

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 22, 2019
SUMMIT COUNTY SAFE PASSAGES FOR WILDLIFE PLAN ENDORSEMENT
CONSENT AGENDA**

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Endorsement of the Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan

ISSUES:

None

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable

RESOLUTION STATUS

Draft resolution attached

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Resolution
- Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan
- June 18, 2019 Board Work Session Materials

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
FROM: Kate Berg, Senior Planner
FOR: Meeting of October 22, 2019
SUBJECT: Endorsement of the Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE :

The Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan has been prepared by Summit County Safe Passages (SCSP), a coalition consisting of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Rocky Mountain Wild, local governments, ski areas, other federal and state agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations and local citizens. The SCSP Plan identifies areas for wildlife movement across Summit County and, specifically, the need for wildlife to move across highways. The Plan is intended to provide a common vision and guidance for protecting wildlife movement corridors across jurisdictional boundaries. It is a resource planning tool to support the integration of wildlife movement needs into transportation projects, land use planning and land management in Summit County.

At the June 18, 2019 BOCC work session, representatives from SCSP provided the Board with an overview of the Plan, including the implementation priorities and the requested role of Summit County Government in helping to implement the Plan. The June 18, 2019 BOCC work session materials are attached for the Board's reference.

Based on direction received from the Board and County Manager's office at the June 18 work session, the attached resolution has been prepared for BOCC endorsement of the SCSP Plan at the October 22 meeting. This resolution formally endorses the SCSP Plan and acknowledges Summit County's intent to continue ongoing collaborative work with SCSP to support plan implementation. The requested role of Summit County Government in helping to implement the SCSP Plan over the coming years includes:

- Integrating wildlife considerations into County code amendments and future master plan updates.
- Developing a County / CDOT Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to facilitate the transmission of future funds to design and construction of wildlife mitigation projects.
- Supporting SCSP community education and outreach efforts.

Future County Master Plan and Development Code Updates :

The SCSP Plan states the following regarding incorporating the SCSP Plan recommendations into future county master plan updates and development code amendments:

- Support Summit County with integrating information and recommendations from the Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan into the upcoming county master plan and basin plan updates.

- Coordinate with Summit County on land use policy and regulations that support the goals of the Safe Passages Plan.

As discussed at the June 18 work session, during a future update to the Countywide Comprehensive Plan, policies could be developed to more clearly identify the need to protect and restore wildlife habitat and connectivity for the benefit of both people and wildlife. More detailed references to the wildlife movement areas identified in the SCSP Plan could be included in future updates to Basin Master Plans, including an evaluation of any recommended changes to land use designations within the identified wildlife linkages. In addition to new wildlife friendly fencing code requirements recently adopted in August 2019, future amendments to the County Development Code could include potential revisions to the wildlife habitat overlay district and bear resistant trash container regulations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS:

Based on direction received from the Board and County Manager's office at the June 18 work session, staff has revised the attached resolution to more clearly explain that the SCSP Plan is being endorsed as a guiding document to inform future county master plan updates and amendments to the County Land Use and Development Code. With this clarification, staff recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution endorsing the Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Resolution
- Summit County Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan
- June 18, 2019 Board Work Session Materials

CC: Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager
Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director
Don Reimer, Planning Director
Julia Kintsch and Ashley Nettles, Summit County Safe Passages