



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

JANUARY 2012

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A GREAT NEW PARK

December 15, 2011 Open Space closed on the 613-acre Booth-Rogers property. As one can see on the accompanying map, the Northeast portion of the property is adjacent to the undeveloped Coal Creek Canyon Park and the South boundary connects to White Ranch Park via two trail easements. The property provides a second connection to Golden State Park from White Ranch and Coal Creek Canyon Parks via easements on the South and West

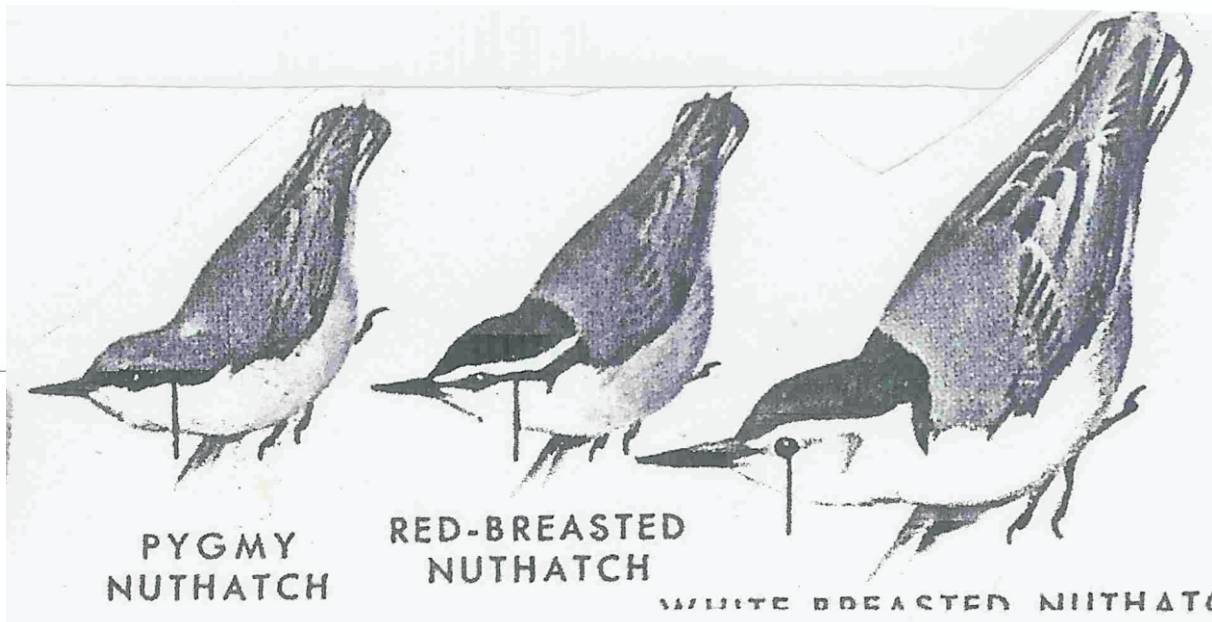
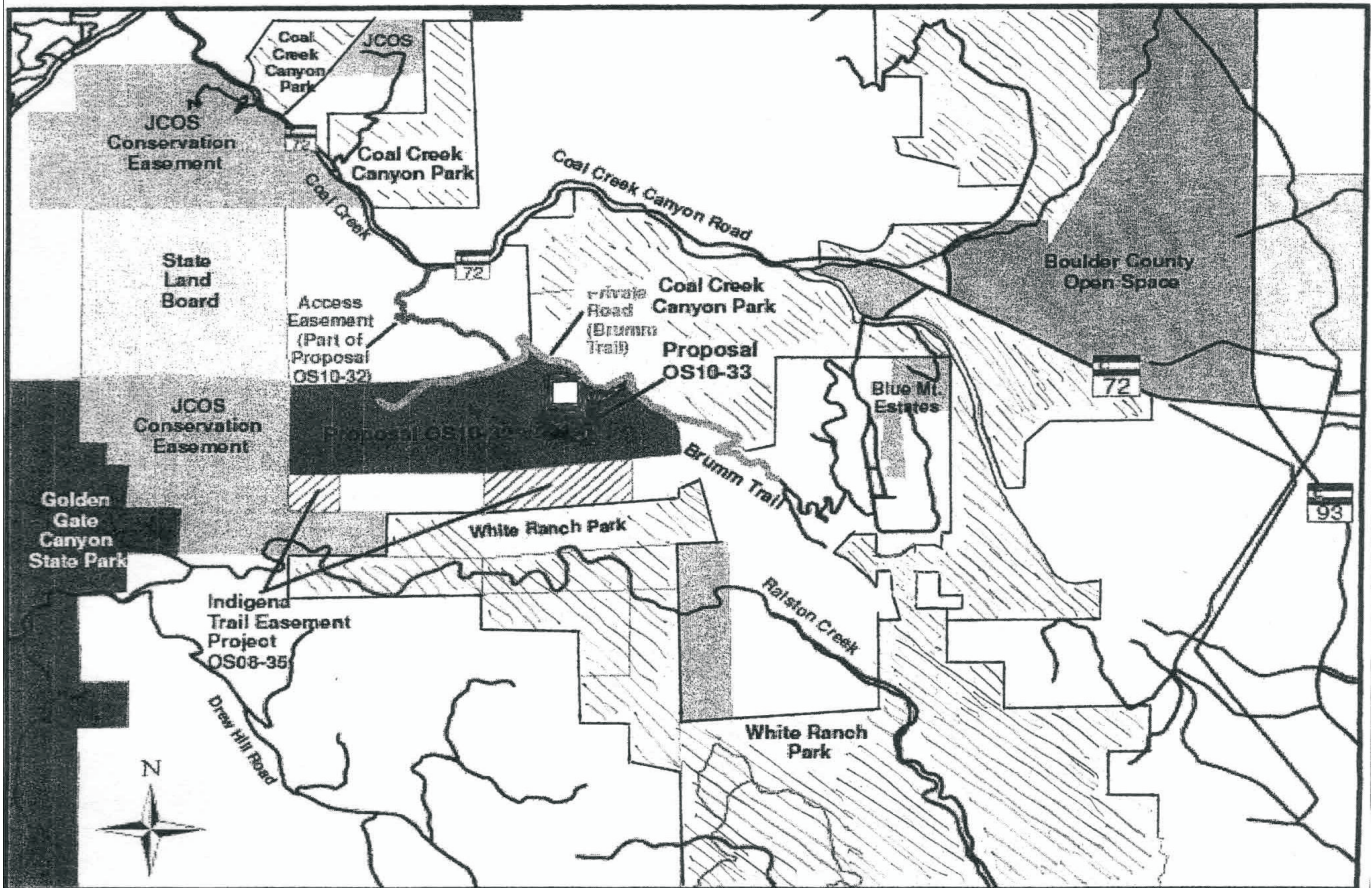
sides. See map on the next page.

The property at one time was much larger and served as a cattle ranch. It had been in the Booth family for 127 years. In the early days, a wagon road passed through the property as an alternate route from Denver and Boulder to Central City.

Most of the property is a South-facing slope that is moderately wooded, with large meadows, some springs and ponds. The forested areas are in excellent health, without over growth, guess that cattle like the sprouting evergreens. Wildlife is abundant with resident deer, elk, and bear. Views are spectacular ranging from Denver the East, the foothills and Mt Evans to the South, and the Continental Divide to the West.

Road access is difficult as the Brumm Trail from the East is very narrow and steep. Alternate access from Highway 72 on the North is along an access easement that will be limited to maintenance vehicles. Early use probably will be for long hikes or rides starting from White Ranch. With later access from a Coal Creek Canyon Park Trailhead.

Location Map of Booth and Rodgers (OS10-32 and OS10-33)





1992-2011

18,000+ Acres Protected

52 Conservation Easements

Located in Evergreen, Colorado, the Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) was formed in 1992 to work collaboratively with private landowners and public entities to save scenic vistas, natural areas, wildlife habitat, working ranches and historic lands for the benefit of the community and as a legacy for future generations.

Since its inception, MALT has successfully protected over 18,000 acres in Clear Creek, Park and Jefferson Counties. These protected lands truly represent the best of Colorado – including rugged mountains, free-flowing streams, productive hay meadows, working ranches, wetland habitats, dense forests, diverse wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation areas. Perhaps most significantly, these successful projects protect water quality, which is critical to sustaining Colorado's ecology and economy. MALT facilitates the placement of conservation easements on land that is both public and private. To-date 12,195 acres are protected through partnerships with private landowners and 5,965 acres are protected through facilitated public projects.

**2011 was a banner year for
Mountain Area Land Trust**

As of early December MALT had closed on seven easements adding over 3,000 acres of conserved property. MALT is working on another four that they hope to have completed by the end of this 2011 or early 2012.

MALT has been approved and submitted all final paperwork for National Land Trust Accreditation. Did you know that out of the 1,800 land trusts in the USA only 135 are nationally accredited? That is less than 10%! MALT is on our way to being a part of that exclusive set of highly rated land trusts.

MALT continues to refine its conservation plan and reach out to its service area that stretches from Clear Creek to Jefferson to Park County. Presently MALT is searching for a next great public project.

The Mountain Area Land Trust staff take great pride in what they do but cannot do it without their supporters. Every single dollar that comes in helps them find more land to save. It enables them to continue to protect the open spaces, scenic vistas, working ranches and wildlife corridors forever. Please consider a tax deductible gift to support MALT's work.

Offices: Evergreen, CO 80439

(303) 679-0950

www.SaveTheLand.org

Snowbirds

Sometimes called "Snowbirds," Dark-eyed Juncos are slightly larger than House Finches, with white feathers at the outside edges of their tails. They always show up at your yards and feeders with the first snowfall of the season. The word junco comes from the scientific name for the genus coming from the Latin "a rush." This remains a mystery as juncos are not normally associated with reeds or rushes, only occasionally found in bogs. It may be from Junco - Medieval Latin for the Reed Bunting which this genus resembles. Linnaeus gave them their scientific name *Junco hyemalis*. He was a Swedish scientist and noticed they showed up only in winter, the Latin *hiemalis* meaning of or belonging to winter.

At one time the juncos were separate species, however in 1973 most of them were lumped into Dark-eyed Juncos. The old species are now called subspecies, forms, races or types depending upon the author. Currently under Dark-eyed Junco are Slate-colored Junco, Oregon Junco, Pink-sided Junco, Gray-headed Junco, White-winged Junco, and the Red-backed Junco. The Yellow-eyed Junco is a separate species. The juncos that were lumped into Dark-eyed Junco can often be identified separately; however because of cross-breeding some identifications can be difficult. Those we can't put in a definite slot we call "form." Juveniles in mid-summer are a challenge as they look like streaky sparrows. The adult juncos we see have pale, pinkish-white conical shaped bills and they are not streaked. Currently juncos belong to the Sparrow Family. At one time they were included in the Finch Family.

Juncos nest in relatively open coniferous forests or mixed woods with patches of open ground and brush from 8,000' to 10,000' elevation. The nest is often tucked up against a log, tree, and shrub or in a crevice. The nest is made of grass, plant fibers, moss, rootlets, bark, and twigs lined with finer materials such as hair. The female builds the nest. The male will sing his one pitch, soft trill from the top of a nearby tree. During courtship a pair may hop about with wings drooped and tail held forward showing their white, outer tail feathers. She lays 3-5 whitish eggs speckled with brown. Incubation is about 12 days and hatching to fledging is about another 12 days. The legs of the immatures develop rapidly to aid in running from the nest if a predator shows up. Brown-headed Cowbirds sometimes lay eggs in junco nests. I observed an adult junco feeding a juvenile cowbird in the campground at Kenosha Pass. The junco was about ½ the size of the hungry cowbird. The eye color of Dark-eyed Juncos changes from gray or gray-brown to red-brown as they mature from juveniles to adults. In Colorado our breeding form of Dark-eyed Junco is the Gray-headed Junco. They live year-round in Colorado and are the only juncos we see in summertime. In fall as the weather gets colder and snows start our breeding Gray-headed Juncos move down in elevation and some may even leave the area heading farther south. The other juncos: Gray-headed from farther north, Oregon from areas north and west of us, White-winged from the Dakotas, Slate-colored and Pink-sided from farther north show up along the Front Range. In winter they hang out in small flocks sometimes mixed with chickadees, Bushtits, nuthatches and other species. This gives them a better warning system from predators.

The juncos like to feed on the ground hopping and scratching to find seeds, nuts, some fruits and many different types of insects. Their diet in summer is mostly insects. They feed the nestlings only insects, sometimes regurgitated when the nestlings are very young. In winter their diet is mostly seeds. At your feeder they prefer the small seeds they can crack open such as white millet. They will feed on the ground or at an elevated tray.

Their predators would be hawk, accipiters, egg or nestling eating mammals and snakes. At one time humans shot them for food. John James Audubon commented in his classic Birds of America: Dark-eyed Junco ("... flesh is extremely delicate and juicy"). In 1918 legislation enacted as part of the Migratory Bird Act stopped the hunting of migratory non-game birds except for scientific purposes.

In cold weather juncos, sparrows and finches use thermoregulation while foraging on the ground for food. They will drop down and cover their legs and feet with their breast feathers, pausing in their search for food to warm up. In winter a favorite place to look for juncos is on sunny, bare, south facing slopes.

Some identifying marks to look for in differentiating the adult forms of Dark-eyed Juncos we would normally see in Colorado

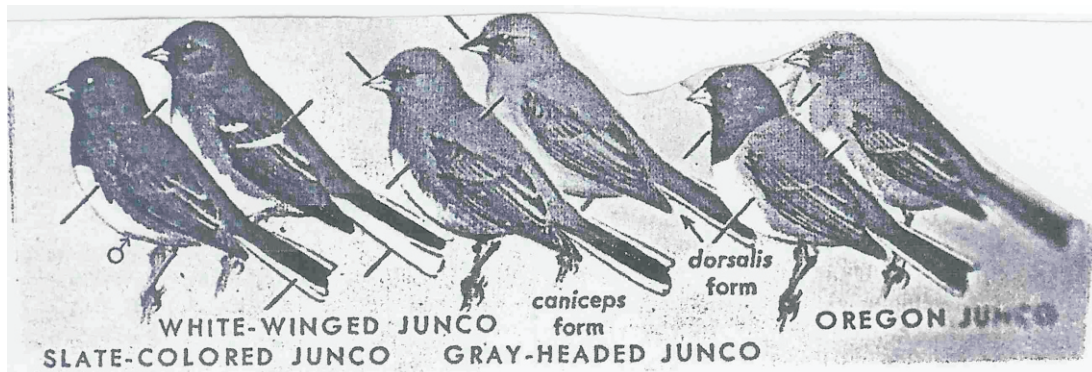
are: Gray-headed Junco – Dark eyes and area around the eyes, pink bill, pale gray overall, white belly, not distinctly defined, neat, rufous back; Oregon Junco – Only junco with jet black hood contrasting with brown back – the female is paler; Slate-colored Junco – Slate gray with pink bill and white belly; Pink-sided Junco – Slightly larger than Oregon Junco, with pale, bluish gray hood, dark around eyes and rich orange-buff sides; White-winged Junco – Larger than Slate-colored, dark around eyes, pale gray throat, distinct, white wingbars and more white feathers at tail edges than other juncos. The Red-backed Junco form from New Mexico is not found in Colorado. The Yellow-eyed Junco is a separate species found in Arizona and Mexico.

How long do juncos live? There are several records of recaptures after 8 ½ years. Young juncos have been recorded returning after migration to nest within 50 yards of the nest location they fledged.

Mila et al. (2007) conclude the entire Dark-eyed Junco species has undergone a rapid post-Pleistocene radiation from the south, diversifying in the past 10,000 years into the various forms we see today.

Information for this article was collected from many sources. Perhaps the Snowbirds will visit you this winter.

by Ann Bonnell



A Harvest for the Holly Days

That holiday tradition of “decking the halls” is a long one still well practiced today. Seeing our homes and streets festooned with greenery, we might think little has changed from those nostalgic Victorian Christmases we emulate. Gathering decorative greens, however, is a rite best practiced in places where sustained harvests are possible. How well have familiar—and some not so familiar—holiday plants withstood the pressures of our seasonal festivities?

Taking the old songs seriously, we might observe a notable lack of “boughs of holly” in our local decorations. I've seen quite a few Christmases, and I've yet to see more than a small twig of actual holly at a time. In the milder climates of England and southern Europe, where it is native, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) grows into a tree some 70 feet tall, and it is perhaps still feasible to harvest entire boughs for the mantelpiece. According to one study, regeneration of holly trees is not dependent on the seeds eaten by birds, which are deposited under trees in great numbers, because seedlings cannot survive the deep shade and high competition there. Most successful young trees are found in well-lit patches where they are safe from grazing animals. Thus, cows may hold a key to holly's long-term survival. Gardeners hold another: Many species of holly are also cultivated in milder parts of the U.S.

Ground pines, among my favorite plants, were once used to make wreaths—and may still be in lush northern regions, such as Scandinavia. I think that most of us were born too late to see such abundance of this obscure plant in the U.S. You'll find no red or white berries on this primitive plant—only spores. Other than decorative uses, those spores seem to be the most useful feature. They have been used for baby powder, to stop bleeding, and for flash powder for early photography. Thus the reproductive effort of these plants once literally went up in smoke

Ground pines, also known as clubmosses, have had their day, and that day ended more than 300 million years ago. Thanks to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, we can imagine what these ancient trees of the coal age may have looked like. These plants invented trees—and forests! *Lepidodendron*, the 'scale-tree' as one example, was more than 100 feet tall, and grew in dense forests in the equatorial swamps then prevalent across North America and Europe. They, too, eventually went up in smoke: the vast coal deposits these prehistoric forests formed have kept entire countries warm for decades.

Now those ancient giants are gone, and only about 450 species of their lowly relatives survive. Most survivors belong to the genus *Lycopodium*, or 'wolf's foot' to Greek enthusiasts. We have few species of *Lycopodium* in Colorado. Most abundant, though hardly common, is the unusual *Lycopodium annotinum*, or stiff clubmoss, growing on the West Slope in small patches. This species occurs from Greenland to Alaska, where it is found in mature forests, especially those not disturbed by logging for many decades, and is occasionally eaten by moose. It is ranked S4, "apparently secure", in Colorado; very secure in much of Canada. Another species, *L. alpinum*, is "critically imperiled" in Colorado and Newfoundland, but rated apparently secure in the Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta.

Are the remaining clubmosses on the way to extinction? If so, it may be that we have helped them down that road a bit. In moist forests of turn-of-the-century New England, ground pines were harvested in great volume for wreath material and other hall-decking. As a child in the northeast, I remember these wonderful plants but never found them in great abundance. About six inches tall at most, spreading outward in patches under the trees, these plants do resemble miniature pine trees. As with most “useless” plants of the forest floor, they are rarely discussed in forestry studies and rarely thrive in managed forests and tree plantations. In New York today, lycopods are protected on public lands, as they all, as a group, are

considered to be declining and vulnerable to exploitation, in part because they regenerate very slowly after being harvested. Commercial collecting has made some species rare; the *L. complanatum* I remember is now considered "critically imperiled" in New York State, but *L. obscurum* remains secure there. [Explore the status of species of *Lycopodium* at NatureServe.org.]

Our wreaths and boughs today usually substitute easily gathered pine, spruce, and fir branches for these older plants. Some of us may be able to harvest boughs from our own backyards; most of us probably cannot. A few commercial collecting permits are offered in our nearby national forests; one year the Arapahoe-Roosevelt Forest sold commercial permits for about 8 tons of boughs at

\$50 per ton. (If you have a permit to cut a Christmas tree, you are allowed to pick up a few boughs for personal use.) Decorative boughs for wreaths and garlands are harvested from private lands in Colorado as well.

Some coniferous decorations offered for holiday sale here and elsewhere in the U.S. are imported from the Pacific Northwest, where trees are larger and grow more quickly. In fiscal year 2010 on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests in Washington State, more than 60,000 pounds of conifer limbs and boughs were harvested, not counting the bushels of cones and other "foliage." Perhaps some of this year's harvest—regional or imported—will end up brightening your own front door.

by Sally L. White



OSAC NOTES.....OSAC NOTES.....OSAC NOTES

July 7, 2011 - Study Session. The study session included a review of the 2012 Open Space budget and the Heritage Conservation Area concept. Don Klima reviewed the five-year financial strategy 2012-2016, including the Open Space

sales tax projections and revenue growth, bond debt service obligations, land acquisitions and five-year capital and operating budget considerations, including those specific to the proposed 2012 budget. Highlights of the five-year financial strategy include:

Expenditure	5-year total (million \$)
Bond Debt Service	64.79
Operations (1)	54.25
Real Estate	
General/Land Leases	0.30
Acquisitions	16.00
Development	
Future Parks and Trails	2.45
Existing Parks, Shop Bldg.	4.30
Trails, capital	0.25
Local Grants	6.10
TOTAL BUDGET	148.44

(1) a 3% annual increase is projected for operations
 A 2% annual increase is projected in sales tax revenue

Director Tom Hoby presented the concept of developing Heritage Conservation Areas as an opportunity to review the county at a landscape level and determine where there might be areas of more significance, at this time, for focusing real estate and project objectives.

along Clear Creek, adjacent to and west of the Open Space parking area at Mayhem Gulch.

Regular Session – The committee approved the 2012 Open Space budget through a unanimous vote. The committee approved Resolution # 11-10 Clear Creek Canyon Park/Trout Unlimited OS11-03. West Denver Trout Unlimited, Inc. requested this easement to install and maintain fish habitat structures in Clear Creek. This project is part of an ongoing stream improvement project that has previously included both Open Space and City of Golden properties further downstream. This easement will provide for the installation and continued maintenance of access and stream improvements at several segments

Discussion items included a review of the White Ranch/Coal Creek Canyon Park addition, OS 10-32 and OS 10-33 by Tawnya Ernst and Frank Kunze. This acquisition would protect a large tract of unfragmented wildlife habitat and a portion of the undeveloped buffer area north of Ralston Creek and Ralston Buttes and allow for possible future trail connections between Coal Creek Canyon Park, White Ranch Park and Golden Gate Canyon State Park. Additionally, the Waterton Canyon Recreation Area Open Space addition property tours were discussed.

August 4, 2011 – Regular Session cancelled.

August 17, 2011 - Study Session Director Hoby introduced Chris Cares with RRC Associates Consulting. The committee then reviewed draft

questions from the citizen survey and made suggestions regarding specific questions on the upcoming citizen survey.

September 8, 2011 - Study Session Director Hoby introduced Chris Cares and Michael Simone with RRC Associates Consulting. The committee reviewed draft questions from the citizen survey and made suggestions regarding specific questions on the upcoming citizen survey. Don Klima reviewed the 2012 priorities that were submitted for the 2012 grant cycle. Overall, 14 agencies submitted a total of 38 project priorities with an estimated cost of \$16,260,723. Following this review, each agency will submit one project priority for the 2012 Local Grants Program. At present, \$1,220,000 is budgeted in the 2012 Open Space budget to support this program.

Regular Session - cancelled.

October 3, 2011 – Study session was a presentation by Bryan Posthumus on the Wildlife Monitoring programs conducted by Open Space.

Regular Session – Approved a resolution to accept potential donation of the Fox property adjacent to the Stafford Hogback South of Bellview. Donation offer later was withdrawn. Approved modification of the resolution for acquisition of the Booth Property – 613 acres between Ralston Creek and Coal Creek.

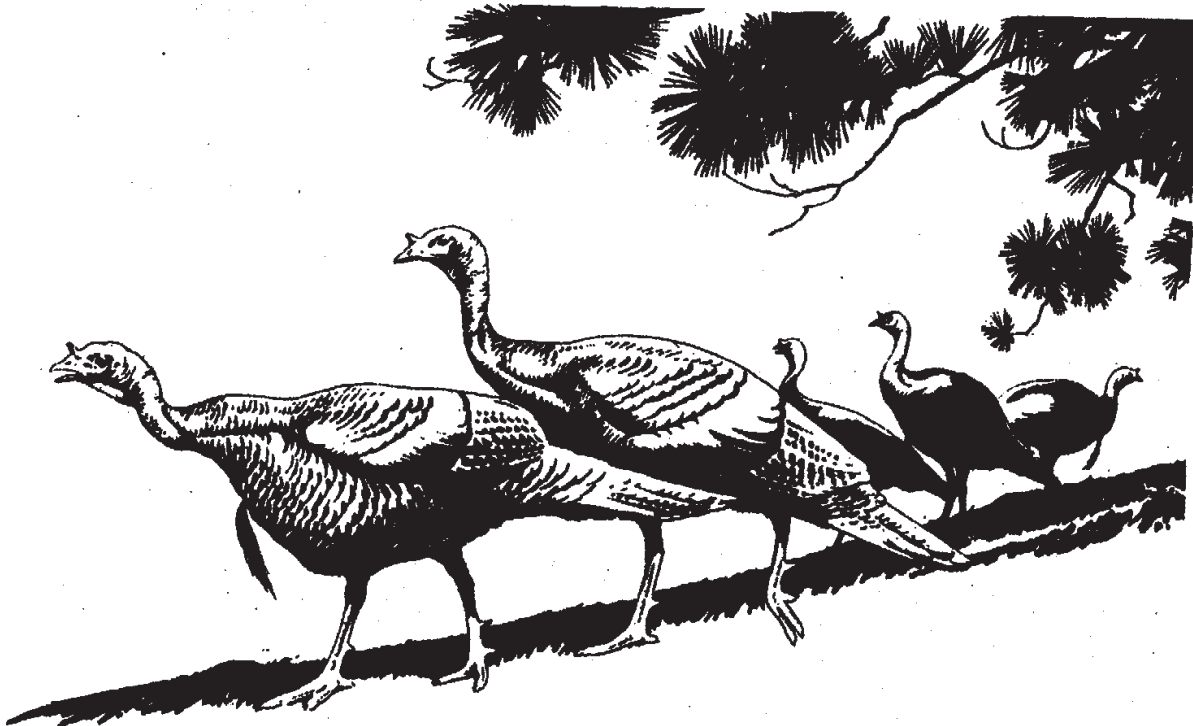
November 3, 2011 – Regular and Study Sessions cancelled.

December 1, 2011 – Listened to presentations from Park, Recreation, and Non-profits for 2012 grants. Five cities, seven recreation districts, and six non-profits presented requests for grants.

January 5, 2012 - Study Session was a discussion of the Local Grant requests. Since grant requests were less than the budgeted funds, the consensus was to make minor changes in three requests

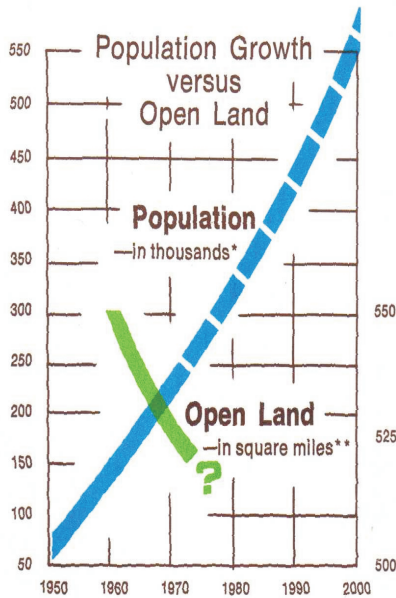
Regular Session - Staff presented recommendations to forego consideration of a property adjacent to Centennial Cone Park (already under a conservation easement) and a property adjacent to Flying J Ranch Park (has house on it). Approved resolution on the local grants.

by Greg Penkowsky



PLAN Jeffco and Open Space celebrate their 40th Anniversaries in 2012

Below are two pages from our original brochure:



**Unpublished data, Jefferson County Planning Department
 *Source: Jefferson County Profile, Regional Transportation District, January, 1972.

JEFFERSON COUNTY



Communities (by 1985 ?)

- A. Arvada
- B. Wheatridge
- C. Lakewood
- D. Copperdale
- E. Lookout Mtn.
- F. Golden
- G. Idledale
- H. Bergen Park
- J. Johns Manville
- K. Martin-Marietta
- M. Shaffers Crossing
- N. Conifer
- P. Evergreen
- Q. Morrison

- 1. Ralston Creek
- 2. Clear Creek
- 3. Mt. Vernon Creek
- 4. Bear Creek
- 5. Turkey Creek
- 6. Mt. Carbon Reservoir
- 7. Elk Creek
- 8. Kennedy Gulch
- 9. South Platte River
- 10. Deer Creek/Chatfield Dam
- 11. Marston Lake
- 12. Standley Lake

- Desirable open space
- Major creek drainages

PLAN JEFFCO



Our options are expiring. As far as open space is concerned, it doesn't make a great deal of difference when the projected new population reaches target or whether it is going to be housed in greenbelt megastructures or linear cities or what. The land that is still to be saved will have to be saved in the next few years. We have no luxury of choice. We must make our commitments now and look to this landscape as the last one. For us, it will be.

Wm. H. White, *The Last Landscape*

HAVE YOU JOINED PLAN Jeffco???

HAVE YOU PAID DUES LATELY???

(THE ADDRESS LABEL SHOWS
THE DATE OF YOUR LAST RENEWAL)

PLAN Jeffco needs your dues to continue to publish four newsletters a year so we can keep our members and elected officials up to date on Jeffco open space and related issues. We distribute almost 600 copies. With increased printing costs and postal rates, we have not been receiving sufficient numbers of dues to cover these costs.

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING!!!

PLAN Jeffco is the county-wide 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. PLAN Jeffco also spearheaded the Bond Election in 1998 that has allowed doubling the Open Space acreage. We currently function as a watchdog group, observing meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participating in subcommittees and issue groups, proposing and working for important acquisitions, and keeping citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program

Our membership rate is: \$25 per year
Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:
PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Ave
Lakewood, CO 80215

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLAN Jeffco will add you to our email tree, so that we can inform you of special events and Open Space related issues. We do not share your personal and contact information with others.



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Check our website
www.saveopenspace.org

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER