

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, June 9, 2008
BRECKENRIDGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
150 Ski Hill Road

- 5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – May 12th
- 5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda
- 5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)
- 5:50 Staff Summary
- Workplan Update format
 - BOSAC Norms
- 6:00 Open Space and Trails
- Cucumber Monitoring Update
 - Cucumber Area Future Development Map
 - Golden Horseshoe Management filters
 - French Gulch/ Reiling Dredge Trailhead plan
 - Golden Horseshoe Nordic discussion
 - Trails Plan
 - Colburn and Other Open Space Annexations
 - Chapter 6 of Open Space Plan
- 8:15 Executive Session
- 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: Heide Andersen, Open Space and Trails Planner III
Mark Truckey, Asst. Director of Community Development
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner II
Re: June 9, 2008 meeting

Staff Summary**Workplan Update format**

As was requested by a BOSAC member, staff will provide an updated copy of our annual workplan as a part of the monthly packet. Included in this packet is the first draft of the 2008 workplan, with a status column added to it. In keeping with the intent of the Staff Summary, this document is intended to be for reference purposes primarily and not for general discussion. If there are particular items from this workplan that BOSAC members would like to discuss specifically, please inform staff prior to the meeting so that we might include them as a discussion topic.

BOSAC Norms

The BOSAC Chairman requested that the norms be included in the packet for review and as a reminder of the manner in which we wish to conduct meetings and communication.

Open Space and Trails**Cucumber Monitoring Update**

Christy Carello will present findings from the Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring efforts from 2007 through the beginning of 2008.

Cucumber Area Future Development Map

Staff will provide BOSAC another version of the Cucumber Gulch map, which will include the trail alignments and plats from surrounding developments as discussed during the previous meeting. This map will be a resource for further Cucumber project discussions and will provide a context for the larger area and potential impacts.

Golden Horseshoe Management filters

From the beginning of the facilitated Golden Horseshoe management planning process, the concept of applying “management filters” was anticipated to be included one of the project phases. Because the entire project was put on a very strict and truncated timeframe to meet the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan deadline, the ability to apply the management filters as a later phase was lost.

The following comments on the final recreation plan submission in the box entitled “Notes regarding Summer Travel System Map Recommendations” address these management filters:

“1. The U.S. Forest Service, Summit County Government, and Town of Breckenridge still need to review the travel management recommendations based on management capabilities and other considerations (i.e. access through private lands).”

“2. Routes shown on the map as “unsustainable” will remain open until a management strategy is developed for these routes.”

And,

“5. Realignment of existing routes to more sustainable locations may be subject to site-specific environmental analysis.”

Given the short timeframe for providing the travel recommendations to the USFS, staff was not able to systematically evaluate the trails on the summer travel management recommendations before submittal. The management filters that had not yet been applied to these routes include: 1) Whether the route was sustainable and did not cause significant natural resource impacts, 2) Whether each route was legally accessible, and 3) Whether the agencies responsible for each trail had the funding and resources necessary to manage them.

In working with the USFS, it appears that a significant portion of the existing Golden Horseshoe routes will not meet the above criteria either because they cross private property with no permission, cause significant resource damage due to poor alignment, or would be cost prohibitive to manage. Staff is working to evaluate a number of trails this field season to determine whether these routes could be included in the current open travel system. Those routes that do not meet the above criteria after being evaluated on site would remain in a master plan for evaluation, realignment or work as part of a later phase.

French Gulch/ Reiling Dredge Trailhead plan

Based on previous BOSAC discussions, staff is working on an overall trailhead parking plan for French Gulch. For 2008, the goals are to: 1) improve signage at the Lincoln Townsite to encourage more efficient parking patterns; 2) continue to evaluate the need and best location for a lower French Gulch trailhead; and 3) improve the Reiling Dredge trailhead.

Staff is working with Summit County Government to install signs at Lincoln Townsite to identify the available parking, require head in parking on the south side of the parking area, and encourage more efficient trailer parking on the north side of the parking area. Throughout the winter, staff documented use at the X10U8 pull-out along lower French Gulch Road. Staff noted a minimum of four times when the pull out area exceeded capacity, which is generally five cars.

The Reiling Dredge Trailhead, located across French Gulch Road from the Reiling Dredge/B&B Trail, requires drainage work, resurfacing, and potentially some expansion to become a truly functional trailhead. For 2008, staff proposes completing this project, including some limited grading and tree removal to increase capacity; closing off the unnecessary secondary access; and addressing drainage issues. Staff has marked the boundary within which the proposed work could occur. BOSAC members are encouraged to visit the site and look at the boundary prior to the meeting discussion.

Golden Horseshoe Nordic discussion

Staff will update BOSAC on the 5/27 Council discussion and decision regarding the proposed Peabody 5 km Nordic trail discussion. As requested, BOSAC can also discuss opportunities for improved dialogue and discussion regarding future issues.

Trails Plan

As discussed at previous BOSAC meetings, the Town Trails Plan is in the process of being revised and updated. Attached, please find the most recent version of the draft Trails Plan for your review. This version includes feedback from both Summit County and the U.S. Forest Service staff. Several passages are highlighted because the USFS has expressed a reluctance to proceed with specific projects due to the lack of demonstrated need.

Staff requests BOSAC review the attached document and discuss the best way to proceed with those recommendations identified by the USFS. Pending BOSAC direction and approval, the Trails Plan could then be brought forth to Council for review and approval.

Colburn and Other Open Space Annexations

The Town is beginning the process to annex the Colburn property (Iron Mask and Harold Placers). Staff will be looking at the other Town-owned open space properties contiguous to the Town boundary in an attempt to annex any of them that qualify.

Open Space Plan Chapter 6 Review

As requested by a BOSAC member, we will discuss the status the implementation strategies outlined in Chapter 6 of the Breckenridge Open Space Plan. Please review this chapter prior to the meeting.

Roll Call

Matt Stais called the May 12, 2008 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Jeff Cospolich and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Jenn Cram, Chris Neubecker, Carin Faust, Tony Overlock and Peter Grosshuesch.

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

Nature/Nordic Center

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the scheduling for Nature Nordic Center planning. The goal is to complete the programming with the stakeholders, then bring the rough design to BOSAC and decide how best to proceed from there. Stakeholders include local property owners, Matt Stais, the Daytons, Tim Casey, Carin Faust, Christy Carello, Mark Truckey, Heide Andersen and John Niemi.

Mr. Stais: The concept design is scheduled for mid May (now). My question is whether LEED certification is being pursued. Those things should be communicated to the architect before concept design. We need to communicate to the designers that Council and BOSAC will need to evaluate and make several specific decisions. We should encourage them to slow down on the design so that a broader audience and the public can evaluate before moving ahead. We need good direction from BOSAC, staff and Council.

Mr. Andersen: The designers are focused on the programming, and then will need to go to concept design. The Town needs to make a decision on how to best proceed. This would be a Council discussion. This is a high profile project. We want the designer's full attention. This should not be a sideline project just because Mr. Niemi is paying for it.

Ms. Merrill: What is the final product of this phase?

Mr. Stais: Concept design, including square footage and building programming. This could be a LEED certified demonstration project but that is a Council discussion. It could cost about \$50,000-100,000 more for LEED certification. Maybe instead, we spent those funds on a great boiler that will pay us back in several years. For LEED certification, you need to hire an outside third party to evaluate your efforts. Comparative analysis of costs of other similar facilities would be helpful. We should spend time now figuring out what we really want, then proceed with the planning and design.

Ms. Andersen: Suzanne Allen Guerra has projected costs based on a square footage cost (\$300-400 per square foot). We will bring those numbers to BOSAC when we have them. LEED certified will indeed cost more, but at least this is new construction, not a redesign of an existing building.

Mr. Truckey: The Town's green code has less of a LEED focus. We have our own standards and we think they are good standards. Perhaps that is the way we choose to go for this project.

Mr. Cospolich: How did John Niemi get involved?

Mr. Andersen: There were transgressions as far as the Town was concerned, including a photo shoot in the Preserve, construction of trails with no permits, and pads were constructed. I think the public response was an eye opener for Mr. Niemi. As an outsider and not part of the community, he did not understand the sensitivity of Cucumber. To his credit, he asked to partner with the Town to help manage or improve the Preserve. He liked the idea of helping with the Nature Nordic Center. He offered to pay for architectural services and potentially allow us to partner with him on contractors available to help with the Nature Nordic Center construction. The design benefit is approximately \$200-300k, but we want to make sure it is the right product.

Mr. Stais: The requested \$60,000-90,000 expenditure for this year is a BOSAC expenditure. I want to know what we are getting for that money.

Ms. Andersen: We are working on a three part agreement between the Town, Suzanne Allen Guerra's office, and John Niemi to define what that benefit is.

Mr. Grosshuesch: What work has been done to date is a freebie at this point. We are going to apply our criteria to this, but we are just not there yet. So, I ask for some patience as we work through the details in this partnership.

Mr. Yule: Will programming include the entire property? I would like to focus on the nature piece. The trails are a big part of this Preserve. We need to clarify how the building and the trails function together. What are we really calling this? Cucumber Nature Preserve? We should really focus on the nature element of the Nature Nordic Center.

Mr. Cospolich: What is the estimated total cost so far?

Ms. Andersen: Approximately \$1.5- \$2 million for a 3500-6000 square feet structure (or structures). We have also talked about a campus concept that integrates indoor/outdoor space. That type of design could also help with project phasing.

Mr. Stais: Cost is the big question.

Mr. Truckey: 50% of project has been committed to from Open Space fund; the remainder would be from the CIP. This has been placed in the budget for Council for several years. Also, the Town is obligated to relocate the building based on Tim Casey's development.

Mr. Stais: It would be nice to do this slowly and purposefully. It may take all of 2008 for the concept design.

Ms. Andersen: We will bring more info at the next meeting.

Cucumber Gulch Monitoring (VERP)

Ms. Andersen: I had a conference call with Peter Newman, his graduate student and Dr. Christy Carello. The CSU students already have produced a voluntary exit survey for Cucumber Gulch Preserve. People will be stationed at the exit points and ask people to complete a 5-10 minute voluntary survey. It will ask about their experiential preferences: what they seek, whether or not the Preserve fulfilled their expectations, etc. It will be targeted at major access points on a random sampling of days. We also have trail counters to assess use numbers in the Gulch. CSU folks and Dr. Carello will be in town between May 28-30th for intro and training, with a BOSAC presentation between 9-11 am on Friday May 30. Then the trail crew will be trained in the afternoon to help implement some of the survey work. BOSAC members are welcome to attend any or all of this. The goal of the survey is to inventory the type and extent of use. We are getting a baseline, then can continue to monitor so that we have ecological and experiential information.

Mr. Cospolich: It would be good to learn who uses it and for what purpose.

Open Space and Trails

BOSAC Chairman

Mr. Stais: I am willing to be chairman. Please forward norms to Ms. Hollinshead and Mr. Kuhn.

Mr. Stais was unanimously approved as the chair for the next year.

Mr. Yule nominated Mr. Cospolich to be vice chair.

Mr. Cospolich was unanimously approved as vice chair.

Forest Health

Ms. Andersen introduced the forest health issue and the pending Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestation. Originally, our goal was to reduce doghair lodgepole areas. This work was done on the West Moonstone parcel. In 2005 and 2006, the MPB focus began and we removed and sprayed a limited number of trees. \$77,000 was spent in Cucumber Gulch in 2007. We hired RMES to evaluate forest health in the Preserve. The recommendation was to cease extraction operations in the Gulch. Species diversity is

strong in the Preserve. This year we also commissioned an evaluation for all of the open space parcels. Evaluation includes all solely Town-owned properties, not jointly owned backcountry parcels. We have also learned that spraying can be harmful. Council instructed us to spray only specimen trees in a limited quantity. The question comes down to whether we cut and plant now to improve future forests, or target a green backdrop? Refer to staff memo questions.

Ms. Cram: Four years ago, we thought we could cut and spray our way out of this. It is simply not possible to continue with this, given the current infestation. Logistically, it is also challenging. Bigger picture options are what we seek. Wildfire, water resources, replanting are the discussions we need to be having.

Mr. Cospolich: Look at Grand County for examples.

Mr. Reid provided an overview of some of the work being performed in Grand County, including Devil's Thumb Ranch, which has 5000 acres and is cutting 1 acre a day to address the MPB epidemic. Most of the places in Grand County are striving to create a better future forest by cutting and reseeded now- even uninfested trees- to get a head start on the regeneration.

Mr. Grosshuesch: The goal in Grand County is to focus on replacement stands. 90-95% mortality is predicted. The remaining trees will be the young ones and the really healthy ones.

Ms. Cram: Frisco Peninsula is another good example. Working to reduce wildfire risk and protect Goose Pasture Tarn and our water resources. We are working with the USFS, RMES, Blue River, Summit County and others. Long range planning in place could be timely to get the USFS to take some action as well.

Mr. Stais: Hayman fire is a good example and is scary.

Ms. Andersen: Town ordinance requires tree removal for infested trees, yet the Town may not be acting on an adjacent open space properties.

Mr. Stais disclosed his wife's role working for the Highlands HOA's. We should certainly be sensitive to any damage to water quality in sensitive areas. In wetlands, spraying is off limits. Clear direction from BOSAC and Council would be helpful for the homeowners.

Ms. Cram: Our landscaping is going to change. We need to approach this as an infestation of epic proportions.

Mr. Cospolich: The biggest challenge is that the second homeowners are being required to cut their trees. I am in favor of looking at the longer term forest health. \$200,000 is a lot of money for forest health, though.

Ms. Merrill: We need to increase the budget number and be more aggressive instead of waiting and seeing what happens.

Mr. Stais: Let's keep it at the same level until we hear from Council. It is a lot of money. This is a big priority. I agree with Mona. This is a high priority.

Mr. Grosshuesch: \$200,000 could be retained again for next year. BOSAC could use the \$200,000 for implementing RMES recommendations from this year's study.

Mr. Yule: I agree with the long term plan. We will need to spend more than \$200,000. We will also need to rearrange our open space priorities.

Ms. Merrill: I think these properties should be looked at on an equal basis, rather than targeting the squeaky wheels.

Mr. Truckey: So to summarize: spray only specimen trees that are removed from water bodies. Do we remove and chip any infested trees this year?

Mr. Stais: We should take it on and remove the trees. If we can access the lot without messing up the wetlands or building a new and damaging road, we should. Where practical, near adjacent properties with good access, we should work on it.

Ms. Merrill: I agree.

Mr. Yule: To create a fire break is critical and a higher priority. If an existing fire break is there, we should treat that property as a lower priority.

Geocaching

Mr. Reid outlined the nature of geocaching.

Mr. Cospolich: This is good for a segment of the population. It can be another niche for our community to attract people here.

Mr. Stais: That means allowing it and permitting it?

Ms. Merrill: I would think permitting it is the answer. Maybe not now, but keeping it on the radar and keeping BOSAC informed. The issue is keeping people out of sensitive areas. I am supportive of the sport, though.

The consensus was to keep the topic on the radar screen, to monitor the number and locations of the caches and perhaps permit it in future, if needed. Primarily, the goal is to protect the sensitive sites.

Shock Hill / Cucumber Gulch Area Development Plans

BOSAC discussed of the current and future developments in and around the Cucumber Gulch Preserve. BOSAC requested that staff add line work to the existing map to include

Cucumber Creek Estates, the Shock Hill Lodge, Penn Lode Drive building envelopes, Pristine Villagio (building envelope and conservation easement) and the gondola alignment. Ski resort lifts and existing buildings would also be useful and Mr. Stais may be able to provide this information with permission from Vail Resorts. Also, adding the Town winter and summer trails in Cucumber Gulch system and Josie's cabin would be helpful.

Commissioner Issues

Ms. Merrill: What is the status of the USFS portion of the Nordic expansion? (Staff explained that the Ski Area Master Development Plan has been withdrawn based on USFS staff recommendation and staff is working on a more specific Special Use Permit application for the experimental loop and a broader Master Plan document for the rest of the proposed routes.)

Mr. Yule provided an example of the stickers about Cucumber Gulch Preserve that were placed in gondola cabins. BOSAC requested that Mr. Yule try to put the decal in every cabin, rather than just half.

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on June 9th in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Cospolich motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

2008 OPEN SPACE & TRAILS PROJECT LIST

Trail Projects					
PROJECT	COMPLETION DATE	PRIORITY	STAFFING REQUIREMENTS	STATUS	6/9/08
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	High	Medium	UBPC application underway. Wetland survey awaiting melt.
OVERSEE CONTRACTORS ON PEABODY LOOP CONSTRUCTION	Summer	High	High	Large	Interview process for contractors underway.
COMPLETE WEBSITE WORK	Ongoing	Medium	Medium	Medium	Skeleton page created. Awaiting feedback from rest of web group.
INSTALL MOONSTONE FOREST HEALTH INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE	Summer	Medium	Medium	Medium	No progress. May be focusing on other sites for interpretive purposes?
Contractor Work					
COMPLETE WEED AND PEST CONTROL	Spring	Required	Required	Small	Awaiting bloom. MPB assessment underway.
CONTINUE REVEGETATION FOR SHOCK HILL	Spring	Medium	Medium	Small	Awaiting growth, particularly on black loop.
INSTALL TRASH AND TOILET FACILITIES AT F&D PLACER	Summer	Medium	Medium	Small	No progress.
Open Space Projects					
PROJECT	COMPLETION DATE	PRIORITY	PRIORITY	STAFFING REQUIREMENTS	STATUS
FULFILL B&B MINES CONSENT DECREE REQUIREMENTS	Ongoing	Required	Required	Medium	Ongoing.

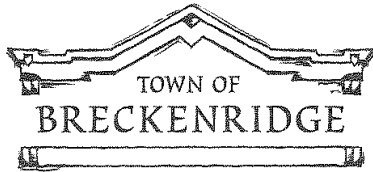
OVERSEE CONCESSIONAIRES	Ongoing	Required	Small	Ongoing. BNC lease renewal process, Good Times (?), Breck Nordic Sleigh Rides (Nilsson) current. Ongoing.
OVERSEE OS ACQUISITIONS	Ongoing	Required	Large	Ongoing.
ADDRESS GOLDEN HORSESHOE MANAGEMENT TASKS	Ongoing	High	Large	Ongoing. Route assessments underway. Reiling TH improvements. Others.
DEVELOP FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACE PARCELS	Ongoing	High	Large	Study underway. Will present findings to BOSAC when available.
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. Forest Health study will help direct 2008 efforts, as BOSAC directed.
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



MEMORANDUM

TO: BOSAC
FROM: Staff
DATE: April 1, 2008 (for meeting of April 14, 2008)
SUBJECT: BOSAC Meeting Norms

Staff has put together meeting norms below for BOSAC. This is something that the Town currently does on a regular basis with the Planning Commission and which is being carried over to other Town Commissions. The Staff will be including a copy of the norms in the packet a few times each year and when new members are appointed. The purpose of these norms are two fold (1) to assist in running effective and productive meetings and (2) developing a relationship between the staff and Committee members. The Town and the Town staff value the input and efforts on the part of Committee members and desire to improve the communication between the two. If you have questions about any of these, or feel that this list needs to be modified, suggestions are encouraged.

Please keep these standards in mind during the meetings.

1. Read packet materials and be prepared for discussion on those items.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. Ascertain the opinion of the majority of the Commission, and then resist filibustering when it's obviously contrary to the majority opinion.
4. Avoid lengthy explanations of your opinions of and position on issues before BOSAC.
5. Respect your fellow Commissioners, staff and guest speakers.
6. Do not have sidebar conversations while others are speaking.
7. Minimize repetition.
8. Stay focused on the topic or project at hand.
9. Summarize decisions made.
10. Once a decision is made, do not reintroduce the topic.
11. Focus discussions and comments on big picture items rather than smaller issues more administrative or technical in nature.
12. Keep comments under "Commissioner Issues" concise, with an understanding that, if there is general concurrence, the item will be put on an upcoming BOSAC agenda.
13. When unable to attend meetings, let staff know, and follow up with staff or other members for meeting summaries, and read pertinent minutes.
14. Contact the Planning Director with any concerns and/or issues that you feel are being handled inappropriately, or other problems that you may be having related to the conduct of the commission's business. We'd like to hear from you prior to the meeting so that we are better prepared to respond to your concerns.



Existing Conditions:

Access to nonmotorized trails
 Summer and winter use
 *5-6 vehicles
 Inferior base material

Proposed Conditions:

Access to nonmotorized trails
 Summer and winter use
 *10-12 vehicles
 Improved gravel base material
 Improved entrance/drainage
 Snow storage

Minnie Mine Trail

Fill to bring to grade

Snow storage area

Closure of access

~5,000 sq ft

Cut slope

Improve surface with gravel

Widening of entrance

Straight in parking
(lines not to scale)

Culvert/s installation

Reiling Dredge Trailhead
sign

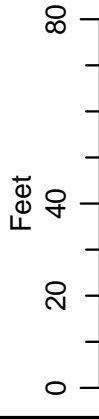
French Creek Road

Reiling Dredge Trailhead
sign

Reiling Dredge Trail

*1 auto equals approximately 250 sq ft

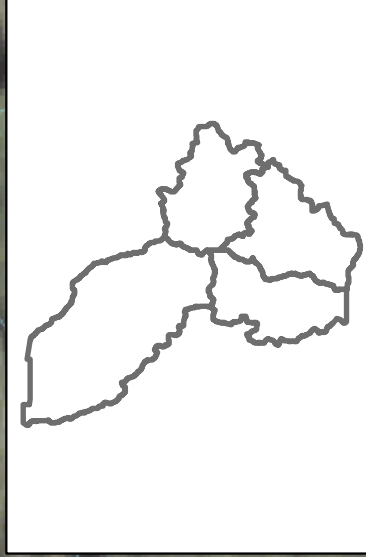
Reiling Dredge Trailhead Conceptual Design



1:500



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 not intended to be used for legal purposes.
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Existing Conditions:
 Access to motorized and nonmotorized trails
 Summer and winter use
 *10-12 vehicles
 Kiosk

Proposed Conditions:
 Access to motorized and nonmotorized trails
 Summer and winter use
 *10-12 vehicles
 Improved signage to direct parking
 (Will need to work with Road & Bridge staff)

French Creek Road

Lincoln Trailhead sign

Trailer Parking (along road)

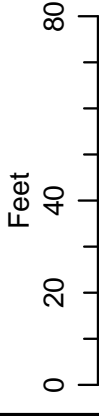
Existing kiosk

Straight in parking (lines not to scale)

*1 auto equals approximately 250 sq ft

Lincoln Trailhead Conceptual Design

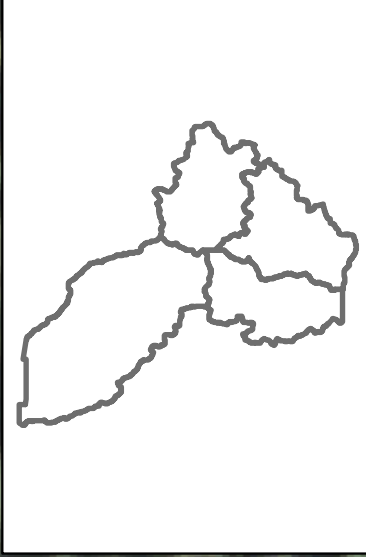
Golden Horseshoe Trails	
NAME	LINE STYLE
French Creek Road/Over	
Maria Mine	
Rolling Orange Trail	
Trail	
Range/DoglegTH	
Paved Road	
Unpaved Road	
Trail	



1:500



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Town of Breckenridge Trails Plan

Introduction:

The Town of Breckenridge is a small Colorado mountain town with a growing number of long and short-term residents and visitors. Those who come to Breckenridge come for many reasons, but a primary attraction is the recreational opportunities, including summer and winter trails.

In 1997, Town of Breckenridge citizens voted to add an additional 0.5% sales tax to be used exclusively for open space acquisition and management. As the Open Space program has matured in the decade since the passage of the open space tax, management of open space and trails has taken on a more prominent role for Town staff and the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission (BOSAC), the citizen group that advises the Town Council on the actions of the Open Space Program.

The Town Council and BOSAC recognize that preserving and expanding trail access throughout Town and the Upper Blue Basin is critical to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in and around Breckenridge. This Trails Plan has been created to provide guidance to Town staff and BOSAC for future trail related priorities and decisions. It is recognized that a balance must be achieved between growth/development and the maintenance of a healthy quality of life, and that development should provide a means for preserving and improving an interconnected recreational trail network.

This Trails Plan is intended to promote the retention and improvement of a meaningful, well-conceived trail network to preserve and enhance a community amenity for both residents and visitors.

Plan Goals and Objectives

This Plan attempts to provide a coherent and well thought out framework for the future of Breckenridge's community trails. More specifically, this document is intended:

1. To provide a plan for a comprehensive public, recreational trail network for the Town and surrounding areas.
2. To outline a functioning residential access or commuting trail network that connects efficiently with other modes of transportation.
3. To identify important trailhead and access locations to facilitate recreational and commuting uses.
4. To offer recommendations to accomplish the specific trail and access projects outlined within the Plan.
5. To provide access to cultural and geographic landmarks such as historic sites, waterways and prominent viewpoints.

6. To identify important trail-based recreational facilities to enhance the recreational opportunities in Town and the surrounding area.

Role of the Plan

This Trails Plan is a targeted document that outlines specific existing and proposed trails that the Town would like to secure or create. Broader open space goals and directives can be found in the Open Space Plan (revised 2007) or in the Town's Vision Plan (revised 2002). Specific trail construction guidelines are found in the Trail Standards and Guideline document (created in 2007).

This Plan is a Town-generated document and is intended to function in consort with Summit County's Upper Blue Basin Master Plan Trails section. The primary difference between this Plan and the County's Upper Blue Plan is this plan's focus on proposed or new trail alignments. This Plan also targets winter ski touring activities.

Plan Assumptions

Many of the trails identified in this Plan connect to trails managed by other jurisdictions, primarily the County and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). It is recognized that the Town needs to cooperate with these entities to complete the trail system outlined in this Plan. The USFS has issued Special Use Permits to the Breckenridge Ski Area (BSA) for skiing on certain lands included in this plan, and therefore the ski area is another important player in the implementation of this document. The Breckenridge Ski Area, Summit County and the USFS have all had an opportunity to review this document during its creation. Breckenridge will coordinate with these agencies as appropriate to bring the ideas in this Plan to fruition.

In keeping with the Town of Breckenridge's open space program history, the trails outlined in this Plan target non-motorized use, unless otherwise indicated. This focus is due in part to the Town's proclivity to support quiet, sustainable recreational use in a natural, high alpine setting.

This Plan is a master plan, which means that it outlines an idealized trail system that inevitably crosses private property. Private property rights are respected and recognized by the Town, and achieving the vision set forth in this Plan will require cooperation from many private landowners both in and out of Town. The Town will use many strategies at its disposal to foster this cooperation, including the development review process, property acquisition and voluntary easement dedication, to name a few.

Plan Implementation

The recommendations outlined in this Plan are intended to provide guidance for future trail construction or acquisition efforts.

Plan Organization

The scope for this Plan includes the entire Upper Blue Basin of Summit County, Colorado, which are the same geographic boundaries set for the Town of Breckenridge's Open Space program in the Open Space Plan. To better describe the various trails and

routes in the area, the Plan then divides the Upper Blue basin into four smaller planning areas, including: **Area 1** - Ski Hill Road/Peak 8/7 Base Area; **Area 2** - Core/Upper Four Seasons Area; **Area 3** - Breckenridge South; and **Area 4** – East side/French Creek. Those units are shown in Map **XX**. Within these four planning areas, the plan outlines multiple trail routes for consideration, then offers action recommendations for securing important public accesses. Each of the routes and access points are labeled on the map with a number or letter, respectively. Those labels can then be found in bolded parentheses in the text below.

How this Plan was Developed

This Plan is based largely on the original Breckenridge Trails Plan and the vision set forth in that document. Many of the goals and priorities outlined in the original plan have been successfully completed and a debt of gratitude is owed to those who originated the Trails Plan. The best way to honor the previous Trails Plan work is to fulfill, then improve, the vision for the next ten years.

To develop this revised version of the Breckenridge Trails Plan, the original plan was reviewed to determine which recommendations were still relevant and unfulfilled. Then, Town staff identified logical trail recommendations to help improve the existing and secured Town trail network. Additional recommendations were then solicited from BOSAC members. All of the recommendations were then reviewed and discussed individually by the commission as a whole. Finally, a draft Plan was released for public comment and discussed openly at **XXX** public BOSAC meetings. The Breckenridge Town Council then discussed the Plan in **XXX** meetings before adoption by Council **resolution** on **XXXX**.

Winter and Summer Elements

Although the previous Town Trails Plan focused primarily on summer trail uses, this Plan attempts to consider both summer and winter uses on the pertinent trails. Generally speaking, the same trails and corridors designed for summer use will also be used during winter months. This Plan attempts to comprehensively review all trails in both winter and summer, where appropriate.

Disclaimer

Although this document attempts to comprehensively review all important and unsecured winter and summer trails and accesses in the Upper Blue Basin, important trail accesses, connections and trailheads will inevitably be overlooked. Town staff is hereby instructed to consider all routes and trailheads on their own merits, and to focus primarily on those outlined in this Plan.

PLANNING AREAS

Area 1. Ski Hill Road/ Peak 8/7 base area

This planning area encompasses Ski Hill Road, Shock Hill, Cucumber Gulch Preserve and the Peaks Trail/Siberian Trail loop area west of Park Avenue.

1. Peaks Trailhead and trails

The Peaks Trail is a heavily used summer and winter trail located on the National Forest connecting the Peak 8/7 area with the Town of Frisco. There are three primary access points to the Peaks Trail, the southernmost of which, known as the Peaks Trailhead, is the most heavily used.

Residential and Alpine/Nordic ski area development has been proposed for the immediate vicinity of the Peaks Trailhead. The addition of residential units and ski area access has and will continue to adversely affect the use of the Peaks Trailhead, as visitors seeking free parking will use the trailhead to gain access the ski areas. If continued, the volume of ski area parking will overwhelm this limited parking area and displace backcountry users seeking to use the Peaks Trail.

An additional parking area, known as the Green Gate, is located north of the Peaks Trailhead and provides a secondary access to the southern end of the Peaks Trail and the New Nordic World (a.k.a. Siberian Loop). The Green Gate trailhead access is more remote and does not experience the same parking pressures as the one closer to the base of Peaks 7&8. However, the primary route that leads uphill to the trails and the lower ditch-based trail that parallels the Peaks Trail are heavily used backcountry routes whose access should be preserved for the public.

The third potential parking area for the Peaks Trail is adjacent to the water tank accessed off of 382 Slalom Drive in the Upper Slope subdivision. Although this area has limited space for a parking area, it is an important access to the National Forest that could potentially serve as a public trailhead for winter and summer uses.

Recommendation: Relocate and expand the southernmost Peaks Trailhead (**A**) to remove it from the vicinity of the residential units and ski areas. By relocating the trailhead to the north, parking pressure from Alpine and Nordic ski areas, and residential structures, would be reduced. An enlarged parking area would ensure that Peaks Trail and other backcountry users are not turned away due to lack of a public parking area. This plan should be coordinated closely with any Breckenridge Nordic Center expansion, which may include a satellite base facility in the general vicinity of the Peaks Trailhead (**A**).

Recommendation: Formalize the Green Gate (**B**) access to ensure long-term access in that location.

Recommendation: Include the lower ditch-based trail that parallels the Peaks Trail (a.k.a. the Lower Peaks Trail) in the USFS trail inventory as a designated system route for non-motorized users (**1**). Formal acceptance of this trail would require site specific NEPA for the portions on the National Forest.

Recommendation: Secure the water tank access (**C**) to provide better access for the Peak 7 area residents to the trails on the National Forest. This access would likely be the most remote for accessing the Peaks Trail, given its location at the farthest

reaches of the Peak 7 neighborhood. Pursue construction of a formal trailhead/parking area in this location. Proposed formalization of this trailhead would require site specific NEPA for the portions on the National Forest.

2. Freeride Park

The Town's Freeride Park is a mountain bike facility designed to offer beginner through expert level freeride stunts, including dirt jumps, teeter totters, log rides/skinnies, and banked turns, among others. The Freeride Park is located on a two-acre Town open space adjacent to the Four O'clock Ski Run and is a dedicated facility to meet the demand for additional freeride stunts and other elements in the mountain biking community.

Recommendation: Maintain, improve and increase the stunts in the Freeride Park. Ensure that beginning through expert levels are included to offer a safe progression for users.

Recommendation: Expand freeride opportunities throughout the existing trail system, including opportunities that are less of a terrain park model and more of an integrated series of features that provide optional alternate lines for trail users.

Recommendation: Work with the Town Recreation Department to seek suitable locations for a pump track or other facilities to serve a broader audience and provide a wet weather or early season venue for such activities.

3. Shock Hill/ Nordic Center

The Shock Hill area is nearing build out, with the construction of many of the platted lots and the pending development of the Shock Hill Lodge site. As a result, most of the historical trails in the area have been assimilated into the system as permanent trail easements. Still, some trails that have been previously used in both summer and winter are being closed as private development occurs. This build out process has been planned and anticipated, but may nonetheless surprise users unaware that the trails they have previously used are not located in secure, public trail easements.

One important and outstanding Town obligation is the construction of a replacement Nordic Center adjacent to the current Nordic Center site. Under an agreement with the Christie Heights Subdivision, the Town is required to relocate the existing Nordic Center to the Town-owned Tract C to accommodate access to Tract B of Christie Heights, which will be developed in the near future.

Recommendation: Monitor the Shock Hill trails to ensure that the trails are located in the correct corridors and as much trail access as possible is maintained.

Recommendation: Design and install appropriate trail signage to encourage users to remain on designated trails in dedicated public trail easements.

Recommendation: Relocate the Nordic Center to meet the Town's legal obligation. If a new facility is constructed, the programming needs of the Nordic Center must be taken into account. In addition, careful consideration should be given to the summer or off-hour uses of the proposed facility.

4. Cucumber Gulch Preserve

Cucumber Gulch is a precious wetland complex that serves as critical habitat for a variety of plants and animals, including the state-listed endangered Boreal Toad. Cucumber Gulch has also been a focal point for acquisition and management by the Town Open Space program since its inception. It is the only area in the Town's open space system that has garnered a "Preserve" status, due to the sensitive nature of the wetlands and the wildlife habitat.

In both summer and winter, the Cucumber Gulch Preserve is a popular destination for trail users. In summer, the area has a network of trails and interpretive platforms for non-motorized users. It also serves as an important connection between Town and the Peaks Trail. In winter, the area within the Preserve is utilized for groomed Nordic skiing for the Breckenridge Nordic Center.

Management direction for Cucumber Gulch Preserve has been outlined in the Cucumber Gulch Master Plan. Implementation of the tasks within this document is an ongoing effort for Town open space staff.

Recommendation: Continue to implement the tasks outlined in the Cucumber Gulch Recreation Master Plan. Monitor trail conditions and use within the Cucumber Gulch Preserve and adjust trail alignment and management accordingly.

Recommendation: Work cooperatively with Nordic area concessionaires to ensure appropriate winter management of Cucumber Gulch Preserve.

5. Claimjumper/Recreation Center Connection

The Town Recreation Center is an important trailhead and landmark, as well as an excellent recreational amenity. In 2006, the Valley Brook Trailhead was displaced by the construction of the new Town Police facility and the trailhead location was moved to the southern portion of the Recreation Center parking area adjacent to Kingdom Park. This trailhead relocation makes the Recreation Center an important departure point for trail users. In addition, the Town is in active negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service to acquire the Claimjumper parcel, in part for open space and trail values.

Recommendation: As outlined in the previous Trails Plan, connect the Town Recreation Center and the Breckenridge Nordic Center via a trail (2). The trail could be located on the north-facing slope above the Claimjumper Condominiums (within the Cucumber Creek drainage) and would connect to either the existing Pence Miller Trail or the Black Loop of the Nordic Center. This proposed route is on the Claimjumper parcel of the Snake River Land Exchange, proposed to be

acquired by the Town. If the land is not acquired by the Town, site specific NEPA would be required for new trail construction on the National Forest.

6. Timber Trail

The Timber Trail subdivision is located adjacent to Breckenridge Ski Area and the ski area vehicle maintenance facility. As part of the subdivision agreement, a public trail easement was dedicated to connect the ski area summer trails with the Four O'clock summer trail and the F&D Placer. This trail would connect the Pioneer Trail on the ski area to the junction of Four O'clock summer trail above the Freeride Park.

Recommendation: Construct a functional, sustainable summer trail (3) along the existing easement within the Timber Trail subdivision to ensure access between the Peak 8 ski area trails and the Four O'clock trail/F&D Placer trails.

7. Peak 7 Neighborhood Connections

The Peak 7 Neighborhood is outside of Breckenridge Town boundaries in unincorporated Summit County, but is home to many local residents who work and recreate in Town. Currently, there is no functional trail connection between the Peak 7 neighborhood and Town, although some possibilities exist. Such a trail would provide a more direct route to Town for commuting and recreating. Similarly, there is an existing network of neighborhood trails that begin on western edge of the Peak 7 subdivision area and connect to the Peaks Trail, the New Nordic World (a.k.a. Siberian Loop) and ultimately the Tenmile Range. These existing trail connections are popular for both summer and winter trail uses.

Recommendation: Work cooperatively with Summit County Government open space planners to identify and secure a trail route from Town to the Peak 7 neighborhood (4), which would serve both recreational and commuting purposes. One suggestion is to construct a new trail route along the boundary of the Crestwood and Discovery subdivisions, then on to Town property behind the Public Works facility.

Recommendation: Strive to identify and secure the viable and sustainable neighborhood connections between the Peak 7 neighborhood area and the Peaks Trails and other trails to the west. Any routes that tie into the Peaks Trail, or any other system trail on the National Forest, require communication and coordination with the USFS to ensure the tie points are acceptable. In addition, if a non-system trail is being proposed to become a system trail, site specific NEPA would be required.

8. New Nordic World/Peak 6 Expansion

The New Nordic World is the Breckenridge Nordic Center expansion area west of County Road 3/Ski Hill Road, including the area around the Siberian Loop. The Breckenridge Nordic Center is currently working on a Master Plan for additional Nordic ski trails, a base lodge and other facilities and parking on National Forest

lands. The base area proposal is for the area adjacent to the Peaks Trailhead parking lot. The Decision Notice that approved trail construction for the New Nordic World was approved on September 2, 1994. Additional Nordic ski terrain and accompanying facilities will require additional NEPA analysis and, if approved, would significantly change the recreational access dynamics for the area, including but not limited to parking and backcountry ski access.

The Breckenridge Ski Area (BSA) is also proposing an expansion of its ski area to include portions of Peak 6. This proposed expansion would limit backcountry ski terrain and access by placing more lift served skiers in a popular backcountry skiing zone. Requiring lift passes for use of the Peak 6 area would also limit historically popular backcountry ski access points.

Recommendation: Continue to work with the U.S. Forest Service, the operators of the Breckenridge Nordic Center (BNC) and the Backcountry Snowsports Alliance to ensure that the New Nordic World benefits a broad spectrum of the recreating public, including backcountry skiers and summer users. The Town would need to work with the BNC operators to determine routes and present them to the USFS for review and approval under the BNC permit conditions.

Recommendation: Work closely with the BSA and USFS to delineate and maximize backcountry ski access and terrain in the Peak 6/5 area.

9. Iowa Hill Trailhead

The Iowa Hill Trail is an historical interpretive loop trail that provides visitors and residents an opportunity to learn about the workings of an hydraulic mine. Access to the trail is facilitated by a sizeable trailhead located on Airport Road.

Recommendation: Assess the amount and type of winter use on this trail, as well as the potential future need for plowing the trailhead (D).

10. American Way access

There is an existing access point on American Way (CR 3) that provides access to several roads and trails on the National Forest, including the Peaks Trail. This gated access is currently signed as non-motorized by the USFS, but the routes beyond the gate have not been widely recognized or designated by the USFS as system routes.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS to designate the gated access point on American Way as a legal access for winter and summer use. Recognize the roads and trails beyond the gate as non-motorized system routes on the National Forest.

Area 2. Core/Upper Four Seasons Areas

This area includes the center or core of the Town of Breckenridge and the area directly to the west, including the Four Seasons and Beaver Run areas, and including the Snowflake/Tyra area and the F&D placer. **Please see map XXXX.**

1. Riverwalk Connection

Despite the successful restoration of the Blue River through Town and the popularity of the Riverwalk Center and Blue River Plaza, the Town still lacks a clear, safe bicycle route through the center of Town. The current route, which begins at the southern terminus of the Blue River Recreational Pathway (Watson Ave.), sends cyclists down a poorly signed alley west of Main Street, across Ski Hill Road, through parking lots, and into the Blue River Plaza, which is technically closed to cyclists. This existing route is poorly designed, insufficiently marked, unsafe and unwelcoming. Other parallel options, including Park Avenue/Highway 9 and Main Street are less desirable due to traffic volumes and street side parking, respectively.

Recommendation: Work to identify and appropriately delineate a cycling route through the center of Town to create effective and safe passage between Watson Avenue, where the current pathway ends, and the junction of Boreas Pass Road and Highway 9, where another proposed pathway could begin. Specifically, a north/south bike route needs to be secured and identified along the Blue River through Town.

2. The Burro Trail Accesses

The Burro Trail is an important non-motorized trail that runs north/south from the Base of Peak 9 on the Breckenridge Ski Area to Spruce Creek Road. The trail is a heavily used winter and summer recreational route that also provides a crucial commuting route for some subdivisions south of Town. There are several unsecured trail accesses that lead to the Burro Trail, many of which have no legal trailhead parking and generally serve as neighborhood trail accesses. In addition, recent and continued development of the Peak 9 base area has blocked or confused the access to the southern end of the Burro Trail, particularly during winter months when the ski area is in operation.

Recommendation: Assess and secure several Burro trail accesses where possible. The Sunrise Point/Sunrise Ridge accesses are perhaps the most critical (5). Seek trailhead parking opportunities whenever possible and practical. Work with the Breckenridge Ski Resort operators to clarify and improve the southern Burro Trail access in winter for backcountry users.

2. Park Avenue/Highway 9

In 2005, Colorado State Highway 9 through Breckenridge was officially switched from Main Street to Park Avenue in an effort to reduce vehicular traffic on Main Street and improve through traffic efficiency. The construction of the BreckConnect gondola and the Skiway/Skyway project, which connects the Four O'clock ski run with Park Avenue at Morning Thunder, has also increased winter pedestrian traffic along both sides of Park Avenue. Park Avenue has therefore become a much busier street with additional pedestrians and vehicles. Proposed development of the vacant Watson and Sawmill/Gondola parking lots will only continue the increase of traffic on Park Avenue in the future. Currently, bicycling

lanes and a sidewalk on the eastern side of the street facilitate pedestrian and cyclist use.

Recommendation: Construct a grade separated sidewalk on the western side of Park Avenue (6) to accommodate additional pedestrian traffic along Park Avenue, particularly ski area guests seeking to connect the bottom of the Skiway/Skyway with the Gold Rush Lot and Parkway Center.

3. Klack Placer

The Town holds a drainage and pedestrian for a portion of the Klack Placer between the Breckenridge Elementary School and the Colorado Mountain College building. Currently, no trail exists through this corridor or in the existing Town owned easement.

Recommendation: Create a soft surface trail along the Klack Placer pedestrian easement (7) to create a safe, off street connection for Breckenridge Elementary students and other pedestrians through the center of Town. The trail should not be paved and should not facilitate vehicular access to the backsides of the existing homes.

3. The Cedars/Trails End Connection

Residents and guests of the condominiums on Village Road and Primrose Path, (including Valdoro, Four Seasons, Chimney Ridge, Elk Ridge, etc.) have long sought a direct pedestrian connection to Quicksilver Lift. The Cedars and Trails End condominiums are located directly between these residential complexes and the ski lift, and a social trail has developed along the property line between the Cedars and Trail's End. The Cedars homeowners association has approached the Town in the hopes of solving the problem through the delineation and dedication of a trail easement.

Recommendation: Continue to work with the area homeowners associations to secure a legal trail easement to connect the south end of Primrose Path with the bottom of the Quicksilver ski lift (8). The most functional and feasible route would likely be between the Cedars and Trails End Condominium complexes.

4. F&D Placer to Burro connection

The F&D Placer is a popular destination for Town residents and guests due to the presence of multiple soft surface trails, a reservoir, and the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center. The area is very trail accessible and could be improved as a connection to the larger trail network on the National Forest, the Breckenridge Ski Area and points beyond.

Recommendation: Work with the Breckenridge Ski Area and USFS to establish and clearly mark a connection from the southern portion of the Reservoir Trail, across a portion of the ski area, to the Burro Trail for summer use (9). Portions of

this proposed route on the National Forest would require site specific NEPA to be accepted as a portion of the travel system.

5. Maggie Pond access

Maggie Pond is an important Town landmark surrounded by high density, multi unit residential structures. When occupied, these residential units provide a bed base for the Town and the ski area. Unfortunately, as the Village at Breckenridge, Main Street Station and the Four Seasons were developed, no east/west public pedestrian or bicycle access was retained or secured. This lack of public trail access around Maggie Pond is a serious impediment to non-motorized trail circulation from the south end of Main Street to the ski area and other trails to the west (e.g. Burro Trail, Warriors Mark Trail).

Recommendation: Create and secure a public, non-motorized access around Maggie Pond (**10**) so that visitors and residents can access the historic pond, Town trails, BSA trails, and the Burro Trail from the southern end of Main Street (Main Street Station). The potential redevelopment of the Village at Breckenridge may present the opportunity to secure a public access around Maggie Pond.

6. Four O'clock Ski Run

The Four O'clock Ski Run is a critical downhill winter connection that brings alpine skiers and snowboarders from the Breckenridge Ski Area to the center of Town. For summer uses, the ski run is also an important non-motorized trail connection that has been secured by the Town as a summer non-motorized trail. Although legal summer access exists on Four O'clock Ski Run, the trail itself is largely down the fall line and is therefore in need of additional drainage and realignment work.

Recommendation: Improve and maintain the summer single track that has been established on the Four O'clock Ski Run. Significant drainage and realignment work is needed to ensure the long-term functionality of the trail. Given the fall-line nature of the summer trail alignment, this will likely require consistent maintenance and investment. However, the trail is an important enough connection to warrant such expenditures of time and money.

7. Maggie Placer trail

The Maggie Placer is a parcel located along Highway 9 adjacent to Woods Manor and the Ski and Racquet Club Condominiums. A social trail used mostly for commuting purposes is located on the western boundary of the Maggie Placer.

Recommendation: Secure legal access for this non-motorized trail along the western boundary of the Maggie Placer (**11**).

Area 3. Breckenridge South

This area includes the remaining portions of the Upper Blue Basin south of Boreas Pass Road and the F&D Placer. The area includes Warrior's Mark, the Town of Blue River, Southside, and areas south to Hoosier Pass.

1. Boreas Pass sidewalk

Boreas Pass Road is a major connection from Town to the trails and residential on the flanks of Bald Mountain (Baldy). Currently, there is a sidewalk for much of the length of the Boreas Pass Road within Town limits. However, the sidewalk does not connect all the way to the signalized junction of Highway 9 and Boreas Pass Road.

Recommendation: Complete the sidewalk connection along Boreas Pass Road (12) to improve pedestrian circulation on the south end of Town.

2. Aspen Grove/Aspen Alley trail

There is a heavily used singletrack trail that connects upper Boreas Pass Road (at Baker's Tank trailhead/end of winter maintenance) with lower Boreas Pass Road (at the entrance to the Wakefield Ranch). Known as the Aspen Grove Trail or Aspen Alley, this trail is a vitally important connection from the Baker's Tank area, on the flanks of Baldy, to Town. The trail is poorly designed, however and would need to be realigned to sustainably accommodate two-way non-motorized traffic. The trail is located largely on National Forest lands, although the bottom section has been secured by Summit County through an easement on private property.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS to establish the Aspen Grove Trail (13) as a designated system route. Realign the trail to sustainably accommodate two-way non-motorized traffic.

3. Wakefield trailhead

The Town owns an open space parcel that includes the entrance to the Wakefield Ranch, located on Boreas Pass Road. Currently, the entryway contains an array of mining relics and a restored cabin. The Aspen Grove and the Wakefield/Blue River Trails also merge in this location.

Recommendation: Consider improving the entryway to the Wakefield Ranch with a small trailhead parking area (2-3 cars) to be plowed in winter (E). Secure, monitor or relocate some of the historical artifacts to ensure their interpretive and other public values.

4. Little Mountain

Little Mountain is located south of Boreas Pass adjacent to the Stephen C. West Ice Arena, where the rodeo grounds once stood. The equestrian use in the area created a network of trails that have since been largely consolidated, improved or newly constructed (Southside, Rodeo and Illinois Creek Trails). Although these

trails form a discreet loop, the main trail continues across private property and connects to the Summit County-managed Wakefield/Blue River Trail to the south.

Recommendation: Secure legal access for a sustainable trail that climbs on the south side of Little Mountain and connects to the Wakefield/Blue River Trail (14). Consolidate, improve or reconstruct the existing braided trail network.

5. Blue River/ Hoosier Pass repath

Summit County has a world class, 48 mile paved repath system, in which the Town owns and manages 3.6 miles. Paved repaths serve commuting and recreational needs for area residents while also drawing visitors and special events. Summit County Government manages the majority of the repath system (25 miles) and is currently working to construct the 4.8-mile Swan Mountain Repath to complete a grade-separated repath loop around Dillon Reservoir. One of the final missing sections in this overall paved system is a connection from the southern end of Town, through the Town of Blue River, to Hoosier Pass and the boundary with Park County. Though challenging and expensive to build and maintain, this trail connection would complete the arterial repath needs for the Upper Blue Basin and enable additional recreational and commuting use south of Town.

Recommendation: Complete a grade-separated repath from the junction of Boreas Pass Road and Highway 9 to Hoosier Pass (15). Work cooperatively with CDOT, the Town of Blue River, Summit County, the USFS and other partners to build and design small sections to achieve this ambitious vision. Any portions of this proposed route on the National Forest would be subject to site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

6. Bekkedal/Gold King (lots 1&2) to Burro connection

Residents from the Warrior's Mark, Bekkedal, Gold King and Crown Subdivisions have long used old mining-era routes to connect from their homes to the Burro Trail and other recreational routes to the west. However, as these subdivisions get closer to build out, the mining route-based social trails are in danger of being formally closed to the public. The primary route (the "Flintstone Trail") to be secured connects from the Warrior's Mark subdivision along Flintstone Lane, crosses Gold King lots 1&2 and connects to Silver Queen Road. A second important connection ("Cabin Trail") starts from Quail Estates lot 1 (Blue Flag Drive) and traverses across Gold King Placer lots 9.5, 10, 11 and connects to the Burro Trail on the National Forest from there. There likely many others, all of which could be better evaluated for inclusion in a functional public trail network.

Recommendation: Inventory remaining social trails in the greater Warrior's Mark/Bekkedal/Crown/Gold King area. Secure legal public access for existing social trails to improve connectivity to Town, the Burro Trail and the rest of the area trail network. Focus particularly on the "Flintstone Trail" (16) located south

of Flintstone Lane, and the “Cabin Trail” (17) that connects Bekkedal to the Burro Trail (both roughly described above). Work to maintain the existing non-motorized winter recreation opportunities in the area. Any portions of these proposed routes on the National Forest would be subject to site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

7. Ski Area equestrian trails

Currently, there is a permitted equestrian guide operation on the Peak 9 area of the ski area. The Breckenridge Ski Area (BSA) has proposed to relocate the stables operation to another location. However, the legacy of the Peak 9 stables operation is a network of duplicative and eroded trails located both within and outside of the ski area boundaries.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS and BSA to define, restore and reconstruct the equestrian trails to sustainable and maintainable alignments. If the equestrian operation relocates off of the ski area, prioritize the retention of the best trails and work cooperatively to define the existing and sustainable routes to be retained for the overall trail network.

8. Now Colorado-Silver Queen connection

Completed in 2006, the Warrior’s Mark Trail provides a heavily traveled summer and winter commuting route between the Warrior’s Mark area and Town. Significant use on the trail has highlighted a need to better connect the Gold King, Sunrise Ridge, Sunrise Point and other subdivisions south of Warrior’s Mark to the Warrior’s Mark Trail. Currently, many people walk, ride or even ski the roads (including White Cloud, Warrior’s Mark, Broken Lance and others) to access the Warrior’s Mark Trail and reach the ski area and Town. Some area roads, such as Silver Queen and Gold King are suitable for recreational skiing and cycling, while others (White Cloud, Warrior’s Mark) are less desirable and less safe.

Recommendation: Design and construct a new singletrack trail connection from the southern terminus of the Warrior’s Mark Trail to Silver Queen Road behind (west and north) of Now Colorado (18). Carefully design and consider the White Cloud road crossing and wetland impacts on the hillside. Consider additional alignments to improve trail connectivity in Warrior’s Mark area and south.

9. Riverwood trail

A trail easement was dedicated through the Riverwood subdivision that, when coupled with an existing right of way between lot 6, block 5 and lot 14, block 6 of the Bekkedal subdivision, would establish a functional trail connection between Bekkedal and Warrior’s Mark. Construction of this trail would improve recreational and commuting in the area.

Recommendation: Construct the Riverwood trail between the Bekkedal and Warrior’s Mark subdivisions in the existing dedicated easement and the dedicated right of way (19).

10. Breckenridge Park Estates trailhead

Breckenridge Park Estates is located in unincorporated Summit County east of Boreas Pass Road at CR 528. There are multiple gated entries from the western edge of Breck Park Estates to National Forest lands on the western flanks of Mt. Baldy. In summer, these access points are used by non-motorized users to reach the many singletrack trails (Pinball Alley, Baker's Tank, Mountain Pride etc.) and shared use routes (Iowa Mill etc.) on Baldy. In winter, these routes provide access to the same routes for touring and access to the heavily skied west face of Baldy. Plowing a limited number of parking spots at these gates (along CR 532 and CR 531 in particular) would improve winter non-motorized trail access in that area.

Recommendation: Plow additional area at the green gates on CR 532 (F) and CR 531 (G) to improve non-motorized winter access to Baldy. (USFS Comment: We believe there is adequate winter parking at the existing Boreas Pass trailhead that is already plowed by Summit County. We do not see a need for public parking at this location without site specific NEPA and a needs analysis for the limited number of people that use it and the cost to build and maintain (plow) a winter trailhead.)

Recommendation: Ensure that route 21, which connects from these gates to the Baker's Tank Trail, is designated system routes on the National Forest. Secure a trail easement for the portion of route 20 that crosses private property.

11. Fredonia Gulch trailhead

Fredonia Gulch is an important winter and summer access and historical road that travels east from the Town of Blue River into National Forest lands. Parking for this important trail is unsecured for public access. Improved winter plowing would also enhance access to this important non-motorized trail.

Recommendation: Secure a trailhead easement and improve winter plowing for the trailhead at Fredonia Gulch (H). (USFS Comment: We do not see a need for public parking at this location without site specific NEPA and a needs analysis for the limited number of people that use it and the cost to build and maintain (plow) a winter trailhead.)

12. Bemrose Ski Circus

The Bemrose Ski Circus is a trail network located on National Forest lands south of Alpine Breck and Tordal Estates, below Hoosier Pass. Currently, access to this important winter touring area is achieved via two small parking spots along Highway 9 and CR 676. Both of these accesses need to be secured legally and improved to accommodate more cars. Also, the Bemrose trails themselves could be improved to better accommodate summer use.

Recommendation: Expand, improve or relocate the current Bemrose Ski Circus parking areas on CR 676 (I) and Highway 9 (J). (USFS Comment: We do not see

a need for public parking at this location without site specific NEPA and a needs analysis for the limited number of people that use it and the cost to build and maintain (plow) a winter trailhead.)

Recommendation: Redesign or better maintain Bemrose trails to improve summer use and protect the wetland resources.

13. Wheeler Trail resurrection

The Wheeler Trail is an historical herding route and current National Recreational Trail that connects Copper Mountain with Hoosier Pass. The majority of this non-motorized trail is well defined, albeit in need of minor reroutes and maintenance. However, the southern end of this historical and nationally recognized trail, between McCullough Gulch and Hoosier Pass, has been lost due to private development.

Recommendation: Resurrect the southern portion of the Wheeler Trail to connect McCullough Gulch with Hoosier Pass (22). Reroute minor portions of the existing Wheeler Trail to improve drainage and avoid moist tundra areas.

14. Pennsylvania Gulch and Indiana Creek Road winter access

Pennsylvania Gulch and Indiana Creek Roads are adjacent to one another, south of Town. Both routes travel through private subdivisions, then cross onto National Forest lands and serve as winter and summer recreational routes. In winter, however, plowing and recreational snowmobiling make the routes undesirable for non-motorized users.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS to post (with blue diamonds) and prune parallel non-motorized winter-only routes along Indiana Creek Road (to Boreas Pass Road) (23) and Pennsylvania Gulch Road (24). These parallel, winter only routes should be monitored to ensure that summer routes in the same alignments do not develop. (USFS Comments: In the proposed Travel Management Plan, winter non-motorized users can travel cross-country throughout the National Forest and don't have to stay on designated routes. Therefore, we do not see a need to establish a marked parallel non-motorized winter route, especially since a summer route would likely develop as a result.)

15. Spruce Creek Trail spur

The Spruce Creek Road and Spruce Creek Trail create a popular loop for non-motorized users south of Town in both summer and winter. The Spruce Creek Road is a high clearance vehicle route open to all uses, while the Spruce Creek Trail is a non-motorized winter and summer route. There is an historic ditch that travels south from the Spruce Creek Trail and connects to the Wheeler Trail. This ditch spur offers a good connection from the Spruce Creek Trail to the Wheeler Trail for both summer and winter.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS to designate the Spruce Creek flume spur a system route (25), then work to ensure access along this route is limited to non-motorized users for both winter and summer access. Any portions of this proposed route on the National Forest would be subject to site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

16. Lehman Gulch Trail

The Breckenridge Ski Area has a diverse network of trails that cross several of the peaks included in the ski area boundary. Many of these routes are well designed and maintained, while a few need minor reroutes to become more sustainable and user friendly. One ski area trail, in particular, has been identified as needing additional realignment and maintenance. The ski area trail that travels down Lehman Gulch offers a valuable connection between the upper reaches of the Peak 9 area and connects to the top of Chair A, which serves the main Peak 9 road. This trail needs realignment to avoid wetland areas and maintenance to improve drainage.

Recommendation: Work with BSA and USFS to improve the alignment and maintenance of the Lehman Gulch Trail in the Peak 9 portion of the ski area (26).

17. Monte Cristo Trail redesign

The Monte Cristo Trail is a popular summer hiking destination, located above Blue Lakes, south of Town. Although quite popular, this trail is in need of maintenance and realignment to reduce trail braiding and improve drainage.

Recommendation: Work with the USFS to improve trail drainage and formalize a single tread alignment for the Monte Cristo Trail (27).

18. Spruce Valley Ranch trails

The existing Spruce Valley Ranch stables route is a popular non-motorized trail that connects Spruce Valley Ranch/Indiana Creek Road with Boreas Pass Road. Although quite popular, the route is poorly aligned and maintained. Similarly, there is a social trail located off of lower Indiana Creek Road that roughly parallels Indiana Creek and between Mount Argentine Road and the Wakefield/Blue River Trail. Although in need of some minor rerouting and drainage work, this trail is a valuable connection for the public through Spruce Valley Ranch.

Recommendation: Secure legal public access to the private portions of the Stables (28) and lower Indiana Creek Trails (29) while also working with the USFS to establish the portion of the Stables Trail on the National Forest as a system route. Work with both the USFS and Spruce Valley Ranch to realign the Stables and lower Indiana Creek Trails to improve drainage and user experience.

19. Baker's Tank area trails

The Baker's Tank Trail is a very popular winter and summer USFS non-motorized route that traverses the lower western flank of Baldy between the historical water tank and a trailhead on Boreas Pass Road. Baker's Tank also connects to several other important trails such as the Mountain Pride Trail, Pinball Alley and the Iowa Mill Road. Together, these routes represent much of usable non-motorized network on Baldy, which is within the Backcountry Non-motorized Recreation prescription in the White River National Forest Plan. In addition to these primary routes, there are several others that receive sizeable non-motorized use, including the Powerline Trail and a ditch that parallels Boreas Pass Road, south of Baker's Tank. Slightly farther south along Boreas Pass Road is a trail that connects the road with Indiana Creek Road. Although unsustainable in its current alignment, this trail provides an important connection from Boreas Pass Road to the Indiana Creek drainage trails.

Recommendation: Establish Pinball Alley (30) and Mountain Pride Trails (31) as system routes on the National Forest.

Recommendation: Construct new system route on the ditch south of Baker's Tank to provide a parallel, non-motorized route to Boreas Pass Road between Baker's Tank and the Indiana Creek Road (32). Any portions of this proposed route on the National Forest would be subject to site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

Recommendation: Realign the Powerline Trail (33) and establish this loop route as a non-motorized system route on the National Forest.

Recommendation: Realign connection between Boreas Pass Road and Indiana Creek and establish this connection as a USFS system route.

20. Dyersville trail

The Dyersville Trail is a singletrack that connects the historical town of Dyersville to the upper portions of Indiana Creek. Although in need of minor realignments due to unsustainable grades, this route is an important recreational trail in the Indiana Creek basin.

Recommendation: Establish the Dyersville Trail (34) as a formal system route on the National Forest. Realign minor portions of the trail to improve grade, sustainability and user experience. Any portions of this route on the National Forest would be subject to site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

21. Alpine Breckenridge/ Blue Lakes connection

Non-motorized trail connections between the Alpine Breckenridge/ Tordal Estates area and Blue Lakes are limited, although there is one trail used in both winter and summer that connects between lot 15, block 2 of Alpine Breckenridge and

Blue Lakes Road (CR 855). This route is especially important in winter months, when the McDill Placer Road is plowed.

Recommendation: Secure legal access to the Alpine Breckenridge to Blue Lakes connection (35).

22. Hunter Claims trail

Also in the Tordal Estates area is an historical mining road that starts on lot 61 of the Valley of the Blue subdivision and connects to the Hunter mining claims, two inholdings within the National Forest. This route receives heavy local use by neighborhood residents. Summit County Government has secured legal public access to the bottom portion of this neighborhood trail, but the USFS has not designated the upper portion as a system trail.

Recommendation: Designate the upper portions of the Hunter Claims route as a non-motorized route on the National Forest (36).

23. McCullough Gulch trail

McCullough Gulch is an important access that connects the Summit County-owned McCullough Gulch open space parcel with the upper McCullough Gulch road and the Wheeler Trailhead. The Town of Blue River approved the McCullough Gulch Preserve subdivision, which blocks the historic access to the general public, but allows access by Town of Blue River residents. Summit County and the Town of Breckenridge have sought to reestablish this public access, or recreate a parallel route on the National Forest to reconnect the McCullough Gulch Trailhead with the historical McCullough Gulch Road.

Recommendation: Work with Summit County, the USFS and the Town of Blue River to secure legal non-motorized public access to the lower portion of the McCullough Gulch Road (37).

Recommendation: Work to narrow the McCullough Gulch road to promote development of a singletrack trail. (USFS Comment: This road is included in the proposed Travel Management Plan as open to motorized users during the summer using the existing two-track road profile.)

Area 4. East Side/ French Creek

This area includes portions of the Upper Blue Basin east of Town, including the flanks of Bald Mountain, the Golden Horseshoe, and the Swan River above Four Mile Bridge.

1. Moonstone Trail reroute

The Moonstone Trail is a popular singletrack trail that connects the top of the Carter Park Trail and the bottom of the Barney Ford Trail. Although the trail was rerouted once from its original user-created alignment, the current alignment

drains poorly, lacks “flow” and fails to utilize much of the available open space parcel in the area.

Recommendation: Realign the Moonstone trail to improve drainage and user experience.

2. Breck South connections

The junction at the eastern end of the Hermit Placer Trail and the top of the Jack’s Cruel Joke Trail offers two potential trail connections to complete a functional trail network in the area. To the southeast, the historical ditch used to create the Hermit Placer Trail continues, until it dead-ends in the Tyrollean Terrace subdivision in front of an existing residence. Although easily created due to the existing ditch, this trail is problematic due to its terminus in the driveway of an existing home (Lot 29 Tyrollean Terrace).

The second potential trail alignment would be more straightforward from a private property standpoint, but more challenging in terms of trail construction. A trail could be designed and constructed on open space lands to connect the Hermit Place/Jack’s Cruel Joke junction with Boreas Pass Road near the pump station across Boreas Pass Road from the Breckenridge South subdivision. Either of these completed trails would provide a valuable connection for the subdivisions in Illinois Creek area to access the primary Town trail network.

Recommendation: Design and construct one or both of the two potential trail connections between the Hermit Placer/Jack’s Cruel Joke junction and the Breckenridge South or Tyrollean Terrace subdivisions (**38**).

3. Weisshorn utility corridor

A social trail exists between the east end of Lincoln Ave (at the base of the Lincoln Trail) and Gold Flake Road, along a utility corridor behind homes in the Weisshorn subdivision. This trail provides a safe trail alternative to the hill on Wellington Road.

Recommendation: Assess options for securing public access to the social trail within the utility easement behind the Weisshorn (**39**).

4. BBC/Weisshorn connection

Behind the current location of the Breckenridge Building Center (soon to be relocated near Tiger Road on Highway 9) is a trail that connects Briar Rose Road with Royal Tiger Road in the Weisshorn subdivision. This social trail is a heavily used connection between the French Creek trails and Town.

Recommendation: Secure public access for the social trail between Briar Rose and Royal Tiger Roads behind the Breckenridge Building Center (**40**).

5. Kenington Place /Reiling Road recpath

With its construction of the sidewalk along Wellington Road from Main Street to the Reiling Road junction, and the installation of a path down Reiling Road to French Creek/Valdoro Village, the Town has invested in the creation of a grade separated pathway system from Town into the French Gulch valley. However, important connections still need to be made, including along Reiling Road between the Vista Point subdivision and Highway 9 (in front of Kenington Place). This section would be located entirely in unincorporated Summit County, but the beneficiaries of such a finalized connection would be visitors and residents in and around Breckenridge.

Recommendation: Encourage the completion of a grade separated repath between the Highway 9/CR 450 junction up Reiling Road through French Creek to the existing Vista Point pathway (41) to encourage safe commuting and recreation along this increasingly busy road.

6. Huron Heights ditch trail

At the junction of Reiling, French Gulch and Wellington Roads, a historical wagon route travels uphill and east, ultimately connecting to a ditch that could easily be developed into a non-motorized trail. The ditch travels northwest through private property (part of the Western Sky Ranch PUD) on a dedicated trail easement, across National Forest lands, then to private property on the Alice A. Placer and the Huron Heights subdivision. Establishment of this historical road and ditch as a non-motorized trail would greatly enhance connectivity between the Flumes (Upper/Middle/Lower) system of trails and the French Gulch valley

Recommendation: Strive to secure additional legal accesses to establish public access along the historical ditch between the Wellington and Huron Heights subdivisions (42).

8. Wellington Neighborhood sidewalk

The Wellington Neighborhood is a growing neighborhood in the French Gulch valley that tends to house numerous young, local families. Currently, there is no safe, grade-separated connection between the junction of Reiling, French Gulch and Wellington Roads and the Wellington Neighborhood. Such a connection would provide a safe connection between a densely populated area, the Little Red School House and Town.

Recommendation: Construct a grade separated sidewalk or repath connection between the junction of Reiling, French Gulch and Wellington Roads and the Wellington Neighborhood (along French Gulch Road) (43) to help get young families off of the road as they walk or bicycle to Town.

9. Wellington and B&B Trail connection

The Wellington and B&B Trails are recently opened trails in French Gulch that are likely to become some of the more heavily utilized routes in the Upper Blue Basin, given their proximity to high density residential areas. Currently, the

Wellington Trail dead-ends at a river crossing that will hopefully be remedied through the construction of a bridge in summer 2008. This trail will provide convenient recreational access for the Town stables and the Wellington Neighborhood residents, among others. The B&B Trail is a north-facing route east of the Wellington Trail in the French Gulch valley. Connecting these two trails across the Country Boy Mine property or open space properties would provide an accessible trail from the Wellington Neighborhood and Town stables to the Reiling Dredge and remove recreational traffic from French Gulch Road.

Recommendation: Design and construct a connection between the Wellington and B&B Trails (44) to provide an alternate, non-motorized route to French Gulch Road.

10. Upper Spiral Stairs reconstruction

The Spiral Stairs trail is a Summit County-managed route along the northern boundary of the Ranch at Breckenridge subdivision. Although a large portion of the Spiral Stairs trail is located on a trail easement managed by Summit County, the upper portion of the trail, which connects to several routes on the western flank of Baldy, is located on private property with no trail easement. As a result of trespass concerns, the landowner recently closed the upper portion of the trail.

Recommendation: Work with Summit County Government and area landowners to reestablish and secure the upper portion of Spiral Stairs through a trail easement (45).

11. Golden Horseshoe

The Golden Horseshoe (GH) is an approximately 9,000-acre area east of Town that is largely in public ownership, between the National Forest and Town/County open space lands. The GH is also an important recreational resource for a variety of user groups, including motorized users. Between 2005 and 2007, the Town, County and USFS worked through a consensus-based planning process with members of the public to develop a recommendation for the type, distribution and amount of recreational access in the Golden Horseshoe. The final recommendations, for both winter and summer uses, were then forwarded to the USFS for consideration and inclusion in the travel management planning process for the White River National Forest.

The final GH maps offered by the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission and Summit County's Open Space Advisory Council to the USFS remains the blueprint recommendation for this area, but two important trails were left off of the map: the Squatter's Trail on the Cosie D placer and an unnamed route that traverses the Western Sky Ranch PUD, paralleling CR 484. These two routes provide parallel options to plowed County Roads that will experience additional use in the coming years.

Recommendation: Secure legal public access for the Squatter's Trail (46) and the trail that parallels CR 484 through the Western Sky Ranch PUD (47). Any portions of these routes on the National Forest would require site specific NEPA analysis to be included in the USFS travel system.

12. Lower Flume winter use trailhead

Parking access to the Town's Flumes Trails (Lower/Middle/Upper) have always been limited, particularly during winter months when trailhead parking is at a premium. There appears to be an opportunity to establish a small winter use trailhead behind the County Road and Bridge maintenance buildings between the Kenington Townhomes and the recycling center. Such a trailhead would serve winter users seeking to ski or snowshoe the Flumes Trails.

Recommendation: Work with Summit County Government to establish and consistently plow a small trailhead (K) behind the County maintenance buildings adjacent to the Kenington Townhomes and the recycling center.

13. Block 11

The Block 11/Airport Road area is slated for a Town commissioned affordable housing subdivision and the new campus for the Colorado Mountain College. At present, the Block 11 parcel is a vacant dredge rock strewn area that serves as ski area parking and Town snow stacking during the winter and experiences little activity in the summer. However, the parcel could soon be densely populated with residential housing and a college campus, which would in turn create a strong demand for commuting and recreational trails. Some of the primary trail needs identified for Block 11 include: multiple natural surface trails to connect the proposed neighborhood to the River Trail and the Blue River; a paved pathway and sidewalk system to provide effective circulation around the entire parcel; efficient trails to connect the Block 11 area with the Valley Brook child care facility, the Recreation Center and Town core; and recreational trail connections to the north (McCain property), east (Flumes) and west (CR 3).

Recommendation: Continue involvement in the planning for Block 11 parcel to ensure viable commuting and recreational routes (48) within the parcel and well planned connects to other areas from the parcel.

14. Brown Gulch Trailhead

The base of Brown Gulch in the Swan River drainage (upper Tiger Road) is an important winter and summer access point for non-motorized users accessing many of the routes in the Golden Horseshoe. Additional plowing of the existing small parking area at the base of Brown Gulch would greatly improve winter access for non-motorized users.

Recommendation: Improve plowing in the small trailhead parking area (L) located between the Horseshoe Gulch Trail head and the Tiger town site.

15. Good Times/Middle Fork Parking area

A Summit County Government negotiated an easement for a limited non-motorized parking area along Tiger Road at the junction of the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Swan Road (Mascot and Swan River Placers). The easement is for a small portion of a large parking area that serves guests of the Good Times snowmobiling operation. Parking can be at a premium during peak use times and the non-motorized parking allotment can be overtaken by motorized users and guests of Good Times.

Recommendation: Work with Summit County Government and the snowmobiling concessionaire to ensure adequate parking for non-motorized users (M) at the junction of the Middle and South Fork of the Swan Roads.

16. Summit Estates/Discovery Hill trails

Recreational access into the Golden Horseshoe from the northwest has been complicated by the failure to secure trail access from the Summit Estates subdivision. The Discovery Ridge subdivision contains multiple dedicated trail easements, but several of the routes do not yet exist. Completing the platted trails in Discovery Hill and securing additional trail easements across the Summit Estates subdivision would greatly improve non-motorized access from the Delaware Flats and Summit Estates area. A through connection would also greatly benefit the proposed Gold Run Nordic Center expansion by connecting Golden Horseshoe routes with Pegasus, a winter groomed route on the Breckenridge Golf Course.

Recommendation: Work with the Summit Estates homeowners to research and secure public trail access through Summit Estates to the Golden Horseshoe area (49) to improve summer access and winter Nordic skiing connections.

Recommendation: Complete the dedicated trail network in the Discovery Hill subdivision (50).



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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SUMMIT COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**Summit County Commons Building, Buffalo Mountain Room
0037 Peak One Drive, Summit County Road 1005, Frisco, CO
Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 6:00 p.m.**

- 1: Call to order
- 2: Approval of Agenda
- 3: Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting (*see attached Summary of Actions*)
- 4: Acceptance of Summary Report (*see attached report*)
- 5: Public Comments on Items not included in Agenda
- 6: Update and Discussion on On-going and Potential Open Space Protection Efforts and Issues
- 7: Update on Open Space Management Activities
 - Fishing Outfitter Permitting: Four Mile Bridge Open Space
 - Fishhook Open Space Management Strategy
- 8: Update on Open Space Mill Levy
- 9: Update from Town Open Space Advisory Boards
- 10: Other Business/Announcements
- 11: Adjournment

Enclosures

- Summary of Actions, April 2, 2008 OSAC meeting
- Summary Report on Open Space Activities
- Fishhook Open Space Management Strategy
- Miscellaneous Newspaper Articles and Press Releases

**SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
May 7, 2008**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Camp, Art Girten, Chris Hart, Lynn Amstutz, Bob Craig, Mike Clary, Charlotte Clarke

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Hummer, Dan Pins, Martha Mackie

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Steve Hill

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Leigh Girvin - Continental Divide Land Trust, Paul Semmer - USFS

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Chris Hart called the meeting of the Open Space Advisory Council to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The April 2, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted.

Public Comments on Items Not Included in the Agenda: Leigh Girvin from Continental Divide Land Trust explained that CDLT will help to educate the public about the County tree cutting on the Feister and Bill's Ranch Properties in their newsletter. Steve Hill also commented that the BOCC has toured the cutting areas around the County Commons and is highly supportive of the measures being taken.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Update and Discussion on Ongoing and Potential Open Space Protection Efforts and Issues:

Iron Mask/MonteChristo Waterfall Claims

Brian Lorch requested OSAC input or concerns regarding discarding agreements between the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County to partner on two acquisitions. In 2007, the County agreed to provide \$25,000 as 10% support of the Town's acquisition of the Iron Mask Lode adjacent to the Claimjumper parcel near Cucumber Gulch. Also in 2007, the Town agreed to provide \$25,250 as 10% support of the County's acquisition of the Monte Christo Waterfall Claims in the upper reaches of the Upper Blue Basin. Due to complexities associated with the Iron Mask and the Intergovernmental Agreements involved, Staff from both agencies recommend simplify things and voiding both agreements before they are signed, with the understanding that this does not in any way impact our ongoing relationships. The OSAC concurred with this recommendation.

Executive Session: The OSAC unanimously passed a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential open space acquisitions. Out of Executive Session the OSAC unanimously made the following recommendations:

Snake River Basin:

The OSAC unanimously passed a motion recommending that Staff pursue the acquisition of the 40% interest in the Condor Lode at the value discussed during Executive Session

The OSAC unanimously passed a motion recommending that Staff pursue the acquisition of the full-interest in the Eldorado Lode at the value discussed during Executive Session.

Update on Open Space Management Activities: Forest management activities (tree cutting and removal) have begun on the Fiester Property. Staff is making every effort to ensure that best management practices are exemplified on the Property, particularly because of its visibility next to the County Commons. Brian Lorch explained that the even-aged, small diameter characteristics of the stand limit the feasibility of selective cutting. It is unlikely that individual “doghair” trees will survive winds or beetle infestations. The contractor is making every effort to maintain young or other trees with good potential to survive. The wood from this project will be taken to a wood yard and sold, and the remaining slash piles will be ground up on site. Staff plans to intensively reseed the area with native grasses.

During the next month, Open Space staff is conducting outreach activities with local schools, including tree planting and seeding at the Muggins Gulch restoration site with the Frisco and Upper Blue elementary schools, preceded by classroom presentations highlighting the work of the open space program. In the coming months, OS&T will also be replacing the interpretive signs at Soda Creek with students from Summit Cove Elementary. These activities are an effort to engage children in Open Space education and stewardship, a message that will hopefully be passed along to their parents and the community.

Open Space staff distributed a calendar for upcoming volunteer workdays and welcomed OSAC members to participate. Staff addressed questions from OSAC members about the workday planned on the Fishhook property, and possible forest health activities for the property. Staff will continue to inform OSAC about plans for the Fishhook property as they develop.

Update on Open Space Mill Levy: Steve Hill provided an update on the Open Space Mill Levy. The BOCC has reviewed the phone survey, conducted by Lori Weigel of Public Opinion Strategies, that covers a broad set of issues. This survey is now being conducted amongst the public. Because open space tends to be a popular issue, Steve indicated that it could be the favored item (lead space) on the ballot. The ballot initiative will most likely be a single ballot that addresses a multitude of issues. OSAC will have a chance to comment on the ballot language after the survey has been completed.

Following Steve’s overview of the current status of the mill levy, each of the members of OSAC was given the opportunity to provide his/her perspective on phrasing of the ballot initiative. Comments/concerns were expressed about 1) the need to capture the range of voters that will be coming out to this year’s presidential election; 2) undesirability of affordable housing and open space on the same ballot, 3) Current economic conditions and potential public opposition to raising taxes, 4) public perception about not needing additional support for affordable housing because so many projects are already underway throughout the County, and 5) the unlikelihood of being able to generate sufficient funding for affordable housing via this source. These concerns will be taken to the BOCC.

Update from Town Open Space Advisory Boards: BOSAC has requested that Town staff conduct a comprehensive review of the resources in Cucumber Gulch.

Other Business/Announcements: Art Girten described a recent conversation with Sam McCleneghan in which Sam indicated that he is still willing to work with the County as long he is consulted before any decisions are made that could impact his properties. Mr. McCleneghan also indicated that he would let Open Space staff know if he was interested in selling any of his properties.

Paul Semmer gave an update on the Snake River Land Exchange. The Environmental Assessment (EA) will be released for comment the week of May 12th, with a 30-day comment period to follow. The final appraisal values will be available after the EA has been released. The USFS is recommending moving forward with the Exchange, and will sign the Exchange into effect if there are no appeals. Paul also mentioned that CDOW, CDLT and the Sierra Club have expressed concern about the Cucumber Gulch parcel going into private ownership. To address these concerns, the Town of Breckenridge plans to put a deed on the property for it to be managed as open space in perpetuity.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch
Open Space and Trails Director



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Open Space Advisory Council
FROM: Brian Lorch
DATE: May 29, 2008
SUBJECT: Summary Report on Open Space Activities for June 4, 2008 meeting

The purpose of the summary report is to save time at the actual OSAC meetings by providing an update on open space protection activities not requiring a specific action by the OSAC, so that they do not need to be discussed during the meeting. Any questions on topics in this report can be discussed at the meeting or with staff prior to the meeting.

1. Bowers Forestry has commenced forest management activities on the Mesa Cortina/Wilderness Buffer open space and the Fiester property at the County Commons. The southern boundary of the Buffer property was surveyed to insure no encroachments onto adjacent properties.
2. The County Commissioners approved acquisition of the Eldorado Lode and 40% interest in the Condor Lode, both in the Snake River Basin. Option contracts have been signed by both sellers at the prices recommended by the OSAC in May.



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Memo

TO: Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC)
FROM: Brian Lorch, Director, Open Space and Trails
FOR: June 4, 2008 Meeting
SUBJECT: Fishhook Open Space Management Strategy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location: Fishhook Open Space (the 'Property') is located on the north side of the Highway 6/Swan Mountain Road intersection in between Keystone Resort and the Town of Dillon. See attached map.

Existing Zoning: A-1

Total site area: Approximately 35 acres

Proposed Use: This management strategy will emphasize the preservation of the Property's open space character and address public access issues. Open Space and Trails staff will also address simultaneous resource management on a small portion of the adjacent county-owned lands (landfill) located east of the Fishhook property line, between the Snake River and Highway 6 (see attached map).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The 35-acre Fishhook Property in the Snake River Basin of Summit County was acquired as Open Space in 2007. It abuts County landfill property on its eastern and northern boundaries, and undeveloped properties owned by the Denver Water Board on its northwest boundary. There are three single family homes that are surrounded by the Property, and one single family residence to the west of the Property.

In order to make this Property open and available to the public during 2008, staff suggests that the OSAC discuss management issues and make a recommendation for management strategies on this Property as outlined herein. This strategy will be forwarded to the BOCC for review during a work session. A full management plan will only be created for the Property if the OSAC or BOCC identify compelling reasons to do so.

The initial site assessment report on the acquisition noted that the Property meets five of the seven open space selection criteria in the *Summit County Open Space Protection Plan*:

- Access: The property will provide access to approximately 575 feet of river bank along the Snake River currently owned by the county, but not accessible to the public because of private property lines.
- Buffers: The property is a significant open space buffer/community separator between Keystone Resort and the Town of Dillon.
- Extensions: The property is an extension to county-owned lands acquire by Summit County Government for the Summit County Waste Facility that are de facto open space outside of the landfill operation area.
- Recreational: The property has 850 feet of frontage on both sides of the Snake River and an additional 1,400 feet of frontage on the north river bank. Total combined river frontage of the property and adjacent County-owned lands is 4,075 feet, with frontage on both banks exceeding one-half mile. Opportunities exist to improve public fishing access and create an open space park/trail network on the property and adjacent County-owned lands.
- View Corridors: The property includes a large undeveloped meadow that is highly visible to travelers along Highway 6.

Improvements on the property consist of fencing, access via a ranch road, and a property gate. Current recreational use on the property consists of dispersed fishing and hiking.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

It is the intent of Summit County to preserve the open space character, wildlife habitat and scenic qualities of the property. It is envisioned that the property will be managed as undeveloped open space, with an emphasis on protecting the natural environment, and providing public access to the Snake River.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

Staff requests that OSAC provide input on the following management issues, as well as any additional concerns to guide the management of the Fishhook Property.

Access and parking

There is one primary access to the property via a two-track former ranch road (CR 72) off of Highway 6. This is also the access for the 3 private property inholdings on the Property, and the adjacent private property owner. There are several places along this road that appear to have been used as overflow parking or places to back-up a trailer for the adjacent private landowners. These will need to be properly delineated (using downed trees or large rocks) to ensure that visitors stay on the primary route and utilize the designated parking area only.

The adjacent landowner (Lot 1, Defore Subdivison) recently informed staff that they would prefer that the access to the Property be moved to the light at Swan Mountain Road. This would be far inferior to the existing platted road from a land and resource management perspective. Staff recommends that this road remain the primary access to the Property.

The former landowner constructed a gate on the ranch road near the western property line. Staff recommends that the gate be moved about 150 feet east down the ranch road, to allow for a parking area for about 5-6 cars on the left side of the road prior to the gate, and provide a buffer between the parking area and the adjacent private lot. This parking area will be designed to allow for expansion if use necessitates. Fencing and other barriers will be used to establish the parking area.

Adjacent County Property

Two small portions (less than 6 acres) of the County landfill property cross onto the south side of the Snake River and are contiguous to the Fishhook Property (see attached map). From a practical perspective, it seems logical to manage this portion of County-owned property under the same directives as the Fishhook Open Space property. Staff would like to recommend that the Open Space and Trails Department manage public uses on these parcels, while the landfill would retain financial responsibility for resource maintenance (e.g. forest management).

Fencing

Fencing is currently located along the Highway 6 right of way, along the south side of the old ranch road, and at the eastern boundary of the Property. The fencing along the eastern boundary has not been maintained, and there is a large gap in this fence that allows pedestrians to pass. The fencing along Hwy 6 is in the best condition, though the entrance gate to the access road has fallen into disrepair. Staff recommends that the fencing adjacent to the entrance gate off of Hwy 6 be repaired and the old gate removed; and the eastern property boundary fence removed. Staff also recommends that the remaining fence be maintained only as a deterrent to motorized infringement on the Property.

Signage

Staff recommends that an Open Space sign be placed on Highway 6 at the entrance to the Property.

Recreational Uses

Current use on the property consists of dispersed fishing and hiking. There is very little evidence of human use at this time. Staff anticipates that the primary use demand for the property will continue to be from fishermen and pedestrians. Therefore staff recommends that the existing ranch road be maintained as pedestrian and administrative access only, with no public motorized or mechanized use allowed on the Property. Staff also recommends dispersed pedestrian and fishing use on the rest of the Property, with ongoing monitoring to determine the future necessity of additional trail projects.

Forest Health

As OSAC is aware, the previous landowner and the County have been spraying and removing trees to maintain its aesthetic appeal and prevent pine beetle infestation. The County sprayed trees along the Highway 6 right of way, while the previous landowner sprayed trees throughout the Property, both on the upland meadow and adjacent to the river.

Permethrin and Carbaryl (the insecticides used to combat pine beetle) are both recognized by the EPA to be highly toxic to freshwater aquatic organisms. The EPA recommends a minimum 100-ft buffer for aerial applications, and a 25-ft buffer for ground applications. Considering the majority of pine trees that would need to be sprayed are within 75 feet of the river, spraying does not seem to be a practicable alternative for most of the Property at this time. In addition, current management directives from the US Forest Service, and recent experience in Summit County, suggest that spraying on a large-scale is no longer effective towards preventing the spread of the infestation.

The trees adjacent to the river in particular appear to be a relatively healthy stand, perhaps due to the stand diversity, with 30-40% cover by spruce trees. There is a marked difference in forest health on the Property compared to the unsprayed portions of the landfill property. It is highly likely that the majority of the mature lodgepoles on the Property will die in the near future under any management scenario. However, the Property does have a relatively diverse (by age and species) stand that is practicable for selective cutting and removal over time. Staff recommends limiting spraying on the Property to trees adjacent to Highway 6 to avoid potential adverse impacts associated with spraying.

Basic clean-up and maintenance

Staff recommends the removal of the wood and shale debris piles on the Property, as well as any other remaining trash. Staff also recommends the removal of various no trespassing signs posted throughout the property.

Other rules and regulations

Staff recommends that public uses of the Property remain subject to the Rules and Regulations for Open Space Properties adopted by the BOCC in 2007. Based on these rules, staff also recommends the following:

- Camping and fires – Not allowed
- Commercial Use - Commercial fishing guiding to be regulated upon perceived demand
- Special Events – Not permitted
- Firearms and Fireworks – Not allowed
- Horses and Livestock - Not allowed
- Parking – In designated area only
- Pets – Per Summit County Animal Control regulations
- Road and Trail Uses – As addressed herein
- Vehicle and Mechanized Uses – Administrative access only
- Hunting – Not allowed
- Fishing – Per CDOW regulations

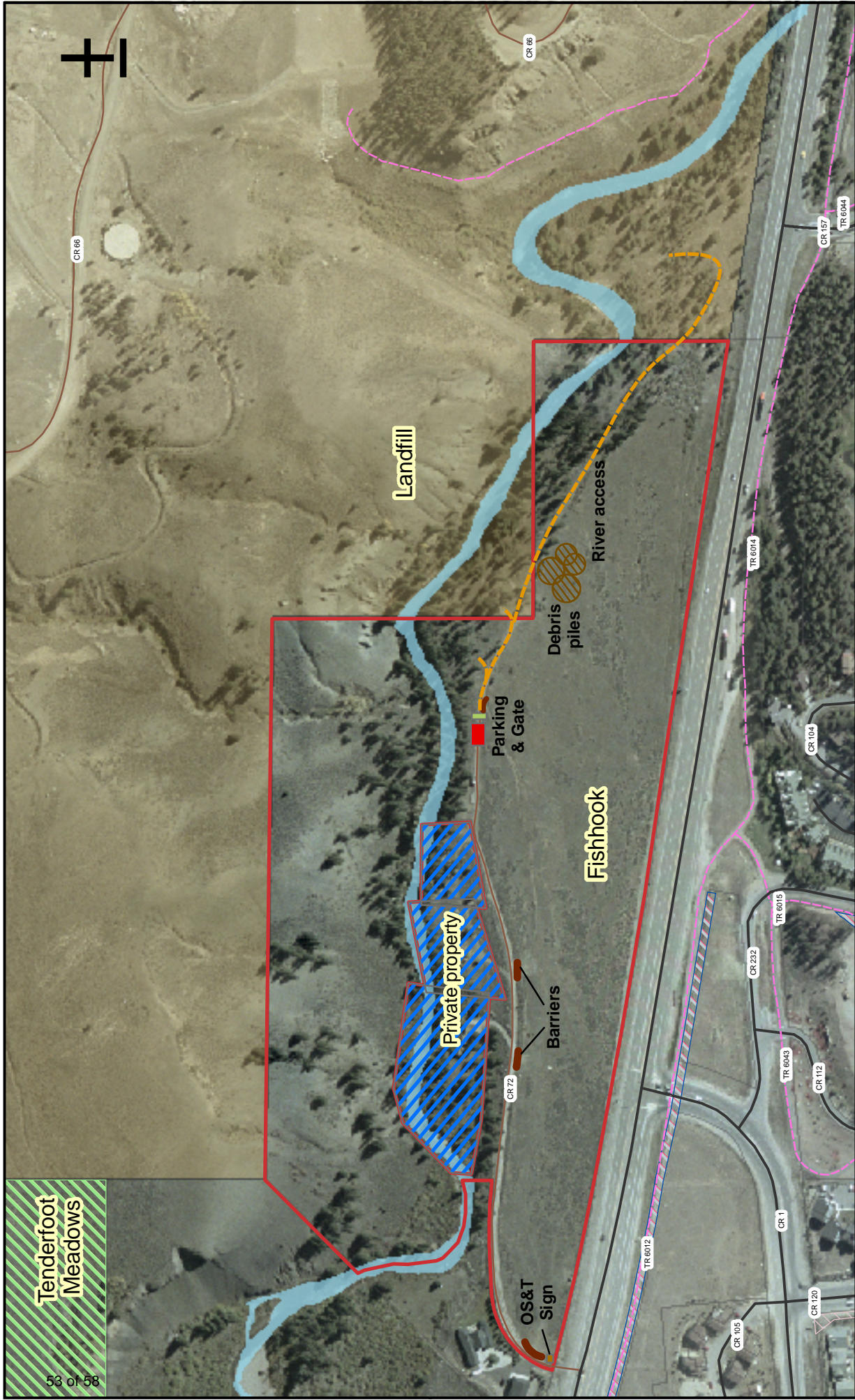
Staff requests OCAC comments if any members feel that specific attributes of this property suggest site specific exceptions to these regulations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

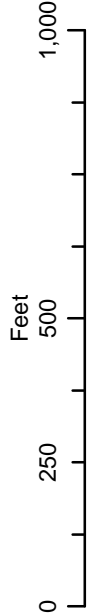
Staff recommends that the OSAC provide input regarding the above issues and any other issues identified by the Council regarding this Property to assist in the development of an initial draft management plan. This draft management plan will be presented for further discussion and public input at a future OSAC meeting.

Attachments: Map

Fishhook Open Space Conceptual Site Plan



Tenderfoot Meadows



1:4,000

This map is for display purposes only. Do not use for legal conveyance. Not necessarily accurate by surveying standards and may contain errors. Summit Open Space and Trails, © 2008 Summit County Government, Open Space and Trails Department.





OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: May 15, 2008

For More Information Contact:

Claudia Wiley, Summit County Open Space & Trails (970) 668-4092

Summit County Open Space & Trails Volunteer Kickoff May 24

Summit County, Colorado -- Summit County Government's Open Space and Trails Department will kick off the 2008 Adopt-A-Trail/Open Space Program with a tree planting project on Saturday, May 24th at Muggins Gulch Open Space.

"Planting of seedling trees is part of the County's reforestation efforts," said Claudia Wiley, County Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist. "We are continuing this as part of our very successful volunteer program, and we invite everyone to join us for a fun and rewarding day."

Numerous other volunteer opportunities are available throughout the County this summer with Summit County Open Space and Trails on trails projects throughout the County. These projects consist of a variety of activities for all ages, abilities and fitness levels. Several repath sections, natural surface trails and open space areas are up for adoption for the summer as well.

To RSVP for the volunteer kick-off event and learn more about the various volunteer opportunities this summer, contact the Open Space and Trails Department at 668-4092 or via email to claudiaw@co.summit.co.us.

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For Immediate Release
May 5, 2008
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Summit County Schedules Recpath Improvements

Summit County, Colorado- Summit County has initiated a project to improve approximately 3,700 feet of the Snake River Recpath west of Keystone. The project will widen the path and realign several locations to widen curves and improve site distances. The existing asphalt will be removed and replaced. New retaining walls will be installed, and new culverts and ditches will improve drainage. A set of steps will also be added to provide pedestrian access to the Snake River.

“This project will renovate a section of the path that was under built in the early 1980s,” said James Lindenblatt, Road and Bridge Asset Technician. “It improves safety for pathway users, and enhances their recreational experience. The project is scheduled for mid-May through mid-July, but the contractor will make every effort to complete the project ahead of schedule, weather permitting.”

This section of the recpath will be closed to all uses during construction. An off-highway detour will be provided, utilizing Elk Drive, Keystone Ranch Road and Soda Ridge Road. Pathway users can also utilize the Summit Stage to get around the closed segment.

“This work is critical to improve the recpath facility and provide a smoother surface for pathway users,” said Brad Eckert, Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist. “We thank the area homeowners and recpath users for their patience during these repairs.”

Anyone with questions can contact the Open Space and Trails Department at 668-4060.

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County recpath open and plowed (for now)

SUMMIT COUNTY — Summit County's paved recreational pathway system is plowed and open for use by cyclists, walkers and other nonmotorized users, according to the county's open space department.

Earlier this week the County's Road and Bridge Department cleared snow off the county-managed pathway segments with two exceptions: Ten Mile Canyon, where avalanche hazards exist, and a section adjacent to the Dillon Dam Road, where logging is under way.

"Recent warm weather has helped us open the recreational pathway system," said Brad Eckert, Summit County Open Space and Trails resource specialist. "However, there are still wet and icy spots in shady locations and some sandy locations. Recpath users should exercise caution in these areas."

The various towns have also been busy opening paved pathways within their incorporated limits.

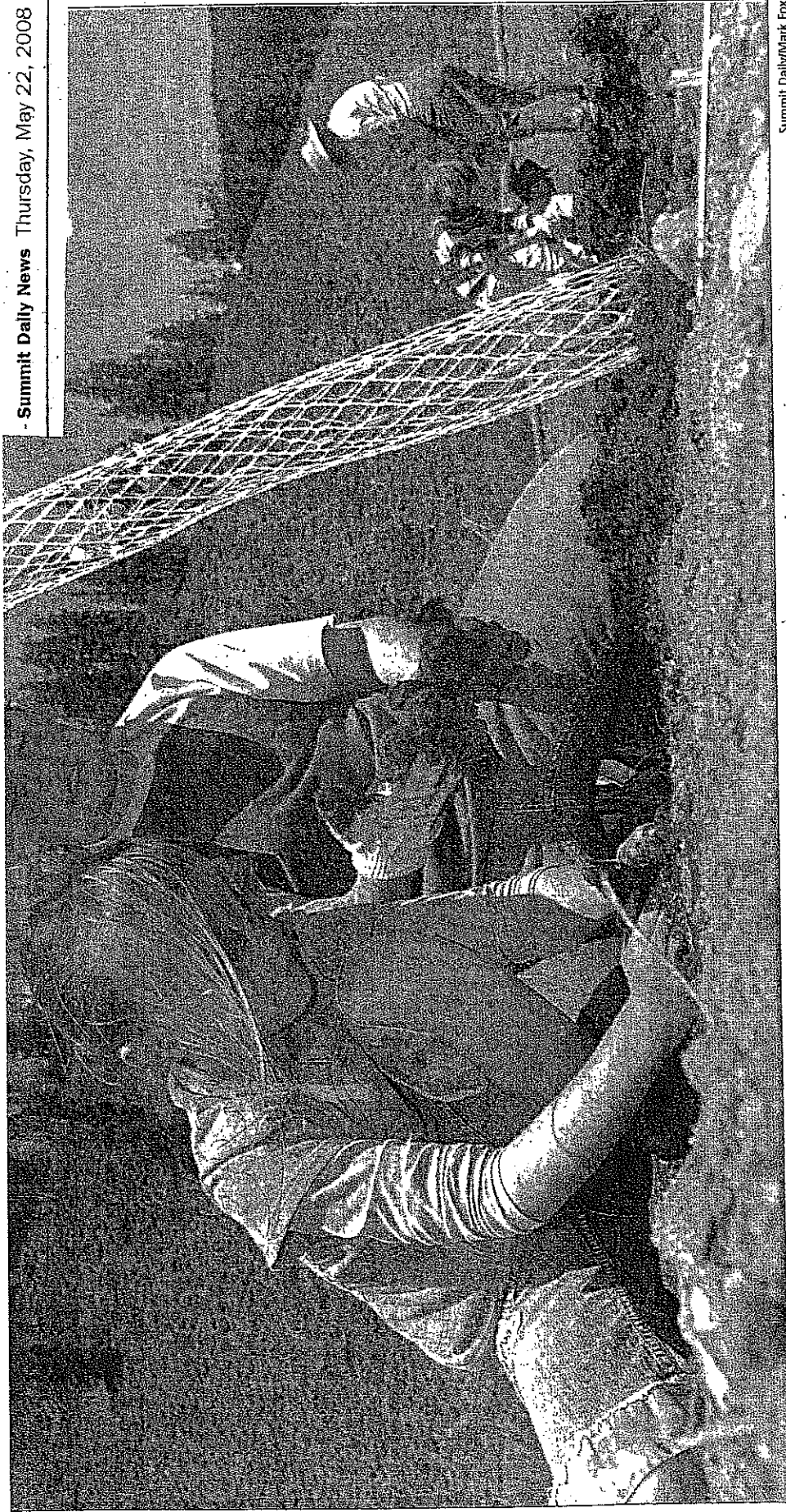
The pathway between Copper Mountain and Vail Pass, which is maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation, and Ten Mile Canyon is likely to open in May.

The Open Space and Trails Department requests that users be aware that maintenance vehicles may be encountered on the recpath. Actions planned for this summer include reconstruction of the recpath west of Keystone, and improvements to signing, striping and pavement. Please slow down as you approach maintenance activities and always heed warning signs or the directions of authorized maintenance personnel.

All dogs must be on a leash on the recpath, and the county asks everyone to please clean up after their pets.

Questions on the paved recpath system can be directed to the Open Space and Trails Department at (970) 668-4060.

— Daily News staff report



Summit Daily/Mark Fox

Frisco Elementary third-graders Lilli Roberts and Lorenzo Patti dirty their hands as they work at planting aspen sapplings with classmates at Muggins Gulch near Tiger Road Wednesday.

'To help the Earth be green,

Third-graders plant trees, shrubs along the Swan River

By BOB BERWYN
SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

SUMMIT COUNTY — Working on a patch of bare ground near Muggins Gulch in the Swan River drainage, Frisco's third-grade elementary school class is reclaiming mine-scarred land,

some water-retaining polymer with the soil. Carly has named her tree. She puts the Annie Oakley name tag on the slender chute, so she can come and check on how the tree is doing. The sun is shining, and, for a change, it's OK to get your hands dirty — really dirty.

"I like being outside," says Lexi Wintston. "I like planting trees. I did it at my grandmother's house."

Along with aspens, some students are planting other native plants, including peachleaf willows, wood rose

gloves and ending up with a blob of it on her nose. Mady is building a berm around a two-foot aspen sapling, while classmate Carly Hough adds

sapling by sapling. "It's to help the Earth be green," says Mady Wilkerson, trying to shake some mud from the tips of her

SEE EARTH, PAGE A2

EARTH:

From A1

and red osier dogwood. Others are spreading wildflower and grass seed to restore a stretch of land that was turned inside-out by dredges working the river for gold. When the boats finished their quest, they left behind piles of bare rock up to 60-feet deep.

"Nothing could grow here before," said Summit County Open Space and Trails director Brian Lorch, describing the bare piles of rock that are a common site along the Swan and Blue rivers.

The school project is one phase of an ambitious restoration effort on an 11-acre chunk of county-owned open space along the Swan River. Last year, the dredged rocks on the property were covered by about six inches of soil and graded to create rolling hills and small dimples. The higher areas will be drier, while the low spots will collect and hold water a bit longer, creating more habitat diversity, Lorch explained.

Successes

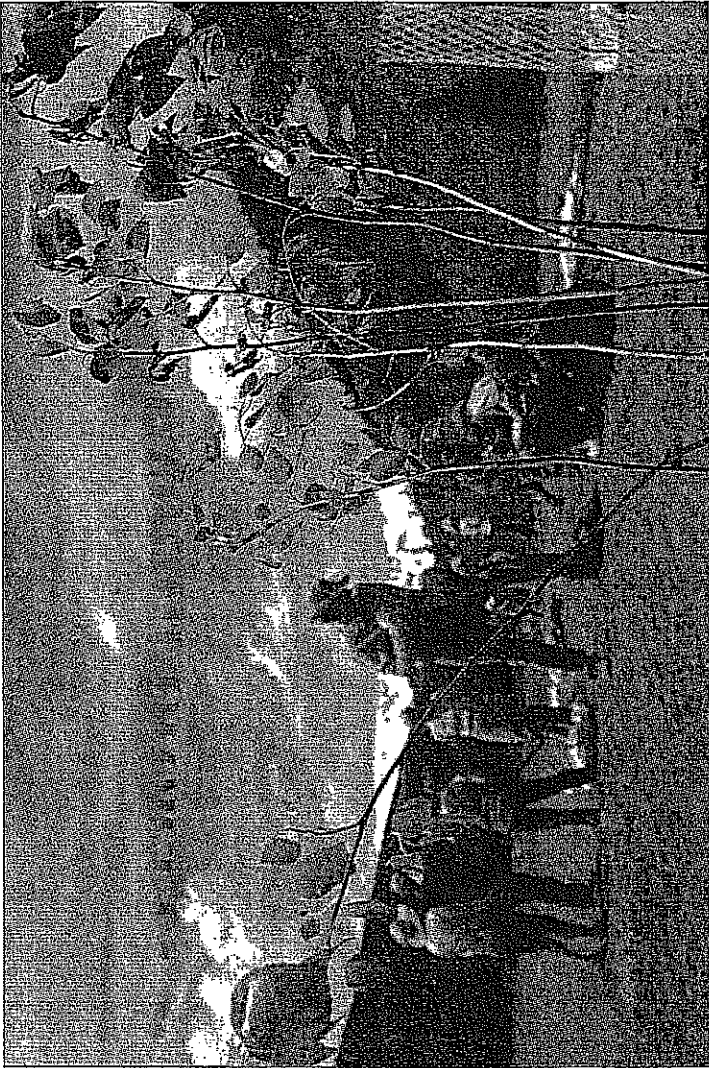
The grading brought the riverbank land down closer to the level of the river.

"That will let the river move if it wants to," Lorch said, explaining that a natural riparian ecosystem includes ever-changing meanders in the stream's course.

The dirt came from a nearby development in Muggins Gulch. Selling the rock from the site for construction purposes paid for the project, Lorch said.

Trout populations thrived after a similar project at the Four Mile Bridge open space was completed successfully a couple of years ago.

"This is such a great opportunity to get kids out here and exercise stewardship and a love of the land, so they'll continue



Brian Lorch, director of Summit County Open Space and Trails, works with Frisco Elementary third-graders as they plant trees on open space at Muggins Gulch along Tiger Road Wednesday. Summit Daily/Mark Fox

Volunteers wanted

The county open space and trails department is hosting another tree planting session May 24, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and volunteers are needed. For more info, contact Claudia Wiley at (970) 668-4092 or claudiaw@co.summit.co.us.

restoration effort, said open space technician Claudia Wiley.

The third-graders are psyched about the afternoon outside, and everyone pitches in to get the job done. The open space department has purchased about 1,000 seedlings, but the Frisco youngsters won't plant all of those. Another volunteer session is set for Saturday at the same spot, since it will take more than one work day to cover 11 acres.

All the plants used for the restoration are native varieties that grow in similar patches of habitat nearby. Wiley said about 85 percent of the saplings survived their first year at the Four Mile Bridge project.

Bob Berwyn can be reached at (970) 331-5996, or at bberwyn@summitdaily.com.

to protect it," Lorch said. Before taking kids out into the field, local open-space experts visited the classroom to explain the purpose and outline the project. That helped get the kids focused on the