

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, July 21, 2014
Lower Level Conference Room
Breckenridge Town Hall
150 Ski Hill Road

3:30 Site visit to Laurium Mine (Please meet behind Town Hall for mountain bike shuttle)

5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call

5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – June 16, 2014

5:45 Discussion/approval of Agenda

5:50 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

6:00 Staff Summary

- Field Season Update
- Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update
- Blue River Corridor Update
- Forest Health Projects Update

6:15 Open Space

- Peaks Trail Connection

7:15 Executive Session

7:45 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 21, 2014 Meeting

Staff Summary**Field Season Update**

Work has continued on multiple summer projects on the 2014 work plan, including:

- Constructed portions of the ZL Trail extension, with the assistance of the Summit County Community Development department, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and other dedicated volunteers.
- Opened and repaired trails within Cucumber Gulch Preserve for the July 7th opening date.
- Repaired several areas on the B&B, Barney Ford, Barney Flow, Iowa Hill, Upper Flume and Slalom Trails.
- Improved drainage at two problematic areas on the Lower Flume and Middle Flume Trails.
- Planned and designed new trail projects for the 2014 and 2015 construction seasons (e.g. Aspen Alley, Turk's, Weber Gulch, Wirepatch, and Mineral Hill).
- Addressed routine maintenance system-wide.
- Realigned a portion of the Morning Thunder trail to avoid an incising drainage ditch.
- Assisted contractor with the B-Line Trail extension.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update

Since BOSAC's prior meeting, two Friends of Breckenridge Trails events have occurred. One focused on construction of the ZL Trail and the other was a statewide weed pull that occurred in both Cucumber Gulch Preserve and along the River Trail. Although turnout for the ZL Trail project was strong, the statewide weed pull yielded few volunteers for Breckenridge.

This upcoming weekend (July 26-27) is one of the largest annual volunteer efforts for the Town and County. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) are hosting the Upper Turk's Trail project in which 150 volunteers are sought for both days. The project also highlights VOC's 30th anniversary and will include a ceremony with dignitaries on Saturday morning.

Staff strongly encourages BOSAC members to attend one or both days to support this important project. There are also several more volunteer opportunities in 2014 which are listed on the Town [website](#).

Blue River Corridor Update

At its June 24th meeting, Town Council evaluated BOSAC's input regarding the Blue River Corridor and Blue River restoration projects. Council voiced appreciation of BOSAC's support for the two river-based projects and accepted BOSAC

recommendations. Future versions of the open space pro forma will reflect these financial commitments.

Forest Health Projects Update

There are two primary forest health projects scheduled for 2014, both of which should begin in a matter of weeks. A contractor (P&A Tree Service) was selected for the Iowa Hill forest health project, and tree removal should begin later this week. The larger, joint Golden Horseshoe project with Summit County Government on Gibson Hill and above Summit Estates will commence once the contractor completes its current USFS Farmer's Korner projects. Staff will update BOSAC on these projects until they are completed.

Open Space

Peaks Trail Connection

As discussed numerous times previously, Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) is working cooperatively through a USFS NEPA process at the Town's request to extend the Peaks Trail connection across the ski area in an effort to divert recreational traffic from the Peaks Trail to town around Cucumber Gulch Preserve. The realigned Peaks Trail concept was a condition imposed by the Town in exchange for summer gondola operations and was reiterated in recent Town/USFS [correspondence](#) regarding BSR's proposed on-mountain improvements.

Last week, BSR and USFS representatives met with Town staff to provide an update on the NEPA analysis. The Peaks Trail connection is being considered under the current BSR on-mountain improvements NEPA process, with a decision expected in summer 2015.

Attached is the draft map for BOSAC's review. Jeff Zimmerman is expected to attend the BOSAC meeting to better describe the goals and alignment of the trail alignment.

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

- 1. Does BOSAC have any feedback for staff and BSR regarding the attached draft map, including the proposed alignment for the Peaks Trail connection?***

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the June 16, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeffrey Bergeron, Elisabeth Lawrence, Elizabeth Miller, Chris Tennal and Jeff Carlson. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Open Space

Field Season Update

The 2014 summer field season has begun, and the newly expanded, six-person trail crew has been working to repair and open the Town trails. The persistent, deep snowpack has hampered work on some projects, and the high water flows have resulted in new maintenance needs.

Recently completed projects include:

- Removed downed and hazard trees on system-wide trails- particularly Iowa Hill, Upper Flume, and Minnie Mine Trails.
- Implemented Cucumber Gulch fencing closures and seasonal signage.
- Planted 400 native tree seedlings in the Discovery Hill forest health treatment area.
- Repaired drainage on Lower Flume (in cooperation with Public Works) and Mike's Trail.
- Armored bottom Carter Park Trail switchback.
- Installed Muddy Meters and Trail Closed signs throughout trail system.
- Routinely updated the Town trail condition report.

Upcoming projects include additional drainage work on the Middle Flume, new trail construction on ZL, B-Line, Turks and Aspen Alley Trails, and multiple volunteer dates (more info can be found on the Town [website](#)). Staff will update BOSAC on other summer trail projects at its July meeting.

Swan River Restoration Update

As discussed at the October 2013 BOSAC [meeting](#) and the January 28, 2014 Town Council [meeting](#), the Swan River restoration project has progressed substantially over the past several years. In 2014, the primary project focus will be to realign Muggins Gulch Road to reduce road/river crossings and set the stage for a long-term restoration project for the upper reaches of the Swan River. If all of the projects elements come together, the USFS, Summit County, and the Town will contribute \$35,000 apiece to match the Muggins Gulch developer's contribution to construct the road realignment. This expenditure was approved by Council in January and is included in the existing open space budget for 2014.

Open Space

Town Council Retreat Update

Council representative Elisabeth Lawrence provided a brief overview of the June 2, 2014 Town Council Retreat and the decisions that pertain to the open space fund.

Blue River Restoration and Blue River Corridor Projects

At its recent retreat, the Town Council decided that two upcoming Town projects will be funded in part via the open space program: the Blue River restoration project through the McCain property and the Blue River Corridor (Improvements) Master Plan. Council requested BOSAC review the projects and provide recommendations for the allocation of open space funding for the projects.

Blue River Restoration Background

Since the mid-1990's, the Town of Breckenridge has devoted millions of dollars to restoring the Blue River corridor through Town. The river channel restoration was necessitated by extensive gold dredging that occurred along the Blue River between 1900 and 1940. The dredging process left in its wake a cobble-strewn landscape with steep, erodible stream banks, a straight, trapezoidal river channel, and limited riparian and valley bottom vegetation. Water flows through the previously-dredged landscape were highly variable, and the water often went subsurface via a "box of marbles" scenario. (Please see attached photos.)

The Town has restored several Blue River segments, starting at the Riverwalk Center and extending much of the way to Coyne Valley Road. Previous river restoration efforts have resulted in increased surface flows, improved riparian habitat, enhanced recreational opportunities, and a more picturesque and productive river through Town.

The Town open space program has long prioritized river restoration as a goal. The 2007 Town Open Space Plan lists "Improve River and Stream Habitat" as a primary implementation strategy and states:

"Numerous streams and rivers in and around Breckenridge provide riparian habitats, scenic areas and great recreation, and the Open Space Program should provide the stimulus to protect and restore river and stream corridor ecology wherever possible. The Town has already restored the Blue River for part of its length. Public access to rivers and streams for recreation is also important. The Town should pursue acquisition of land and easements, or private commitment, to continue this restoration."(p.21 - 22)

Accordingly, in 2002, the Town acquired the McCain property for \$1.1 million, with the open space program funding 30% of the acquisition cost (the remainder was paid through the general fund). The goals of the acquisition were to own and manage the Town's primary entry point, and to restore the Blue River through the property. Since that time, Town Council has considered multiple management approaches to the McCain property and recently decided that the primary use of the 124-acre McCain property should be open space, with Town needs (e.g. solar garden, public works storage, water treatment) also accommodated. The western third (approximately) of the property contains high quality wetlands and upland habitat, designated as an established wildlife corridor.

The restoration plan for the Blue River through the McCain property is intended to:

- Restore year-round surface flows, thereby improving aquatic habitat
- Provide a more sinuous river and broader floodplain to accommodate long term river function
- Improve wildlife and riparian habitat
- Enhance recreational river access (e.g. trails and fishing) and visual aesthetics

Staff will review the plan with BOSAC at next week's meeting.

After several years of planning and hoping for increased funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Town Council recently decided to prioritize and fund the river restoration effort through the McCain property with Town funds. Total estimated cost for the river restoration project is \$4.3 million, with a construction timeframe of 2015-2016. Town Council seeks BOSAC's recommendation regarding how best to pay for the open space fund's 50% share of the Blue River restoration through the McCain property (\$2.15 million). Staff will review the Open Space proforma participation options with the Commission at its upcoming meeting.

Blue River Corridor

The attached Blue River Corridor Master Plan provides a vision for the future river, trail and park amenities for the river segment between Valley Brook and Coyne Valley Roads. This section of the Blue River was restored through a pool-and-riffle approach in 1987. In 2008, the Blue River Corridor Master Plan was developed with Town Council oversight, and was intended to serve in part as an amenity for future workforce housing on the Block 11 parcel. Town Council continues to evaluate potential employee housing ideas on Block 11, but has prioritized completion of the Blue River Corridor Master Plan in an effort to enhance recreational amenities and visual aesthetics for the Town's primary entry.

The 2007 Town Open Space Plan prioritizes protection of the Blue River and the Highway 9 scenic corridor, by stating, "*Another important part of the view from the highway is the Blue River, which in many places has been restored to a more natural condition after dredging occurred.*" The subsequent action item reads, "*Keep the Highway 9 corridor as scenic as possible and continue to improve the river corridor.*" (p. 21)

Recreational trail access along the Blue River was also prioritized in the 2009 Town Trails Plan. The Trails Plan recommends, "*Continue involvement in the planning for Block 11 parcel to ensure viable commuting and recreational routes within the parcel and well planned connections to other areas from the parcel.*" (p. 21) In 2011, to jumpstart implementation of the Blue River Corridor Master Plan, \$122,000 was expended from the open space fund to install native trees and landscaping along the Blue River. Natural surface trail improvements (i.e. the River Trail sections) were also finalized in 2012.

In 2011, the Town submitted a concept paper to GOCO in the hopes of getting invited to submit a full grant application for a special grant category for river corridor-based projects. Although the Town's concept paper was not accepted for full application, GOCO staff recommended the Town pursue GOCO LPOR (Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation) grant funding, centered on the primary recreation elements included in the corridor master plan (e.g. repath bridges, River Eddy Park, and Oxbow Park). To successfully compete in the competitive LPOR grant pool, it is recommended that a design plan be developed prior to submitting a grant application. Town Council discussed the project in the context of the 2015 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget and supports allocating \$50,000 in design costs in 2015 to produce a 75% design, with the goal of applying for GOCO LPOR grant funds in fall 2015. The proposed design process will further illustrate the park elements and provide a more specific project cost estimate. LPOR grants are capped at \$350,000 maximum.

Council has tentatively allocated \$150,000 from the CIP in 2016 for this project, with the intent of pursuing a GOCO grant and splitting the remaining costs with the open space and housing funds.

Town Council is very interested in hearing BOSAC's recommendations for how to effectively fund completion of the Blue River Corridor Master Plan. Specifically, what portion of the master plan should be funded via the open space program, and in what amount? Staff will review the concept drawings and the Open Space pro-forma funding options with the Commission at their next meeting.

Mr. Truckey presented information related to how the Open Space proforma could be balanced if Open Space funds were used to support the two projects. In the example, the Land Acquisition line item remains unchanged from previous proformas that did not anticipate either of these projects. In the example proforma the End Balance always remains positive.

Blue River Restoration on the McCain Property

Mr. Tennial - Under the proposed budget scenario we would be locked in for payments over the next decade, which could limit our flexibility for acquisitions. (Mr. Truckey – That is true, but Council would likely backfill our acquisition fund for a key purchase.)

Mr. Bergeron – I propose we contribute 30% of the total cost of the McCain project. This is an important project for the community.

Mr. Carlson – The proposed \$31,000 end balance in 2022 makes me a bit nervous. (Mr. Truckey – It is ok to have a zero end balance, it just hasn't been very common practice for us.) We should stay true to our mission statement and contribute to expenditures that enhance the natural environment. I support up to a 50% contribution.

Ms. Miller – Why does the end balance decrease so rapidly after 2017? (Mr. Truckey – TDR sales are expected to significantly decrease at that point.)

Mr. Bergeron – Would Council be offended if we recommended a 30% contribution? (Ms. Larwrence – I think 30% is a great number for the McCain project and I don't think Open Space needs to contribute \$25,000 for planning portion of the River Corridor Master Plan.)

Mr. Tennial - I applaud Council for this bold imitative and would prefer to keep the McCain area more natural. I support up to 50% for this project but not so much that it ties our hands for future acquisitions.

Mr. Cospolich - I support up to 50% if we really can restore the McCain parcel into a stunning gateway. However I am concerned about costly future maintenance obligations. I think the negotiation should start at 30%.

Ms. Miller - I support up to 50% for the McCain restoration. I would like know more about the proposed aesthetics for the project.

Mr. Tennal – Have we exhausted all grant opportunities? (Mr. Reid – We have explored many grants and I think Council tired of waiting for Army Corps of Engineers funding.) (Ms. Miller – The timing is right to commit to this project.)

Mr. Cospolich - Is there any consideration to realign the bike path along the river through the McCain Parcel? (Mr. Grosshuesch – We can potentially realign along the east side of the river through McCain. The west side we want to keep more natural for wildlife habitat.)

BOSAC supported the repayment over time for the project and recommended a 30% contribution.

Blue River Corridor

Mr. Tennal – Is there any precedent to acquire land, add recreational features and turn it over to another department to manage? (Mr. Reid – There is precedent of land acquisition, building a trail and handing it over to Rec. The Hoodoo Voodoo Nordic trail specifically. Also, the North Main Street Park is an example in which the open space fund paid for the land, but the general fund is handling the park construction.)

Ms. Miller - Do we need all the extra more formalized park features such as shelters, bus stops and paving? (Mr. Grosshuesch – Keep in mind there are two other additional funding sources, Housing & Capital Improvements that can potentially contribute to those improvements.)

Mr. Tennal – I desire for Open Space to contribute to the river corridor planning process so that the open space program is vested in this important project.

BOSAC – Strongly supported the project in general and the elements that support the mission of the Open Space program in particular (e.g. natural features and trail access). BOSAC preferred not to exceed a contribution of 30% of the budget.

Pump Track Discussion

As previously discussed at the April BOSAC [meeting](#), the Town Pump Track is slated to be relocated in 2015 to accommodate expanded parking at the Ice Rink lot. During its previous discussion, BOSAC recommended moving the pump track to the Stilson Lot near the stables. Staff is evaluating the potential for this location and will report back to BOSAC with any pertinent information.

Mr. Bergeron - How much use does the pump track get used? (Ms. Lawrence – Anecdotally quite a bit.)

Ms. Miller – Is there a better location that better integrates into the trail network? (Mr. Bergeron – We previously looked at several locations and narrowed it down to Stilson.)

Mr. Carlson – How would the pump track be constructed. In House? Outside Specialists? I would prefer someone that specializes in pump track design, so that we do it right the first time and save on future maintenance obligations.

Mr. Reid - How does BOSAC suggest we pay for the pump track?

Mr. Cospolich – Since it is a forced relocation, could it be paid for through the general fund parking allocation? Additional improvement above and beyond what is currently built could be paid from the Open Space fund. How was the \$30,000 cost estimate generated? (Mr. Truckey - An outside consultant came up with that estimate.)

Ms. Miller – I would like to see some additional jump lines included for riders included in the project.

BOSAC – Would prefer that the pump track be funded by the general fund since it is a forced relocation.

Cobb and Ebert Placer Management Plan Revision

Attached Staff presented the revised Cobb and Ebert Management Plan. Management plans are generally created for open space properties with unique management needs (e.g. Cucumber Gulch) or where required by grant funding or conservation easement (e.g. Cobb and Ebert Placer). Revision of the existing 2007 management plan was necessitated by this summer's planned construction of Upper Turk's and Wirepatch Trails, which were contemplated but not specifically included in the original plan. Both OSAC and Continental Divide Land Trust (the conservation easement holder) support the enclosed revisions.

Mr. Tennal – I am a bit discouraged that fishing is prohibited in certain areas under the plan.

Mr. Cospolich – Does the management plan only pertain to the wetland areas? (Mr. Reid – It pertains to the Cobb & Ebert Placer excluding the roads.)

BOSAC supports the proposed amended Cobb & Ebert Management Plan to accommodate the two new proposed trails (Upper Turk's and Wirepatch Trails).

Central Mountains Wilderness Proposal

This item was continued from the previous BOSAC agenda. As BOSAC has previously discussed, Rep. Jared Polis and Sen. Mark Udall have been working with Conservation Colorado (formerly Colorado Environmental Coalition) over the past several years to draft a federal wilderness proposal to include National Forest lands in Summit, Pitkin and Eagle counties. The goal of the wilderness bill would be to add a layer of public land protection, while preserving and promoting outdoor recreational opportunities. More specific bill-related information can be found on Rep. Polis' [website](#) and Sen. Udall's [website](#).

Following the presentation of several draft maps, in 2012, BOSAC and Town Council directed staff to work with Conservation Colorado, the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), and the Summit Fat Tire Society to amend the proposal maps within the Upper Blue basin to ensure that local trail access was preserved to match the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan. Also, Town Council expressed concerns regarding any potential limitation on the ability for the Town, the Red White and Blue Fire District, the U.S. Forest Service, or any other entity to prevent, fight or respond to wildfires within the area.

Accordingly, Conservation Colorado has worked to address the concerns expressed and revise the proposal maps accordingly. Attached are the latest revised maps to be reviewed by BOSAC. Several boundaries have been adjusted to address trail-related access issues and expand the “Special Management Areas” (SMA’s- a.k.a. Companion Designations) that serve as wilderness buffers. SMA’s are a relatively new management tool that results in greater land protection (e.g. no mining, commercial logging, etc.), but also allows uses and activities prohibited in federal wilderness (e.g. chainsaws, mechanized travel, etc.). SMA’s are intended to complement wilderness protection efforts while offering a broader array of management options and user access.

IMBA developed a short [video](#) and [press release](#) to better explain their support of this wilderness planning effort.

The presented maps are the latest version being proposed for consideration by the general public. Conservation Colorado seeks general community support for this evolving proposal, as well as specific letters of endorsement from local elected officials. Town Council directed staff to present the current proposal to BOSAC for discussion. BOSAC’s comments will then be presented at a future Town Council meeting. Staff has also contacted Red, White and Blue Fire District staff for their comments.

Mr. Bergeron – I would like the short out-and-back road in the Williams Fork to not be included.

Mr. Tennal - Does this do anything to prevent future ski area development? (Mr. Truckey – It does.)

Mr. Carlson – I don’t see anything wrong with the proposal but I think we should listen to what the fire districts say.

BOSAC generally supported the wilderness proposal and will pass along information to Council as needed.

Executive Session

Mr. Carlson – Motioned to move into executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations.

Mr. Tennal – seconded the motion.

Mr. Cospolich – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:23 pm. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion.

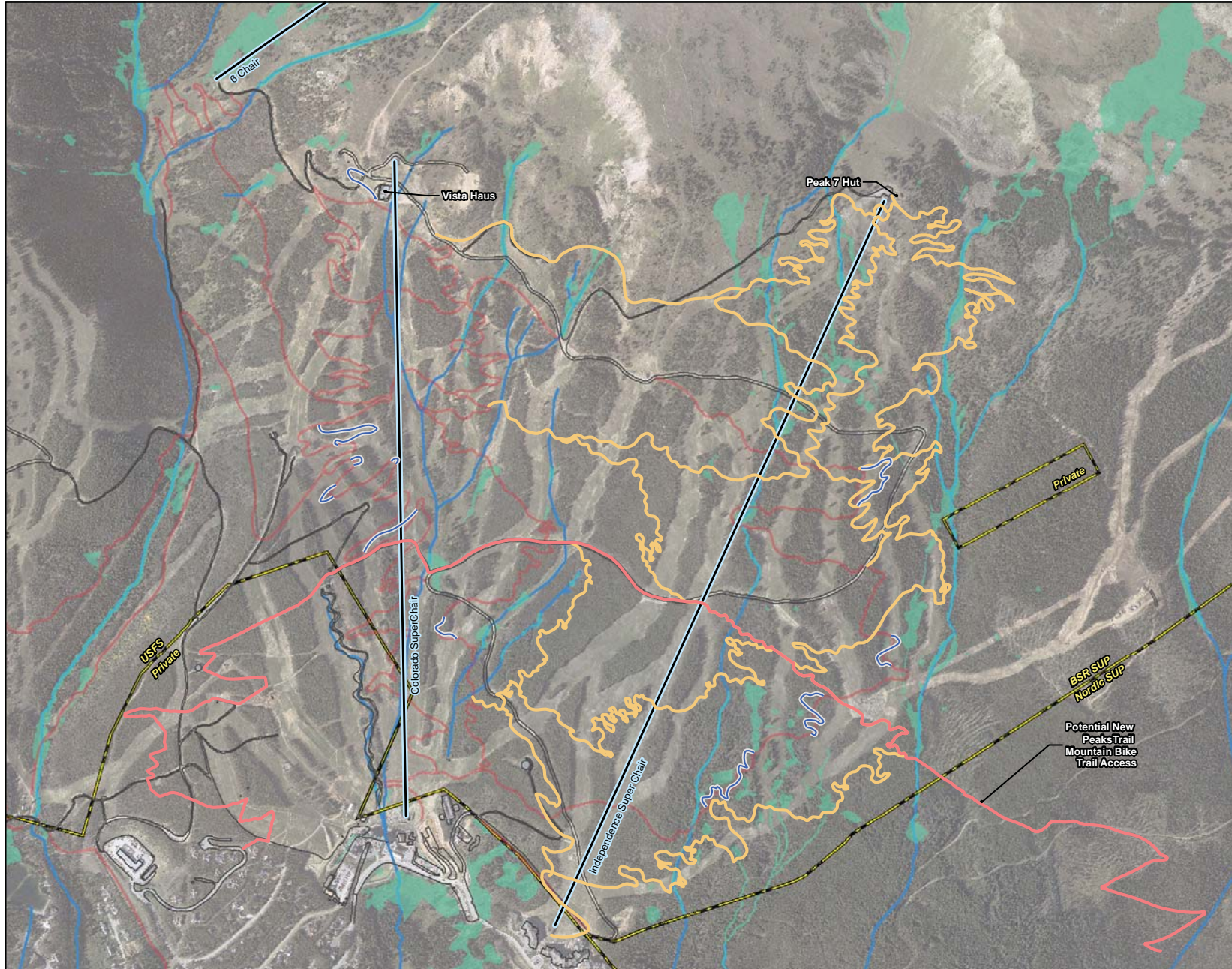
Next Meeting


The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, July 21, 2014, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.










Jeff Cospolich, Chair

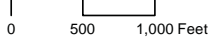





 USDA Forest Service
 White River National Forest
 Dillon Ranger District


**BRECKENRIDGE
 SKI RESORT**

Multi-Season
 Recreation Projects
**Alternative 2
 with Streams, Wetlands
 and Watersheds**

- Proposed Projects:**
-  Mountain Biking Trails
 -  Mountain Biking Trail Re-routes
 -  Peaks Trail Connection
- Existing:**
-  Lifts
 -  Roads
 -  Mountain Biking Trails
 -  SUP Boundary
- Water Resources**
-  Wetlands
 -  Streams

Created by:

May 2014