

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

November 6, 2013

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Russ Camp, Howard Brown, Todd Rankin, Bruce Fitch, Art Girten, Laura Rossetter, Nancy Redner, Terry Craig

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Scanlan, Lynn Amstutz

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Scott Reid - Town of Breckenridge; Leigh Girvin – Continental Divide Land Trust; Drew Goldsmith – public; Paul Semmer - USFS

Call to Order: Chairman Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The October 6, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted. Turk asked for a summary on the John J. Placer (Gustafson) acquisition. The property closed on October 25th, and a potential trail alignment has been flagged to extend Turk's Trail to Sallie Barber Rd. This trail alignment will utilize portions of an existing social trail that winds through the hydraulically mined area at its eastern end, thus reducing impacts to forest and wetland habitat on the Cobb and Ebert Placer. The trail was also reviewed on-site by VOC staff as a potential volunteer trail building project for summer of 2014, pending review and approval by CDLT.

Art Girten commented that he was glad to hear that the cracks in the Recpath would be repaired.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Public Comments on Items Not Included in the Agenda: Leigh Girvin explained that CDLT held a webinar on the Iron Springs realignment, to get feedback from the conservation community on whether to amend the conservation easement or pursue condemnation. The advice they received was generally to amend the easement 'under threat of condemnation', or legal action to extinguish the easement on part of the property, rather than simply amending the easement.

CDOT is still planning to hold a public hearing on the Iron Springs alignment. Paul Semmer clarified that CDOT will be providing the Environmental Analysis to the USFS for internal review, then for public comment in February 2014. The existing Highway 9 along the reservoir is on an easement from the USFS, which will be vacated when the new alignment is constructed. Normally the USFS would require that the easement be returned to its natural condition, but in this case the County will be requesting a special use authorization to realign the Recpath in that location. Staff clarified that a Recpath connection between Breckenridge and Frisco will remain open during construction of the Highway.

Drew Goldsmith made a request to OSAC for an access easement across jointly owned TOB/County open space to his property off of Prospect Gulch Road. He explained that he intends to build a backcountry-zoned home, and that the road is already plowed via conditional use permits to Hulse and McCleary. There is an existing road prism where he would like to construct his driveway, and he has driven across it in years past.

He needs an approximately 80 foot easement across open space. The Town/County has asked that Mr. Goldsmith provide a public benefit in return. OSAC informed Drew that they would consider his request during Executive Session, and staff would get back to him.

Leigh Girvin asked that Brian Lorch inform OSAC of the road maintenance being done on Humbug Hill Road, and an explanation from Paul Semmer on the USFS permit to do the work. The owner of the Wilderness Lode at the top of Humbug Hill obtained a USFS permit to perform 'routine maintenance' on the road to improve access to his property. Mark Buchanan in the Glenwood Springs office issued the permit, which stipulates that the character of the road cannot be changed. Leigh expressed that the character of the road had in fact changed. Paul clarified that the type of machinery being used is considered standard for "heavy maintenance on the road", which is also necessary to protect the natural resources of the area. USFS Staff felt the road was greatly in need of maintenance, and the USFS saw this as an opportunity for a public-private collaboration to get the work done. If the character of the road is changed, the conditions of the permit state it will have to be returned to its prior condition. The permit is for this year only. Staff explained they would be doing additional follow-up with the USFS and the County Engineer's office.

Update on Open Space Management Activities: Staff will be holding an Open House to gather public input on winter recreation management of Baldy, Boreas Pass and Gold Run Gulch Roads on Nov. 19th from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Courthouse. All are welcome to attend. Winter closures would provide consistency with existing non-motorized regulations in the TMP. OSAC comments were that snowmobile use on Boreas Pass Road has decreased, that enforcement and education were critical to successful closures, and that staff should stress this is a first phase in addressing potential county road management conflicts with TMP prescriptions. The BOCC will take public input into account to make the final use determination on the three roads under consideration.

The NEPA has been approved for the proposed 7 non-motorized and 2 motorized trails in the Golden Horseshoe. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge will be submitting a \$140,000 State Trails grant to help construct those trails over the course of the next two years.

Brian Lorch gave a presentation to BOSAC on the Muggins Gulch restoration discussed at the October OSAC meeting. They were very supportive of the project, and interested in how something similar could be implemented in French Gulch.

Per the OSAC's request at the October meeting, Staff reviewed the 1993 Special Use Permit the County accepted for the Green Mountain Camp property. The 50 year permit is mostly an historic preservation plan, and makes minimal reference to recreation. The map attached to the permit does show trails and a fishing access/platform. After the County initially signed the Permit, they identified significant amounts of asbestos in the buildings and realized it would be too expensive to maintain them for open public use, so little active management has occurred on the property since that time.

Because the many entities involved make management complex, no one has stepped forward to improve this area. It is a Bureau of Reclamation facility on USFS land under County permit. Although the public would like to see the put-in improved, a major roadblock is the lack of a permanently-protected take-out. Bruce Fitch has had conversations with BLM personnel, who indicated a willingness to propose the take-out be permanently protected in the Blue Valley land exchange, currently under consideration by the BLM. The proposal includes a potential river access trail from near where Spring Creek Road meets Highway 9, but this would not be a feasible access trail for boaters. OSAC also expressed concern over the condition and safety of the access road, which would need to be addressed as part of improved management for the area.

The OSAC made a unanimous recommendation that staff allocate time to work toward solidifying permanent public access to the take-out, while 'working backwards' to provide a safer, improved access to the river at Green Mountain Camp. They also requested that staff schedule a site visit with OSAC to the area

Howard Brown asked for additional clarification on the upcoming forestry projects in the Golden Horseshoe. Grants from the State Department of Natural Resources and the Summit County Wildfire Council will help the Town and County cut approximately 75 acres of dead and dying lodgepole in the vicinity of Gold Run Gulch. The cuts will provide a buffer in the “urban interface” to the Town of Breckenridge when combined with cuts the USFS is doing in the area. They will be selective cuts leaving spruce, aspen and young lodgepole, but most areas will generally appear as clear cuts due to lack of existing diversity in the lodgepole stands. Timber will be hauled out via Gold Run Gulch Road and slash will be scattered, with potentially some burned on-site if it exceeds contract standards. Mr. Brown expressed concern that too many trees were being cut in Summit County, and that he hoped impacts to trails could be reduced in all of these projects. Staff indicated that units are being designed to avoid trails, and any that are affected would be protected and/or rebuilt if necessary.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: Russ Camp moved to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Nancy Redner seconded the motion. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 7:04 pm. Mr. Camp moved to come out of Executive Session and Bruce Fitch seconded the motion. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 8:35 pm.

Other Business/Announcements: OSAC reviewed the potential meeting dates for 2014, and asked that the July meeting be changed to July 9th.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch

Open Space and Trails Director