

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, July 14, 2008
BRECKENRIDGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
150 Ski Hill Road

- 5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – June 9th
- 5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda
- 5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)
- 5:50 Staff Summary
- Workplan update
- 6:00 Open Space and Trails
- Breckenridge Crest Marathon discussion
 - Summit Huts Cabin discussion
 - Mountain Pine Beetle assessment
 - Pro Forma discussion
 - Paperless Packets discussion
- 8:30 Commissioner Issues
- 8:40 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: Mark Truckey, Asst. Director of Community Development
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner II
Re: July 14, 2008 meeting

Staff Summary**Workplan Update format**

Please review the attached workplan update, with recent additions highlighted in bold.

Open Space and Trails**Breckenridge Crest Marathon discussion**

Maverick Sports Promotions' Jeff Westcott will be present at the BOSAC meeting to request a variance on the eight-person rule in Cucumber Gulch Preserve so that a portion of the Breckenridge Crest Mountain marathon participants can cross through Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Mr. Westcott's request is based in part on the following rationale:

- 1) Race participants will be spread out at that point in the race and likely no more than eight people will be present in the Preserve at one time.
- 2) All participants will be on foot, which would be the least impactful travel method through the area.
- 3) The proposed routing is preferable to the runners to avoid a steep climb on the ski area and a steep descent down Four O'clock ski run.

Following Mr. Westcott's presentation, BOSAC will be asked to make a recommendation to Town Council regarding the requested variance to the existing Cucumber ordinance.

Summit Huts Cabin discussion

Mike Zobbe from Summit Huts will attend the BOSAC meeting to discuss a proposal for a new hut location in the French Gulch/ Golden Horseshoe area.

Mountain Pine Beetle assessment

Eric Pettersen of Rocky Mountain Ecological Services will present his findings and recommendations from his mountain pine beetle assessment of Town open space properties.

Jenn Cram will be present to discuss potential wildfire mitigation strategies on Town lands, including open space.

Pro Forma discussion

Staff will provide BOSAC with the most updated pro forma at the meeting for discussion. Unfortunately, the document was not available in time for the packet deadline.

Paperless Packet discussion

The Town has taken on a number of projects in recent months intended to reduce our overall “carbon footprint” and to foster a sustainable community. Mayor John Warner has indicated a desire to continue to make progress on the greening of the way we do business, and has asked the Town Council and appointed boards and commissions to look at moving towards “paperless packets”. Going paperless would mean that BOSAC packets would be emailed to each commissioner and that we would no longer be printing any paper versions. Our IT staff is looking at making flat screen computer monitors available at each commissioner seat in the Council Chambers, so commissioners could continue to read the information in their packets at the meetings.

There are obvious environmental benefits to a paperless approach, including a reduction in resource consumption. However, we would like to develop a plan that considers the needs of the BOSAC and provides all the information the commission requires to make well-informed decisions. Staff would like to have a brief discussion on how we could best implement this paperless initiative, while still meeting the needs of the BOSAC.

Roll Call

Matt Stais called the June 9, 2008 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Scott Yule, Jeff Cospolich and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Cline and Diane McBride. Erin Hunter, Mike Zobbe and Councilmember Jeffrey Bergeron were also present in the audience.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Hollinshead: What was the cost figure brought up regarding the Nature Nordic Center? (No real figure, other than \$300-\$400 per square foot, completed with furniture, etc.) My concern in the name of the Nature Nordic Center. The Nordic Center is a more appropriate name. We shouldn't assume the Nature label.

Ms. Andersen: A stewardship presence is required in the Town ordinance dealing with PMA and can be interpreted to mean many things. This group will come to BOSAC and Council with a few options to discuss the scope of the project, and the programming.

Mr. Stais: We plan to bring it to BOSAC and Council for review as soon as the programming and a rough site plan are developed.

Approval of Agenda

The Executive Session item was removed from the agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Workplan Update format

Ms. Andersen: Councilmember Rossi requested staff update BOSAC on the work plan at each meeting. Attached is the first version of that update.

Mr. Cospolich: Please just bold or italicize the updates month to month.

BOSAC agreed to include the work plan with status update in every month's packet and to organize the work plan by timeframe for completion.

Open Space and Trails

Cucumber Monitoring Update

Dr. Christy Carello provided an overview of the previous year's research and monitoring efforts in the Cucumber Gulch Preserve.

Study subjects include: Water quality, vegetation/weed assessment, avian populations and mammalian populations.

Results: Total Recoverable Petro Hydrocarbons - numbers are not that high overall, but in 2007 were the highest level since 2001. This could be the influence of construction site and parking lots, but it is not a real concern at this time. Ammonia levels were also up and indicated a human source. This was at GW5, which is just below the new Peak 7 development. Zinc was up just below the new bridge and is just below the value of toxicity of drinking water. Levels this high are associated with steel working. Is it an anomaly? We will only know after more tests. The high ammonia levels were only on one test in the fall, and only in our well. Tetra Tech's sampling data from nearby wells could be helpful. The Glenwild drainage is also a concern. And some of the Peak 7 drainage issues were present. However, these have been addressed appropriately.

Vegetation samples: Shrubland has increased in vegetative canopy cover over the past five years. Precipitation is likely a contributing factor to the shrubland canopy cover increase. Integrity of evenness is there. There is no one dominant plant species in either the shrubland or mixed conifer vegetation assessments.

Invasive weed issues are documented below Peak 8, at the Nordic Center, the Practice Area, Gold Digger trail, Josie's Cabin and the Gondola Path. The Town has done a good job keeping the weeds out of the wetlands through weed pulls. Coast tarweed has been targeted. There is a lot of thistle and dandelion in the gondola alignment.

Avian: Long Eared Owl, Olive Sighted Fly catcher are new avian finds in the Preserve. Birds tell us a lot about the overall health of the ecosystem. Most migratory avian species are present between May and July. Species composition has changed (increased) and now includes more crows, ravens and brown headed cowbirds. It appears that the neotropical migrants (dusky flycatcher, osprey, warbling vireo) are being affected by the human presence, but they may rebound as construction activities taper off. We have noted fewer violet-green swallows, which may be because they prefer old growth trees and we lost 7% of coniferous trees in the Gulch with the construction activities. Nest sites may have been lost with construction activities. Brown-headed Cowbird density has increased with the increase in edge habitat from gondola and Peak 7 work.

Mammals: Witnessed the first American Mink we've found in the Gulch. The beaver population is doing well. They are a keystone species that create standing water ecosystems. Moose are continuing to use the Preserve. Shrub habitat is used more often by moose. Mixed conifer habitat is more used by mule deer. New motion sensor cameras are doing well and providing more, better quality pictures.

I recommend removing the plant productivity measure because it is hard to effectively gather and the data may not be that useful.

The impacts of grooming on willow growth and reproduction was studied. We just started measuring our catkin count and will have results soon. Where willows are not

trimmed/not groomed, we saw significantly more catkins when compared with the groomed/trimmed areas. The amount of time snow stays on trail is a contributing factor. The real question is what does this mean? Does it affect mammalian or avian species? We are just starting with the study. Snowshoers spread out and may present a concern for more sensitive areas.

Cucumber Area Future Development Map

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the Cucumber Area Future Development map. Some of the changes include the additions of building envelopes, trails, MBJ parcel (with its conservation easement and disturbance envelope), proposed Peak 8 and Peak 7 developments, and Cucumber Creek Estates. The only trail that is legal through Casey's property is the one along the Penn Lode property line. We don't have Shock Hill Lodge CAD files yet. We will keep adding information as it is available.

Golden Horseshoe Management filters

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the Golden Horseshoe Management filters. This was a topic discussed as part of the planning effort. Private property, natural resource protection and cost were important evaluations that did not occur during the planning effort. A good number of the existing routes will not be able to get through these three filters. We will wait until the USFS supplemental Travel Management Plan is released, but there will likely be a phased approach to the opening of these various routes.

Ms. Hollinshead: These issues were not brought up in the process. We spent all that time and now the USFS will change the outcome.

Mr. Truckey: Timing was a huge factor here. The filters were discussed throughout the process. Is it sustainable and can be used tomorrow is the question.

Mr. Stais: Enforcement presence is almost nil.

Mr. Rossi: We were overwhelmed by an advocacy endeavor. The balanced was weighted in the favor of the motorized users at the last meeting.

Ms. Andersen: The USFS is relying on the user groups and others to come forward and pay for the necessary activities and management.

Ms. Merrill: Citizen participation is critical. We need to continue to support and encourage citizen input when it comes time and is appropriate.

French Gulch/ Reiling Dredge Trailhead plan

Mr. Reid outlined proposed trailhead work in French Gulch including Lincoln townsite signage to encourage straight in parking, trailer parking along the road. The Reiling Dredge Trailhead also has issues: culverts needed at the entrance, surface material was imported and turns muddy easily, need to close off 2nd access and solidify to one entrance. These are the issues that staff would like to address this summer. It may be worth consideration to increase the size of the parking area due to the accessibility of the

Reiling Dredge trail. Minor slope cutting would better facilitate parking management. OSAC reviewed and is supportive of this work. The goal would be to create a flat, level parking area with adequate snow stack.

Mr. Rossi: We should encourage roadside parking instead of massive earth moving efforts. I don't see demand for additional parking spots. We are also trying to get people away from driving cars. The first person that parks there sets up the pattern for the rest. Use changes seasonally, with fewer cars in winter. There is significant removal of vegetation indicated by the flagging.

Mr. Reid: We have a need for a functional trailhead. Ten spaces not necessarily needed today, but if we are in there already, then we should economize our efforts to accomplish some of our goals for the future. Staff has tried to minimize the impacts in the design.

Ms. Hollinshead: I haven't seen a demand for further parking. Try more signage first and then see what happens. Respond to widening only after you see increased demand. Why not continue to keep first access open so cars could park all along the way one-way?

Mr. Stais: Road and Bridge people would prefer fewer curb cuts.

Ms. Merrill: You don't see people parked there because it's a crappy place to park and walk. Then again, I wouldn't want to increase the number of people that use it.

Mr. Rossi: I question the need and demand. We should only address the bandit parking if it starts to occur.

Mr. Reid: Having parking signs on the road there will encourage people to use it.

Erin Hunter: I would like to see a balance between trail maintenance and trailhead construction. I would like to see the access to these trails taken care of.

Mr. Yule: I suggest we phase the work. Complete the three needed tasks, but only expand if it gets used.

Mr. Cospolich: I think we should be encouraging more trail use, but not all of the commission feels this way, so Scott Yule's comments may be a good compromise.

Mr. Stais: If this were built, there would be less people parked down valley. If you are going to get machines out, it would make sense to do it only once. It is important to get culverts, better drainage and signage. R&B wouldn't be supportive of the through-drive. We are all comfortable with the Lincoln work.

Ms. Hollinshead: Why is the County alright with the roadside parking at the Lincoln Town site and not lower in the valley across from the B&B trail entrance?

Mr. Reid: I can't speak for County Road and Bridge, but I can tell you that we as staff approached the County staff about that extra plowing several times this year.

Ms. Hollinshead: I don't believe you. Or at least, it didn't work. Approach them again.

Mr. Reid. Okay, we will talk to the County again.

Golden Horseshoe Nordic discussion

Scott Reid gave an update on the discussion with Town Council. Staff is looking at the two qualified bids.

Mr. Yule: I think there is miscommunication for types of use on the trail. It will be for not only elite skate skiers, but also for classic skiers and snowshoers. I would compare it to the Slickrock trail in Moab. People use that trail and then go out to the other trails.

Ms. Hollinshead: I know I will love to use this trail, but I probably won't skate there. There is an impression that it is for elite skiers, because other users don't need a trail this wide.

Mr. Reid: To improve communication, staff apologizes for trying to conduct business via email. We tried to get things out effectively, and it is hard to encapsulate people's thoughts via email. We will strive to not conduct conversations via email.

Mr. Stais: There is a disconnect between the ROI argument and the sentiment that this is a part of the whole Golden Horseshoe project. If Rob Millisor had been there, he might have felt like his sentiments were misrepresented.

Mr. Rossi: Eric said that if the numbers didn't meet an additional 10,000 visitors, we will put an end to the rest of the expansion plans.

Mr. Stais: I have real problems with the way this happened with this discussion. The last two Council reps have not been supportive of the continuous direction of BOSAC for the last 6 years. I think that we need to have these discussions in person. I think the ROI argument is inappropriate because other Town projects don't require such an evaluation. My concern is with the process and how issues were raised. There was a minority viewpoint that was putting up false arguments and blockages to stop a project that has had BOSAC support for several years.

Trails Plan

Mr. Reid: We took the BOSAC recommendations to the USFS and they disagreed with some of the points and wished for them to be removed from the plan. Do we want to address the Forest Service concerns or keep our recommendations in the plan?

Ms. Hollinshead: I would like to address these. Fredonia does need some plowing. Bemrose Ski Circus is another place that a non-motorized user could go. Why would plowing require NEPA? Breck Park Estates is becoming motorized heaven, as is the

Boreas TH. Pennsylvania Gulch is one of the more disappointing loss for Nordic community. You can't ski on road anymore. Marking a trail with blue diamonds and pruning would be nice. It is not necessary to become a summer trail. Pennsylvania Gulch is one area that we need to look at more carefully. For BSA members, this is an important area.

Mr. Truckey: This is just a master plan, so leaving things in there should not be a problem.

Ms. Hollinshead: I have problems with the USFS saying that there is not a need. I use it and see others using it too.

Mr. Reid: The USFS has to address need as part of NEPA analysis.

Ms Merrill: This is a wish list, so keep these in.

Mr. Reid: I will try to soften language. The ditch off of Spruce Creek needs to be investigated. We would like to take this to Council in mid-July or August.

Colburn and Other Open Space Annexations

Ms. Andersen: Staff is looking into annexing some of the open space parcels, including the Colburn property. It may be simpler than subdividing with the County. Annexation would also help our open space because it is under our jurisdiction. Mark Truckey and I are working to move ahead with this annexation. We will also look at all of our properties (in addition to Colburn property).

BOSAC agreed that this approach was a good idea.

Chapter 6 of Open Space Plan

Mr. Yule: It was implied that BOSAC was missing opportunities for acquisition, and that BOSAC has been focused trails, recreation and open space management. We should review Chapter 6 and make sure we are on track.

Ms. Andersen: Staff reviewed all lands in the upper blue basin with an eye for acquisitions. We will continue to do so as opportunities arise.

Mr. Rossi: Do we need a task force to help strategize acquisitions for BOSAC? It could be a subgroup of BOSAC and would report back on any progress.

Ms. Merrill: I think we should look over the map of available property. Please bring it back to BOSAC for review.

Mr. Yule: Bald Mountain and Little Mountain are ones that need more attention. Also, the Highway 9 corridor should be protected.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Rossi: Minnie Mine Trail has a lot of dog waste on it. Should we put a dog bag and trash can out there? Perhaps in the future? The B&B trail as well, and the parking lot. We may need to improve the access to doggie poop bags and trash cans. Regarding the Country Boy, I would like to move ahead with the discussion. We might want to change our trail map format, since we are maximizing the scale of the layout. We should also try to sell these maps to the BRC to offset costs.

Ms. Hollinshead: Trash cans are preferable to basket poop containers. Please send email reminders about FOBT days.

Mr. Cospolich: Western Sky Ranch is working on the trails up there. Did the alignments change? (Yes, they improved with building envelope changes.)

Mr. Yule: Where is the trail map? (It is in production and expected by the middle or end of July.)

Mr. Stais: I would like to hear about the Zinc and TRPH readings from Christy Carello. The Nature/Nordic Center might need a survey to facilitate the development of the site plan. Can we pursue that? There was no revegetation along the north side of Wellington Road sidewalk. Please talk to Public Works about that. We should look at BOSAC's budget and help clarify our goals for each year. Can we bring the budget/ pro forma to BOSAC's next meeting? The costs of the Nature/Nordic Center are important to define and that can only be clarified by BOSAC and Council. The BOSAC norms were included in the packet at my request. I want to make sure that we follow those norms to improve our efficiency. If we need to have two meetings a month, fine. I was not pleased with the way the Councilmember representatives behaved with regard to the Peabody 5 km trail. Maybe we need to revisit our budget if the Council has other priorities for the expenditure of open space funds.

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on July 14th in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Cospolich motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

2008 OPEN SPACE & TRAILS PROJECT LIST

<u>Trail Projects</u>				
PROJECT	COMPLETION DATE	PRIORITY	STAFFING REQUIREMENTS	STATUS 7/14/08
OVERSEE DEVELOPMENT-RELATED TRAIL REVIEW	Ongoing	Required	Large	Ongoing. Sunrise Point, Vista Point, Corkscrew, Stan Miller/Shores, County projects currently.
OVERSEE TRAIL CREW-RELATED WORK (Trail construction and maintenance) – *see list of trail projects on following page	Ongoing	Required	Large	Ongoing. VOC Nightmare project, Cucumber boardwalk, fencing, tree removal, Cucumber signs currently.
COMMENT ON USFS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN	Spring	Required	Large	Awaiting release of supplemental draft.
REVISE TRAILS MASTER PLAN	Spring	High	Large	Underway. Presented to BOSAC at 6/9 meeting.
COORDINATE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS	Ongoing	High	Large	Ongoing. VOC project, adjudicated volunteers, scheduled work days currently.
DEVELOP MASTER PLAN FOR NORDIC EXPANSION AREA (FOR USFS AND COUNTY)	Winter	High	Large	Special Use Authorization application with USFS. UBPC application underway.
PERMITTING FOR PEABODY LOOP	Spring	High	Medium	UBPC application underway. Wetland survey awaiting melt.
OVERSEE CONTRACTORS ON PEABODY LOOP CONSTRUCTION	Summer	High	Large	Interview process for contractors underway.
COMPLETE WEBSITE WORK	Ongoing	Medium	Medium	Skeleton page created. Awaiting feedback from rest of web group.
INSTALL MOONSTONE FOREST HEALTH INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE	Summer	Medium	Medium	No progress. May be focusing on other sites for interpretive purposes?
Contractor Work				
COMPLETE WEED AND PEST CONTROL	Spring	Required	Small	Awaiting bloom. MPB assessment underway. Held Cucumber Weed Pull on 6/28.

CONTINUE REVEGETATION FOR SHOCK HILL	Spring	Medium	Small	Awaiting growth, particularly on black loop. Growth improving, placed tread delineators on Black Loop.
INSTALL TRASH AND TOILET FACILITIES AT F&D PLACER	Summer	Medium	Small	No progress.
Open Space Projects				
PROJECT	COMPLETION DATE	PRIORITY	STAFFING REQUIREMENTS	STATUS
FULFILL B&B MINES CONSENT DECREE REQUIREMENTS	Ongoing	Required	Medium	Ongoing.
OVERSEE CONCESSIONAIRES	Ongoing	Required	Small	Ongoing. BNC lease renewal process, Good Times, Breck Nordic Sleigh Rides (Nilsson) current.
OVERSEE OS ACQUISITIONS	Ongoing	Required	Large	Ongoing. Will bring UB acquisition plan to 8/11 meeting.
ADDRESS GOLDEN HORSESHOE MANAGEMENT TASKS	Ongoing	High	Large	Ongoing. Route assessments underway. Reiling TH improvements scheduled. Nightmare project underway.
DEVELOP FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACE PARCELS	Ongoing	High	Large	Study underway. Will discuss at 7/14 BOSAC meeting.
PLANNING FOR CUCUMBER NATURE/NORDIC CENTER	Ongoing	High	Large	Ongoing. Programming and stakeholder meetings occurring.
OVERSEE PLANS AND RESEARCH FOR REILING DREDGE RESTORATION	On-going	Medium	Low	Ongoing. Working with Heritage Alliance to facilitate research.
McCAIN/ BLOCK 11 MASTER PLANNING	Ongoing	Medium	Small (will be Large if grant pursued)	Ongoing. Assisting with river restoration plan, including trails. Possibly pursuing DOLA grant for restoration work.
TRACK OS PROPERTY OWNERSHIP	Ongoing	Medium	Small	Ongoing.
OVERSEE PROCESS FOR HIDDEN GEMS WILDERNESS PROOSAL	Ongoing	Medium	Low	Ongoing.

Contractor Work				
CUCUMBER PRESERVE MONITORING	Ongoing	Required	Large	Underway. VERP study initiated and several additional monitoring components (owls and willows).
NATURE SERIES PROGRAM	Ongoing	High	Small	Ongoing.
FOREST HEALTH/FIRE MITIGATION/MPB PROJECTS	Ongoing	High	Large	Ongoing. RMES will present at 7/14 BOSAC meeting.
MINESITE INVENTORY	Summer	High	Small	Waiting to respond to latest version of Phase II from Eric Twitty.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION/ RESTORATION EFFORTS	Ongoing	High	Medium	Underway. Working with Tony Harris on three sites: Jesse, X10U8 and Lucky.

*** Trail Projects Include:**

- Annual Trails Inventory and Maintenance
- Four O'clock Switchback repairs
- Carter Park Switchback repairs
- Flumes drainage
- Freeride Park maintenance and improvements
- Volunteer Commitments
- Training Days
- Golden Horseshoe trailwork ***
- Install/ update Breckenridge Nordic Center trail posts
- Trail Signage Program- Cucumber and other
- Iowa Hill work ('cameras present' signs and trail delineation)
- Cucumber Preserve Projects
- Wellington Bridge
- Make a Difference Day
- B-Line Trail
- Peabody/Middle Flume Connect
- Hermit Placer Boardwalk
- Toad Alley Boardwalk
- Nightmare on Baldy Reroute