



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

970.668.4060 ph | 970.668.4225 f
www.SummitCountyCO.gov

0037 Peak One Dr. | PO Box 5660
Frisco, CO 80443

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Katherine King, Senior Resource Specialist
DATE: October 16, 2019
FOR: October 22, 2019 Consent Agenda
REQUEST: Approval to exercise option agreement to acquire the Maid of Orleans claim (Snake River)

The OSAC made a unanimous recommendation via email that the County pursue acquisition of the Maid of Orleans mining claim in Peru Creek (see attached map).

Maid of Orleans, MS#7560, Schedule No. 3009096, 4.90 acres. Owners: Lauren and Michael Ruehring. Cost: \$137,500

Open Space staff approached the new owners of the Maid of Orleans claim, per recommendation of USFS staff. They had recently acquired the mining claim as consideration and partial payment towards another piece of property they were selling. They were interested in seeing it become open space, and agreed to sell it for approximately the same amount they acquired it for - or \$140,000.

A staff site visit confirmed there are no environmental concerns on the property; however some clean-up work will be needed to regrade and revegetate the property, as well as abandon the septic tank. The owners have agreed to split that \$5,000 cost (estimate) via lowering the purchase price by \$2,500.

Open Space Values: The property is easily accessible as it crosses Peru Creek Road. It's at the base of a large avalanche chute on Lenawee Mountain. Open space values include:

- Access/Recreational: A segment of the highly popular Lenawee Trail runs through the northern part of the mining claim. There is no existing easement for a trail in this location. In addition, development of the claim and potential plowing of the road could significantly change the character of winter recreation on Peru Creek Road, which is heavily used for cross-country skiing and hiking.
- Extensions: The property is surrounded by USFS lands and is proximal to other County Open Space lands.
- Unique lands: the Maid of Orleans contains high alpine spruce, fir and aspen and sits within a historic avalanche path.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION/REQUEST: Staff concurs with OSAC's recommendation to pursue acquisition of the Maid or Orleans Claim at a cost of \$137,500 to the Open Space fund. Staff requests BOCC approval to exercise the option agreement and move forward with closing.

Cc: Scott Vargo, Bentley Henderson, Jeff Huntley, Jim Curnutte