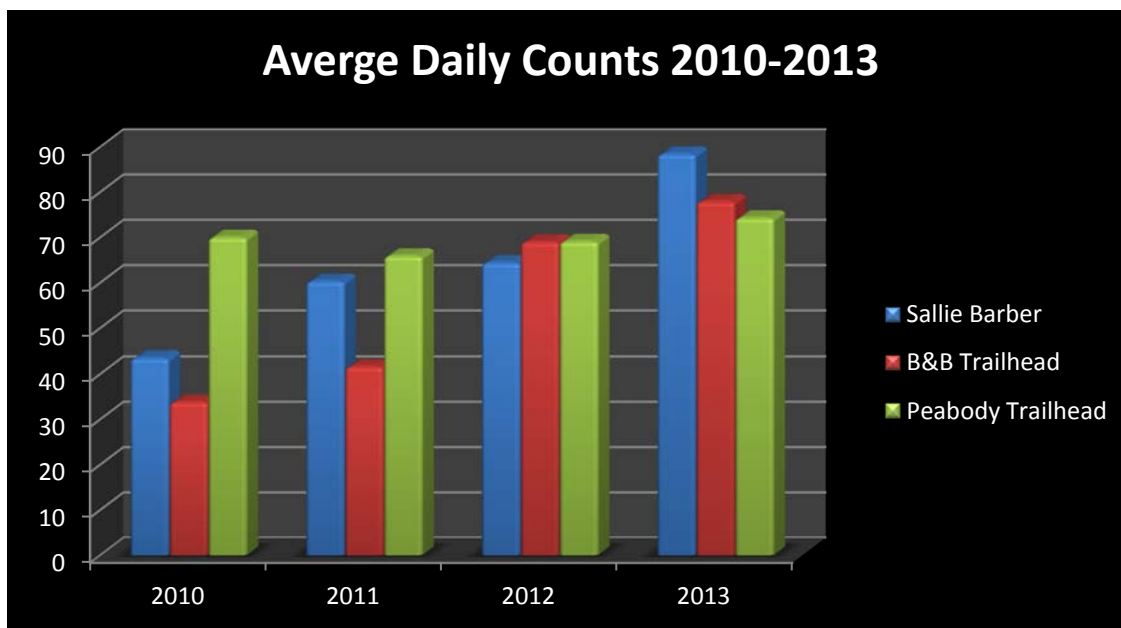


Chart 4. Compares Average Daily Counts 2010-2013: January 1st-April 1st



* 2010 average daily count for Sallie Barber is artificially low due to improper data collector mounting.

Conclusion

- Sallie Barber Trailhead has the highest daily counts average for 2013.
- B&B Trailhead daily average count has increased annually, and the annual increase is greater than at the other two trailheads evaluated.
- B&B Trailhead had the largest daily count of 279 on February 21, 2013.

- Weekday and weekend counts at the B&B Trailhead are consistent, suggesting that this trailhead is used consistently for brief visits.
- Peabody Trailhead daily counts have been consistently averaging similar numbers for the past four years.
- Peabody Trailhead experiences significant differences between weekend and weekday counts.
- Average daily use counts at trailheads are affected by snow fall and trail conditions.

Mr. Bergeron – Have we done a correlation between the Peabody numbers and Gold Run Nordic Center? (Staff – We can compare our trail count numbers with Gold Run pass sales.)

Mr. Bergeron – How are the numbers compared to the summer numbers? (Staff – We will have some seasonal data beginning in 2013.)

Mr. Brewer – We need to continue to track use trends year after year, it is important to have these types of metrics.

Mr. Cospolich – Have we considered conducting winter counts in Cucumber Gulch? (Staff- Since Cucumber Gulch requires a use fee, utilizing pass sales figures provides more accurate user information.)

Golden Horseshoe County Road Management

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Travel Management Plan and the Golden Horseshoe Plan form the management prescriptions for the trails and roads throughout the Upper Blue basin. Many of the identified recreational routes are County roads, under the jurisdiction of Summit County Government. To effectively manage interjurisdictional roads and trails that cross between National Forest, public open space, and private land, more consistent route management policies are needed.

There are at least three examples where year-round use of a County road is in conflict with the USFS travel management policies and Town recommendations. Specifically:

1. **Baldy Road**, from the bus stop trailhead up, is to be managed as a winter, non-motorized area based on the USFS travel management plan. However, because it is also a County road, the route continues to be accessed by snowmobiles.
2. **Boreas Pass Road**, from the trailhead/winter gate closure to Boreas Pass, is managed as winter, non-motorized route, with access to the Section House. However, snowmobiles continue to travel the route.
3. **Gold Run Road**, through the Gold Run Nordic Center, is a County road that has been closed to snowmobiles via County ordinance (2010-22). However, that closure does not extend to street vehicles, which have driven the groomed nordic trails several times during the 2012/2013 low snow winter season. Notably, the owner of Dry Gulch Placer has an access easement that allows plowing on portions of Gold Run Road and Preston Way. This plowing tends to attract unwitting drivers, who subsequently get stuck without an adequate turnaround. Any County road policy change on Gold Run Road would need to account for the owner of Dry Gulch Placer, who has the right to plow to his property, and who also supports the proposed policy change and the installation of a gate to prevent unauthorized motor vehicles access during winter months.

The inconsistent travel management and road policies confuse users, offer opportunities for travel management plan violations, and preclude Sheriff and USFS law enforcement officers from enforcing the travel management plan.

Staff seeks BOSAC's review of the existing and current route use policies above and support of a recommendation to the Summit Board of Commissioners (BOCC) requesting:

1. A Summit County road policy for upper Baldy Road that closes the route to winter motorized use- both snowmobile and vehicular use.
2. A Summit County road policy for upper Boreas Pass Road that closes it to winter motorized use- both snowmobile and vehicular use.
3. A Summit County winter closure of Gold Run Road to street vehicles and a gate installed at the Gold Run Road/Forest Hills Drive junction. This approach would allow non-motorized recreational, continued access for the Dry Gulch Placer landowner, and increased protection for Gold Run Nordic Center operations.

Ms. Hunter – Are we concerned about the potential adverse response from motorized users? (Staff – This process was thoroughly vetted with multiple user groups through the Travel Management Plan and Golden Horseshoe Management Plan. This recommendation is for the County to make their regulations consistent with those plans and to implement the vision that was set forth through the planning processes.)

Mr. Westcott – What are the opportunities for snowmobiles on Baldy? (Staff – There are no designated areas for snowmobiling on Baldy since the adoption of the travel management plan.)

Mr. Westcott – Will the routes recommended for restricted access be open for motorized users in the summer? (Staff – Yes, they will be open during summer.)

Mr. Westcott – Will the existing gate on Sallie Barber remain with the new Mountain Meadows gate? (Staff – The goal is to replace the existing gate with the new, lower gate. However, Mountain Meadows owns the existing gate and may just lock it open, for example.)

BOSAC – We should encourage the BOCC to install gates at the three locations to bring behavior in-line with the Golden Horseshoe Master Plan and the Travel Management Plan.

Mr. O’Neil – Public education and good signage is an important part of this effort. Perhaps a contact number on the gate would be useful for the users. (Staff – We will work with Summit County to improve and refine the signage plan for the proposed gates and entries.)

Mr. Cospolich – What will the public outreach process for the County entail? (Staff – We are not certain. At this point we are only recommending the County pursue implementing these changes. If the County chooses to follow our recommendation, all aspects of the implementation, including public outreach, will be up to the County.)

Trails Website

Staff is updating the Town’s Trails website to include additional information for visitors, including maps, trail conditions updates, trail photos, and volunteer opportunities. (www.breckenridgetrails.org)

One significant new addition to the website is the 3D Trail Map viewer, which will allow a web user to explore the trails and terrain surrounding Breckenridge via Google Earth, with pan and zoom tools. If the user clicks on a given trail, the trail name, difficulty level, and trail length will appear on the screen. Staff presented BOSAC a brief demonstration of the new map software at the meeting.

The Town website now also includes a Town dog map, as previously reviewed by BOSAC.

Mr. Westcott – Are you able to install posts on Forest Service in the Golden Horseshoe yet? (Staff – Per the management agreement between the Town, County and USFS, the Town and County are responsible for the maintenance of the non-motorized trails. The goal of the three entities is to have seamless management of the Golden Horseshoe. Up to 30 access posts should be installed in the Golden Horseshoe in 2013.)

Mr. Brewer – In addition to the utility for trail users, this is also a great tool for showcasing potential acquisitions.

Mr. Bergeron – A maps tab on the website would make accessing trail image much more user friendly.

Mr. Carlson – Explore using Facebook share links on the open space webpages.

Mr. Tennial – Is the Town’s website optimized for mobile devices? (Staff – The Town is in the process of having the website upgraded to work better with mobile devices.)

Mr. Cospolich – The screen width/ content area of the Town’s website is very narrow, it would be nice if that dead area could be better utilized.

Mr. Tennial – Have any other organizations utilized 3D mapping? (Staff – To our knowledge no other trails based organizations are utilizing this type of mapping.) We should promote our achievement.

Field Season Preparation

Staff is preparing for another productive field season. We are thankful that all four trail crew members plan to return for the 2013 summer season. A knowledgeable and dedicated staff helps ensure a productive summer season.

Based on the annual workplan approved by BOSAC at its January meeting, staff is preparing its many field projects previously discussed. Highlights include:

- Reconstruction of the upper portion of Sidedoor Trail as a primary project for 2013. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) has agreed to assist the Town and County with that project. Project dates are July 27-28, 2013.
- Completion of a downhill traffic-only portion of B-Line Trail, to commence once the snowpack melts, likely in May or early June.
- Construction of the Barney Flow Trail, to begin once the fuels mitigation project is completed on the Moonstone open space, likely in late May or early June.
- Installation of trail access posts throughout the Golden Horseshoe, to begin in June or July.
- Installation of a gate on French Gulch Road, above the Humbug Hill Road. This effort will move the current Mountain Meadows gate lower on the road, thereby reducing unauthorized camping, dumping, and other activities.
- Hiring the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for several weeks to construct new trails and restore unsustainable routes.
- Removal of hazard trees throughout the open space system.

Mr. O’Neil – How will we control the intersection of B-Line and Hermit Placer? (Staff – We will create a pinch point just before the intersection and utilize other traffic calming techniques to bring down speeds to acceptable levels prior to the intersection.)

Mr. O’Neil – Is Slalom trail complete? (Staff – Yes.)

Executive Session

Ms. Hunter – Motioned to move into executive session at 7:03 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations. Mr. Bergeron seconded the motion.

Ms. Hunter – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:38 pm. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, May 20, 2013, in the Administrative Conference Room at the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road).

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Carlson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair