



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

AUGUST 2004

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Trail Use Task Force Asks for New Input from Hikers and Other Users

As an outcome of the May 20, 2004 Trails Use Task Force Meeting, Eric Finstick is organizing the hiker meeting. It will be on August 26 at 7PM, at the Mountaineering Center in Golden, in the Baker Room on the 2nd floor. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to attend.

The Trail Use Task Force has been

meeting at least annually since 1995. It is made up of interested hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Technically, there are 3 representatives of each, and 3 alternates, but anyone may attend.

At each meeting, Open Space staff gives an update of trails projects, both natural surface and paved trails. For example, they are currently

working on trails in the relatively newly acquired Centennial Cone property, and the Clear Creek Trail through the canyon.

PLAN Jeffco members have been involved at all the meetings. John Litz normally attends as one of the OSAC members, and Eric Finstick has been attending as a hiker alternate. Other board members have often also attended. Eric Finstick, Lee Todd and Ann Bonnell attended the May meeting.

Perhaps the most controversy at this meeting was generated by the recent closure of Reynolds Park to bikes. This was an effort to provide more hiker/equestrian only opportunities. Currently, there are about 140 miles of natural surface trails on Open Space parks, and only about 28 miles of these restrict mountain bikes, **including** the 6 miles of trails just closed at Reynolds Park. A dozen or more bikers, including a representative of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) attended, largely to protest this closure, and that they felt they had no input into the

decision, even though Open Space staff had discussed it with some local bike leaders. Evidently, the word had not been spread adequately before the closure was implemented.

One of the purposes of this meeting was to address how to determine future membership of the task force. It was decided that each group (hikers, bikers, and equestrians) would attempt to have a meeting prior to the next full task force meeting to determine how they would like to select their task force representatives, and also to identify issues they would like the full task force to address.

In addition to discussing task force membership, the August 26th meeting will be an opportunity to raise issue that some hikers would like the entire task force to address. These include user conflicts, which have been discussed at virtually every meeting, with minimal resolution. A hiker at Apex or Mathews-Winters Parks on a summer evening can encounter as many as 125 bikes in an hour, and virtually no hikers use those parks at prime times. As a result, PLAN Jeffco has advocated an

TRAIL USE, Continued

alternate day use system where bikes would be allowed at one park on even days, and the other on odd days. This approach has been successfully used by the National Forest Service in high use areas on several trails around the country. Other possible resolutions to this conflict could be discussed.

As a result of hiker concerns expressed at these task force meetings, as well as letters and calls to Open Space, etc, the Centennial Cone Trails are proposed to be managed for alternate day uses as described above. In addition, the Mount Galbraith Park trails have been constructed as hiker only trails, and as discussed above,

Reynolds Park has been closed to bikes. While this has mitigated the impacts to hiking opportunities, Apex, Mathews-Winters, White Ranch and maybe others remain virtually un-hikable because of the sheer volume of bikes at peak hours.

Other topics may include issues associated with “downhillers,” which are riders on heavier duty bikes that require a shuttle up to the top of Apex, or Chimney Gulch, or other parks, before riding downhill, usually as fast as they can control their bike. (Sometimes a bit faster!)

Other topics will be solicited for discussion from the attendees. Please come and share your thoughts!

PLAN Jeffco Trail Users Survey

Introduction

It had come to the attention of the PLAN Jeffco Board of Directors that a number of former users of Jeffco Open Space parks and trails are no longer using the trails because of excessive mountain bike use. The Open Space Department routinely surveys park users, but has no way of accounting for non-users. This survey represents PLAN Jeffco’s attempt to determine the proportion of former users.

PLAN Jeffco also was interested in determining how users preferred separation of users, if at all.

Of the 229 responders, only 2 no longer use JCOS. But over half the hikers and over 40% of the equestrians indicated that they avoided JCOS parks in order to avoid potential conflicts, principally with bikers. And 8% of the hikers say they seldom use JCOS parks at all.

Only 20 percent of the responders addressed how to separate users. Alternate trails had the most support.

Summary of Findings:

1. We had expected to see larger differences between user types.
 - 81% of the biker respondents use JCOS parks regularly
 - 67% of the equestrians
 - 59% of the hikers
 - 8% of the hikers seldom use JCOS parks.
2. Many of the respondents use the parks in many ways.
 - 21% of the hikers also bike
 - 81% of the bikers also hike
 - 75% of the equestrians also hike
 - 40% of the hikers also flower and bird watch
 - 28% of the bikers also flower and bird watch
 - 33% of the equestrians also flower and bird watch
3. We found that many equestrians also hike, but hikers and bikers tend not to be equestrians.
4. Equestrians are the most loyal users of JCOS parks.

- 88% of equestrian rides are on JCOS
64% of hikes are on JCOS
68% of bike rides are on JCOS
5. The most popular parks are:
 - 1st White Ranch - hikers, 2nd by bikers
 - 2nd Matthews Winters - 1st by bikers
 - 3rd Mt Falcon
 - 4th Elk Meadow
 - 5th Lair O'the Bear
 - 6th Apex
 6. In order to not have conflicts:

Hikers avoid: Matthews Winters, Apex, White Ranch, and Mt Falcon
Bikers avoid Apex, Elk Meadow, White Ranch, and Matthews Winters
Equestrians avoid White Ranch, Elk Meadow, Mt Falcon, and Apex
 7. The parks are most popular at the following times:

48-57% use the parks on week-end mornings
34-44% use the parks on week-day mornings
13-17% use the parks on week-end evenings
 8. Because of the potential for trail use conflicts:

54% of hikers are apt to not use a favored park, 87% answered due to bikers
42% of equestrians
26% of bikers
 9. The volume of bikers concerns 38 to 47% of the hikers. Discourteous bikers concern 35% of the hikers.
 10. The potential for separating users was favored by:

66% of hikers
47% of bikers
42% of equestrians
 11. The question relating to "How to separate users" was only answered by 20% of the responders

9-13% favor alternate trails
1-6% favor alternate days
1-4% favor alternate parks.
- We suspect that the low response rate indicates that this was a complex issue requiring more thought than they wanted to spend at the end of the questionnaire.
12. Analysis was attempted to determine differences between responders who had conflicts and those who did not.

85% of those who had experienced conflicts were hikers - 13% were bikers
85% of those who did not experience conflicts were hikers - 38% were bikers (Note some users both hike and bike)

White Ranch was more popular with users who had conflicts than those who did not have conflicts - other parks tended to have the same ranking
Favored parks and parks avoided are similar to both types of responders
Week-day morning users most apt to have conflicts.

Over 90% of the responders with conflicts favor separating users: whereas only 36% of those with no conflicts favor separating users
 13. Four parks were selected for comparison - Apex - White Ranch - Matthews Winters being readily accessible to the population centers and Alderfer-Three Sisters and being more remote.

The parks had very similar user types
Alderfer had the highest number of regular JCOS users.
The uses were very similar.
Alderfer had the most regular JCOS users and White Ranch the fewest.
The rankings of the parks used were similar and the users tend to avoid the same parks.
Alderfer has high use by week-day morning users - 60%.
Potential for conflicts were similar - too many bikers as the biggest complaint.
Separating users was favored by 59 to 68% with alternate trails being the preferred method.

TRAIL USERS SURVEY, Continued

Conclusion

There still is a conflict problem that is most focused on the close-in Mountain Backdrop parks. The conflicts primarily are due to numbers of bikers (85%) and not discourteous bikers (35%). It is apparent the JCOS efforts in minimizing conflicts is helping. However, the responses indicate that all types of users are inconvenienced by needing to choose to use these parks at off times in order to have an enjoyable experience. Over 50% of hikers and over 40% of equestrians indicated that they

avoided certain parks at peak times. Two-thirds of all hikers supported separating uses. Therefore, very few hikers use Apex, Mathews-Winter, and White Ranch on summer afternoons or evenings. Alternate trails at Apex and Mathews-Winters are limited by the available space and the potential for environmental damage. White Ranch does have the potential for alternate trails, but minimizing environmental damage indicates that closing present multi-use trails to bikes would be the better solution. However, this would take away from bikers almost 30 years of historic use.

PLAN Jeffco Non-Scientific Survey Results Summary

		User types				Conflicts		Park Users		
		All	Hikers	Bikers	Equestrians	Yes	No	Apex	White Ranch	Mathews Winters
How often do you use JCOS?										
1	Regularly	58%	59%	81%	67%	61%	58%	71%	61%	67%
1	Occasionally	31%	32%	13%	29%	31%	33%	27%	33%	29%
1	Seldom	9%	8%	6%	4%	6%	11%	2%	6%	4%
1	Not at all	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%
How do you use JCOS?										
2	Hiking	88%	100%	81%	75%	95%	85%	89%	90%	89%
2	Jogging	23%	24%	38%	17%	26%	22%	28%	25%	25%
2	Mt Biking	23%	21%	100%	17%	13%	38%	33%	25%	29%
2	Horseback rid	10%	9%	8%	100%	9%	13%	11%	11%	12%
2	Bird watch	39%	40%	26%	33%	44%	32%	34%	43%	44%
2	Flower watch	40%	42%	28%	29%	52%	27%	41%	41%	42%
2	Picnicking	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
2	Photography	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%
2	Dog walking	2%	2%	2%	8%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
2	Other	4%	4%	4%	13%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%

		User types				Conflicts		Park Users		
		All	Hikers	Bikers	Equestrians	Yes	No	Apex	White Ranch	Matthews Winters
Ranking of uses										
3	Hiking	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
3	Jogging	2	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	2
3	Mt Biking	3	5	1	3	6	2	3	4	3
3	Horseback rid	7	7	6	1	5	7	6	6	6
3	Bird watch	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	4
3	Flower watch	5	4	5	6	4	6	5	5	5
3	Picnicking	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10
3	Photography	9	9	9	10	9	10	8	8	8
3	Dog walking	6	6	8	8	7	5	9	9	9
3	Other	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	7
4	Visits to JCOS	68%	68%	64%	88%	68%	69%	66%	58%	68%
Ranking of parks used										
5	White Ranch	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	2
5	Lair O'the Bear	5	5	7	7	5	7	6	5	4
5	Elk Meadow	4	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	6
5	Matthews-Winters	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	1
5	Mt Falcon	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3
5	Alderfer	7	7	6	5	7	6	7	7	7
5	Deer Creek	8	10	9	12	9	9	8	9	8
5	Meyer Ranch	9	8	9	8	10	8	10	10	9
5	Flying J	12	12	12	11	12	12	12	12	12
5	Reynolds Ranch	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
5	Mt Galbraith	10	10	10	11	8	10	9	8	10
5	Apex	6	6	4	6	6	5	1	6	5
Ranking of parks avoided because of potential conflicts										
6	White Ranch	3	3	4	1	3	9	3	1	3
6	Lair O'the Bear	7	7	8	8	8	9	8	7	6
6	Elk Meadow	5	5	2	4	5	9	5	5	5
6	Matthews-Winters	1	1	4	6	1	4	2	2	1
6	Mt Falcon	4	4	8	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	Alderfer	6	6	12	6	6	9	8	6	8
6	Deer Creek	8	8	8	11	8	12	6	8	7
6	Meyer Ranch	10	10	12	8	10	1	10	11	10
6	Flying J	12	12	12	11	12	11	12	12	12
6	Reynolds Ranch	10	9	8	11	9	9	10	9	10
6	Mt Galbraith	11	11	12	12	12	11	12	11	11

		User types				Conflicts		Park Users		
		All	Hikers	Bikers	Equestrians	Yes	No	Apex	White Ranch	Matthews Winters
When do you use the parks?										
7	Week-day morning	44%	44%	34%	38%	50%	38%	49%	47%	50%
7	Week-day afternoon	30%	29%	32%	33%	30%	36%	37%	34%	28%
7	Week-day evening	25%	26%	43%	29%	29%	27%	32%	27%	31%
7	Week-end morning	46%	48%	57%	54%	48%	51%	53%	46%	46%
7	Week-end afternoon	26%	28%	32%	25%	25%	32%	29%	30%	22%
7	Week-end evening	13%	13%	17%	13%	11%	16%	14%	14%	11%
Does the potential for conflicts keep you from JCOS parks?										
8	Yes	50%	54%	26%	42%	100%	0%	50%	52%	53%
8	No	41%	40%	68%	50%	0%	100%	47%	43%	39%
What caused the conflicts										
8	Too many hikers	3%	3%	4%	0%	5%	0%	3%	2%	3%
8	Too many bikers	43%	47%	15%	38%	76%	8%	41%	44%	45%
8	Too many users	10%	10%	15%	13%	17%	2%	12%	9%	12%
8	Discourteous hikers	1%	1%	2%	0%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%
8	Discourteous bikers	31%	35%	6%	33%	58%	7%	34%	34%	33%
Do you favor separating users?										
9	Yes	63%	66%	47%	42%	92%	36%	61%	63%	68%
9	No	24%	22%	42%	42%	5%	52%	29%	27%	21%
What is your preferred means of separation?										
9	Alt trails	11%	12%	13%	9%	14%	10%	10%	12%	13%
9	Alt park	4%	4%	1%	3%	6%	1%	4%	3%	4%
9	Alt days	6%	6%	1%	5%	9%	2%	6%	6%	5%



GRASSLANDS BIOBLITZ FINDS OVER 1,000 SPECIES

In the 24-hour snapshot taken during the Grasslands BioBlitz, scientists and volunteers found more than 1,000 species. "We've gathered an overwhelming amount of data and have found a diverse array of species so far. Over the next few weeks, some teams will be taking additional time to accurately identify additional species from the organisms they've collected," said Karen Hollweg, BioBlitz Facilitator.

At 12 noon on June 26, teams returned from the field, and the Tote Board showed the following initial subtotals:

Soil micro-invertebrates (including arthropods, nematodes, rotifers, protozoa, tardigrades) 90

Mollusks, crayfish and their relatives 17

Spiders 9 families

Insects (including bees, butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, flies, wasps, grasshoppers, bugs) 401

Fungi and Lichens 16

Vascular plants (including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, trees) 376

Fish 1

Amphibians and reptiles 12

Birds 73

Mammals 12

The Spider Team from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the University of Colorado and Colorado State University Insect Teams have the most microscopic identification to complete.

The scientific teams surveyed life on about 6,000 acres of Boulder County, Jefferson County and Boulder City open space and on federal lands near the border of Jefferson and Boulder counties. Over 100 volunteer scientists and another 80 educational and logistical volunteers provided public visitors with opportunities to see bog orchids, snakes, salamanders, birds of prey, spiders, and microscopic soil-dwelling critters and brightly colored insects up close. In the Discovery Room at the Rocky Flats Visitor Center, one father with his son remarked, "This is amazing -- not only all the different kinds of animals, but all the different ways that scientists

survey them." Kelly Keena, Jefferson County naturalist, reported that trailhead visitors were surprised, noting that they "had no idea there are so many things living out here."

Tim Seastedt, University of Colorado Lead Scientist, summed up the initial results by noting, "The weather prevented us from attaining record numbers. Nevertheless, we found the area to be very diverse." Boyce Drummond, leader of the Butterfly Team and one of many participating scientists associated with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, agreed with others, saying, "Given the diversity of plants and the quality of the habitat, we found surprisingly few butterflies. The multi-year drought, spring weather, and cool, cloudy weather this weekend have all contributed to lower than expected numbers." Tim Hogan, CU Museum botanist and leader of one of the plant teams, added, "The protection of these incredibly diverse native plant communities that are threatened by the incursion of non-natives is of the utmost importance."

The Grasslands BioBlitz was organized by Boulder County, Boulder City, and Jefferson County Open Space agencies, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Dept of Energy, Colorado's Natural Heritage Program and Division of Wildlife, CU's Museum and Science Discovery with the participation of a dozen nonprofits ranging from The Nature Conservancy to Northern Jeffco Area Group, Birds of Prey Foundation, the Morrison Museum, Butterfly Pavilion, Denver Zoo, South Platte Park, & Denver Botanic Gardens. The Colorado Native Plant Society, Boulder *Daily*, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, and Roche Colorado made generous contributions to the event. All of these groups, their staff members and volunteers, as well as the individual volunteers, who contributed their time to stage the event, deserve credit for making this the largest BioBlitz ever in our state!

BIOBLITZ, Continued

As data are processed from the Jefferson and Boulder County, Boulder City, and federal lands surveyed, updates will be posted at www.grasslands-bioblitz.org. A complete tally is expected by the end of July.



JEFFCO OPEN SPACE INVITED TO APPLY FOR GOCO LOTTERY GRANTS

Great Outdoors Colorado, (GOCO) announced in June that it would be awarding \$97 million in lottery grant to fund 57 projects around the state. Jefferson County has three projects that have been accepted for consideration.

Foothills Rec District
Funding for Robert Easton Regional Park

Jeffco Open Space
Northern Jefferson County Ranch
Front Range Mountain Backdrop
/Foreground Preservation

The ranch, named the Julia Chase Ranch, also is part of the Mountain Backdrop/Foreground project. This project has received previous GOCO funding for planning purposes, since it involves five counties. The Jeffco portion of the total Mountain Backdrop/Foreground project cost is estimated at \$25 Million and the request to GOCO is for \$5 million, the balance of the project cost to come from Jeffco Open Space revenues. Staff is working diligently to prepare the necessary information by the August 5th deadline. The final awards of these grants will be made by December. Several public GOCO committee meetings were held in early 2004. Information at these meetings included an informational review covering the complex required distribution of lottery revenues. In general, funds are allotted for State Parks and Recreation, Division of Wildlife, Open Space, and Open Lands with

Matching Funds.

Considerable time was spent examining bonding, which had been approved by voters in 2001. The Bonding Committee invited concept submittals in order to consider which, if any, projects would be of sufficient size and urgency to qualify for bond funding. GOCO a formidable list of criteria, such as the project must be large enough to significantly impact a region's character (later amended that it must be significant to the whole state), the funds must be used in three years, and stated a preference to include investment by other public or private entities. Additional studies were prepared to estimate likely interest costs for sample amounts of money and length of bonding. Allowable bonding is \$115 million.

In March, thirty-three concept projects were submitted to the committee. Sample projects were: Routt County – two Yampa River preservation projects, one from the Nature Conservancy; Multi County-Montezuma, Ouray, San Miguel, San Juan – Skyway Land Conservation Initiative; Gunnison Valley Ranchlands, Boulder County and City of Longmont – Preservation of 1,845 acres located near contiguous farmland in Boulder County and Weld County along the County Line Road and the City of Longmont's open space; Mesa County – Greenway and Community Separators - an endeavor to acquire development rights and place conservation easements on significant agricultural, wildlife, wetland, riparian and other

GOCO, Continued

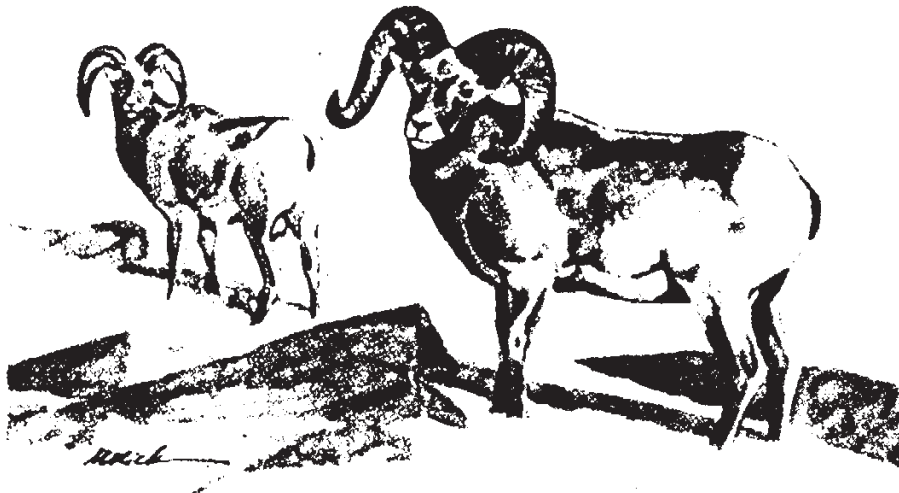
open space lands between Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita. The Skyway Land and Gunnison Valley Ranchlands projects are included in the June 18th announcement of projects that may be funded. (It would be useful to have a review meeting covering the merits of the other projects and to know the committee's thinking.) The desirability for funds addressed to keeping front range communities separate, avoiding pressures of expanding urbanization was stressed in the public meetings along with the observation that the urgency factor was one of preserving these open spaces while they might still be available and affordable.

Suggestions by PLAN Jeffco and several other environmental groups for holding regional workshops have not been answered or implemented, as far as we know. We also suggested a Master Plan be developed to further clarify priorities and to improve cooperative efforts by the variety of stakeholders, (environmental, agricultural, recreational, population growth planners.)

The Board decided to increase the awards of Grants out of present (and reserve?) revenues available, rather than tapping any bond funding. They announced that they would use \$97 million in lottery grants to fund 57 projects around the state. Quoting from an article in the Rocky Mountain news: "It breaks down to \$37 million in annual grants for playgrounds, ball fields, parks and wildlife, and open space, and \$60 million for large projects."

There is language to the effect that the board will use the bonding authority IF it is necessary. For now, this seems like a rather small crack in the door for a project, or projects to be considered. It would seem that this committee's remains very negative to the use of bonding. The criteria bar has been set very high. Worthy projects will require very professional, persistent efforts to prepare a proposal package that would fulfill all the difficult parameters set forth for approval of the use of bond funds.

By Marilyn Mueller



PLAN Jeffco adopts RS 2477 resolution

PLAN Jeffco recently passed a resolution urging Jefferson County to act to protect open space from a legal loophole that dates back more than 135 years. Revised Statute (RS) 2477 came into being in 1866 and was originally intended to protect investment in highway construction during western expansion in the homestead era. The law simply states:





"The right of way for construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses is hereby granted."

Congress repealed the law in 1976, but created a loophole by not clarifying which roads continue to be valid rights-of-way. The uncertainty that surrounds this issue has opened the door for abuse. Individuals, municipalities, and others interested in undoing protections for national parks, open space and wilderness, as well as irresponsible motorized recreationists seeking to create playgrounds on private property have claimed footpaths, historic cattle trails, creek beds, game trails, horse trails or two-tracks meandering into the desert as "constructed highways." Some of these asserted highway claims cross Wilderness Areas, National Parks, National Monuments, and Wildlife Refuges. Jeffco Open space lands are also subject to abuse from this legal loophole.

The consequences of inappropriately addressing RS 2477 highway assertions are significant and wide-ranging, especially to a state like Colorado that derives significant revenue from hunting, fishing, recreation, and tourism. Our open space, national parks, refuges, monuments, wilderness areas, and forests are integral to our tourism economy, and critical to elk, deer, bighorn, cold-water fish, and other species. Approving inappropriate RS 2477 highway assertions across these special places will have long-term negative impacts on our wildlife, water quality, and our outdoor-based economy.

RS 2477 demands a careful, thoughtful, and national solution. Because RS 2477 is a national

issue that affects federal lands as well as local, state and private lands, it deserves a national solution with much input from states, counties, and citizens. Solutions must involve:

-  Comprehensive opportunities for the public to be heard;
-  Established deadlines for asserting claims of RS 2477 "constructed highways";
-  Heightened protection for Open Space lands, and other special places; and
-  Standards that ensure only "highways" that were "constructed" be recognized

Colorado is quickly becoming a national leader on this issue with groups like PLAN Jeffco adding their common sense voice to the discussion. Already our State Senate (with overwhelming bi-partisan support) has passed a resolution that called on Congress to enact legislation that would clear up the ambiguities around this issue. Colorado Counties Inc. has been discussing this issue with several counties from around the state. Individual counties have passed resolutions that call for a national policy to put this issue to rest once and for all. Congressman Mark Udall has drafted legislation that is a good start in furthering the discussion and debate on the national level. The issue of resolving R.S. 2477 is a bi-partisan one, as evidenced by the diverse voices weighing in



The Colorado Mountain Club - More than Just a Great Hiking Club

Ask many people what the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) is and they tell you it's a place where you go hike, ski, and learn outdoor skills. But, it is much more than that.

Ninety-two years ago, a pioneering handful of mountain enthusiasts, determined to preserve the lands known today as Rocky Mountain National Park, joined together to create what would turn into a long-standing Colorado institution.

They crafted a broad mission statement that has withstood the test of time: to unite the energy, interest, and knowledge of the students, explorers, and lovers of the mountains of Colorado....collect and disseminate information on behalf of science, literature, art, and recreation, protect habitats and species, and stimulate interest in the mountains.

Since that date, the CMC has protected Colorado's wild and treasured places including many of our renowned Wilderness areas, created a youth education program (YEP!) that teaches over 7,000 youth annually, developed a plethora of classes on every conceivable outdoor skill, and printed through its book press numerous titles on the history, conservation, natural history, and outdoor opportunities in the Rocky Mountains. No organization has such a broad-based approach to celebrating and protecting Colorado's outdoor tradition.

The CMC took a major step in 1994. Tired of being cramped in its Alameda office, the CMC purchased an old run-down and abandoned school in Golden with the vision of creating a national mountaineering center. Ten years later, the American Mountaineering Center is a testament to that vision, serving as host to conferences, a world-famous mountaineering library, Colorado mountain archives, educational programs, art exhibits, and

numerous civic events such as candidate debates and public meetings.

Today, the CMC continues its long tradition of conservation and education.

The CMC's Conservation Department is dedicated to protecting Colorado's last remaining wild and special places and the quiet backcountry experience. Facing new and significant challenges such as growing numbers of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and other off-road vehicles, the CMC works closely with decision-makers and other organizations (such as PLAN Jeffco) to craft land policy that protects our outdoor heritage and our environment.

Likewise, the CMC Education Department instills a sense of place in Colorado's children and adults through a large variety of classes. Examples are nature-writing, astronomy, landscape watercolors, natural history of the Rocky Mountains, wild plants school, and Colorado geology.

CMC's success is attributed in large part to its dedicated volunteer corps. CMC members, in the true tradition of a club, pass down knowledge from one generation to the next by teaching outdoor skills as well as an appreciation of wild and beautiful places. Members also volunteer (over 6000 hours annually) helping land managers maintain trails, remove abandoned fences, replace hiker bridges, monitor weeds, and cleaning up trash.

Ninety-two years after its inception, the CMC is constantly trying to improve the services it provides to its members and to Colorado. With offices in Golden, Boulder, Grand Junction, and Carbondale, hundreds of volunteers, and eight full-time staff, the CMC is looking forward to another hundred years as one of Colorado's

COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB, Continued

oldest and remarkable institutions.

Have you been thinking lately that you would like to join an organization dedicated to the welfare of Colorado's forests, mountains, parks, canyons, and deserts? Are you interested in tapping your inner muse by improving your nature-writing or watercolor skills? Have you been thinking that it would be great to meet other families interested in introducing their children to the outdoors? Do you care about preserving Colorado's rich environmental heritage?

Do you want to be part of a 92-year old Colorado institution called the Colorado Mountain Club?

For more information on the CMC, go to www.cmc.org.



GOLDEN SMOKE

OSAC NOTES

April, 2004 - Study Session

Discussion with members of Ken Caryl Metro District relative to why OSAC did not commit to remodeling projects as part of the joint ventures. The discussion also related to Ken Caryl not following fee guidelines where Open Space funds have contributed to a facility. Open Space's guide lines are that County residents must pay less than out-of-county residents and that the entity can charge there own residents less, since their taxes directly are supporting the facility.

Regular Meeting

R-1 schools is considering a necessary expansion of Chatfield High School as part of the bond issue to be considered in the November

2004 election. This expansion includes more parking and athletic fields. The best place for expansion is onto a part of the West Meadows Golf Course. The area is not close to any fairways. The OSAC consensus was that a trade with R-1 would be appropriate.

The Northwest corner of The Robert Easton Regional Park (formerly the Ridge at West Meadows) requires an entrance to Alkire as does the commercial area to the North that fronts Bowles. The commercial property developer was willing to purchase the appropriate right-of-way from Open Space and construct the entrances. OSAC approved.

There was a long discussion on the lease of the

OSAC Notes, Continued

Rooney Road area with Golden. This area is intended to have soccer fields with artificial turf. The consensus of OSAC was that Golden still did not demonstrate the financial capability to proceed.

May 6, 2004 - Study Session

The study session was a field trip to observe the Clear Creek Trail construction between Tucker Gulch in Golden and the 44th Avenue overpass. The trail includes 1600 feet on the top of the Church Ditch and extensive lengths of retaining wall. The trail is targeted to be open sometime in August.

Regular Meeting

OSAC approved acquisition of a 17-acre property adjacent to the North entrance of Centennial Cone Park. Owning the property will allow construction of a lower-cost entrance road. In addition the two structures on the property can be used for a park residence and storage.

Staff reviewed the proposed trade with R-1 for expansion of Chatfield High School. OSAC passed a resolution to allow proceeding with detailed negotiations to occur if the bond issue is successful.

A conservation easement was approved for two 80-acre parcels on the South side of Ralston Creek, West of White Ranch. The easement allows for trail connections.

Extensive discussion was held with Golden representatives relative to the Rooney Road area lease. Golden staff presented how they planned to manage the soccer facility. OSAC requested a few changes relating to scheduling priorities. With these changes, OSAC approved the proposed lease with Golden.

Acquisition of 43 acres contiguous with the West side of Reynolds Park was approved. The

property will allow construction of a loop where the Eagle's View Trail now has a dead end.

June 3, 2004 - Study Session

The Study Session began with a field trip to the trail under construction through the Town of Morrison.

Jim Johnson requested that OSAC field trip a property in Conifer that Foothills Park and Recreation District is considering as a recreation center site if the Conifer area votes for inclusion in the District. The property presently is undergoing rezoning and a civil lawsuit. Therefore, OSAC cannot take any action relative to negotiations.

Regular Meeting

OSAC approved proceeding on negotiations for three properties South west of Golden Gate Canyon Road and North of Robinson Hill Road. The three properties total about 1452 acres and include much of Douglas Mountain..

The County is looking at building a facility for the Human Services Workforce Development Center somewhere within the County campus. The most appropriate location is North of the Human Services building on Open Space lands. Once an appraisal has been made, staff will bring a resolution to OSAC for consideration.

July 1, 2004 - Study Session

The Study Session began with a field trip to Conifer to view the potential recreation center site for the Conifer area, provided inclusion in Foothills is approved in November.

The budget for 2005 was presented. Because revenues are increasing at a slower rate than proposed when the current five-year budget was approved, some reductions were necessary. These reductions will allow for the future

OSAC Notes, Continued

OSAC fund balance to easily cover servicing the bonds without reducing services and maintenance. There was some discussion on how reductions could be made.

Regular Meeting

The meeting opened with discussion on the Conifer recreation center site. After much discussion and a short Executive Session, a resolution was passed expressing support for negotiations provided the November vote is successful.

An access easement across the Southwest corner of Elk Meadow Park was presented. The easement would allow access to a property West of the Stagecoach parking lot. The property presently has access easements that are convoluted and construction of the access would scar much of the property. OSAC planned a site visit to view the potential impact on Elk Meadow Park.

A gap exists in property ownership on the Northeast corner of North Table Mountain due to surveying errors. OSAC approved Open Space and the adjacent land owner dividing the area covered by the gap. The piece retained by Open Space includes part of an anticipated trail corridor.

Ralph Schell noted that a pair of peregrine falcons nested in the Ralston Buttes and are raising three chicks. Open Space is looking at selling the remaining Open Space lands on the County campus to the County/General Fund. This would allow using the funds on other significant lands.

The proposed 2005 budget was approved with reductions from the original five-year budget. These reductions include:

- Including natural trails construction in the operating budget
- Delay spending acquisition carry-forwards and GOCO reimbursements
- Include design and development in project costs
- Delay building a Park Services Shop
- Hold Joint Ventures at \$2,000,000 per year.
- Keep the park development budget constant at \$2,000,000 per year.
- Reduce Park Upgrades from \$250,000 to \$150,000 per year
- Do not pre-budget for Trails 2000 past 2005



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PLAN Jeffco is the county-wide volunteer citizen's group that organized and drafted the Open Space Resolution that resulted in the formation of the Jefferson County Open Space Program in 1972. We currently function as a watchdog group, observing meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participating in subcommittees, and issues groups, proposing and working for important acquisitions, and keeping citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program. PLAN Jeffco provided the leadership for the successful vote for bonds in 1998.

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From "Chicken Soup for the Nature Lover's Soul" by Canfield, Hansen and Zikman Contributed by Charles Kuralt

"Bill Magie"

"Opportunities are often things you haven't noticed the first time around."
Catherine Deneuve

Nobody ever knew the Minnesota north woods better than Bill Magie. After he died, the other guides and outfitters put a plaque on a boulder in the middle of a lake in the Boundary Waters canoe country. It says on the plaque:

Think on this land of lakes and forests.
It cannot survive man's greed
Without man's selfless dedication
William H. Magie,
Friend of the silderness,
Devoted most of his life to this cause.
Now, it is yours.

I spent a day doing a story about Bill. He was already seventy-six. Every summer, he said good-bye to Lucille, his understanding wife, left her behind in Superior, Wisconsin, and went up into the Minnesota woods to camp alone beside a lake with his old dog, Murphy. He hired himself out guiding canoeists.

Bill Magie remembered everything that had ever happened to him in a lifetime of guiding in the Minnesota-Ontario wilderness. He told about the hunting trip he took Knute Rockne on back in the twenties, about the night he crawled inside a moose he had shot to keep from freezing and all about his mapping expeditions in winters past.

"I'm the only man alive that's walked from Lake Superior to Lake of the Woods on the ice and carried a transit on his shoulder all the way," he said. Bill Magie was a wonderful man and such a good storyteller that we were able to finish up our story about him before the sun went down.

Over supper, he said to me earnestly, "You know, I want to take one more long canoe trip before I get too old to carry canoe on the

portages. I believe I like you well enough to invite you to come along with me."

I could tell he meant it. I felt honored and a little abashed.

"I don't know much about canoes," I said.

"I could teach you everything," he said. "You like fishing, hell, we'll catch our supper every night and listen to the loons and live off the land the way I used to. I'll promise you this: I can take you to some lakes that damn few people have ever seen. I'd like to see them one more time myself."

"How long a trip are you talking about?" I asked him.

"We could do the whole thing in six weeks, maybe eight," he said. "We'll leave the Fourth of July next summer and be back the end of August. How about it?"

I didn't know how to answer. I could never take that much time away from work, but his invitation was so eager and heartfelt that I hated to tell him so.

I said, "Six or eight weeks is kind of a long time for me, Bill."

"The hell it is," he said. "It's six or eight weeks is all it is. What are you going to do for six or eight weeks that would be better than this?"

I told him I'd think about it and let him know.

He wrote me letters over the winter to make sure I was thinking about it. In one of them, he said if it was money I was worrying about, why of course he wasn't planning to charge me for guide service, he thought I understood that. "Just your grub is all you'd have to pay for," he said. "Write me soon."

But I never did write him, and after a while he gave up on me. I found later that he never made the long canoe trip. He spent the next summer around Moose Lake, guiding a few tourists on overnight outings, telling them some of his stories around the campfire and paddling them back the next day. A year or two later, Lucille Magie wrote to me from Superior to tell me that Bill had died.

I wish with all my heart that I had made the long canoe trip with Bill Magie. I can't remember what I was doing from the Fourth of July to the end of August the summer he wanted to go fish every night and listen to the loons and see those distant lakes one more time. What could I have been doing that would have been better than that?



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Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER