Since 1995, the Open Space and Trails Program has made 332 property acquisitions and worked with over 200 landowners to preserve their properties as a legacy for future generations.

Doig Homestead—Lower Blue Basin

Mission Statement: To identify, protect and manage open spaces, trails and trailheads to preserve and maintain Summit County's rural mountain character, unique natural areas and high quality of life for residents and visitors.
2018 Open Space Program Highlights

**2018...by the numbers:**

- **17** property acquisitions, **1** conservation easement, **1** trail easement, and **1** covenant totaling **1,257** protected acres at a cost of **$3,514,800**
- **$1,532,085** in new grant awards and matching funds
- **2,680** volunteer hours, Estimated Value **$61,908**
- Over **21,000 linear feet** of new and rerouted natural surface trail
- **5 miles** of barbed wire fence removal
- Issued **25** Summit County Special Event Permits, **15** Dillon Reservoir Special Event Permits, and **21** Dillon Reservoir Special Use Permits
- **54** Development Reviews and Agency referrals

- **Knorr Ranch Acquisition** – Partnership between Summit County, local landowners & Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust to preserving 1,123 acres of agricultural land in the lower Blue Basin, protecting Green Mountain Reservoir viewsheds, habitat and the region’s agricultural character.
- **Recreation Pathway Winter Grooming** – Partnership between US Forest Service, Summit County, Breckenridge, and Frisco permitted the grooming the Recpath between Breckenridge and Frisco for non-motorized winter uses.
- **Sage Trail** – Completed construction of 1.5 miles of new singletrack on Summit County Resource Allocation Park (SCRAP) property. This trail creates loop opportunities on over eight miles of newly constructed trail network.
- **Swan River Restoration** – Completed revegetation work on 26 acres of restored riparian/upland area and continued gravel removal upstream in order to facilitate future restoration. Recipient of Outstanding Ecological Restoration Project Award from Colorado Open Space Alliance.
Total expenditures from the Open Space Fund were $3,514,800 in 2018.

Open Space funds were used to leverage more than $1,532,085 in grants and matching funds; over 43% of the 2018 Open Space and Trails program budget!
Open Space Protection Program

- **Lower Blue River Basin**: More than half of the total acreage is protected by donated conservation easements. At 5,810 acres, Shadow Creek Ranch Conservation Easement is the largest property protected by the Program. Strong partnership with Town of Silverthorne.

- **Tenmile River Basin**: A combination of purchases and conservation easements preserves the scenic qualities of the Tenmile Range.

- **Snake River Basin**: Mine reclamation improves water quality and preservation of community buffers, and historic sites sustain rural mountain character. Strong partnership with Town of Dillon at Dillon Nature Preserve.

- **Upper Blue River Basin**: 4,330 acres (~89% of all Upper Blue acquisitions) have been purchased in partnership with Town of Breckenridge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basin</th>
<th>Acres Protected</th>
<th>Open Space Fund Purchase Price ($)</th>
<th>Estimated Value of Donation Outside Purchase Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Blue</td>
<td>9,626.55</td>
<td>11,379,584</td>
<td>43,099,951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenmile</td>
<td>1,125.91</td>
<td>1,839,669</td>
<td>1,516,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake</td>
<td>1,732.24</td>
<td>5,410,842</td>
<td>6,565,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Blue</td>
<td>4,867.87</td>
<td>16,362,953</td>
<td>28,915,664</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,352.57</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,993,047</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,097,588</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The open space protection program has been funded through property tax mill levies approved by Summit County voters in 1993, 1999, 2003 and 2008. The Annual Open Space Fund acquisitions budget is approximately $1.25 million.

Program has leveraged its acquisition funds at a 3:1 ratio with contributions from Great Outdoors Colorado, partnerships with towns, and donations from private landowners.

The Open Space and Trails Department acquires lands to protect the scenic beauty, natural habitat, backcountry character and recreational opportunities of Summit County. Properties acquired by Summit County as open space are managed to protect their natural resource values while allowing for sustainable access and use.
Protected Lands Overview ~ 1995-2018

1995

2018

Summit County Protected Lands
Upper Blue Basin Protected Lands

Protected Since 1995

- Total Acres = 4,867.87 acres
- Acquisition Costs = $16,362,953
- Cost Per Acre = $3,361
- Ten property acquisitions in 2018 totaling 99.68 acres
Upper Blue Program Highlights

- Public access, trails, and outdoor recreation
- River restoration: Blue River at Fourmile Bridge and Swan River
- Historic preservation: mines and associated historic structures in Golden Horseshoe
- Mine reclamation: B&B Mines in Golden Horseshoe
- Wetland protection
- View corridors and buffers between communities
- Partnerships: Town of Breckenridge and US Forest Service

New kiosks and signage throughout the Golden Horseshoe.
Ongoing stabilization work to preserve the Reiling Dredge.
Bypass flow devices installed near Monte Cristo Gulch that retain beaver habitat while mitigating flooding issues on adjacent property and roads.
Upper Blue Basin Program – North

- Access: over 35 trailheads & local trail portals
- Highlights: French Gulch trail system, Galena Ditch, Western Sky & Barney Ford area
- 2019 Planned Trail Construction & Enhancement Projects:
  - Swan Mtn. Recpath
  - Bekkedal Trail
  - Sidedoor Trail
- Ongoing abandoned mine clean-up & stream restoration efforts
Access: ~15 trailheads & local trail portals

Highlights:

- Quandary and McCullough Gulch trails & trailheads
- Baldy Mountain trails & trailheads
- Pennsylvania Gulch trailhead
- Upper Blue River wetlands & beaver habitat protection
Tenmile Basin Program and Highlights

- Tenmile Canyon Recreational Path
- Clinton Reservoir trails & trailheads
- Peak One Claims
- Copper Mountain Claims
- Historic Masontown Site
- Mayflower Gulch:
  - Scenic viewshed – one of most visited & photographed areas in Summit County
  - Protection of access to recreation opportunities
  - Preservation of historic mining structures

Protected Since 1995

- Total Acres = 1,125.91 acres
- Acquisition Expenditures = $1,839,669
- Cost Per Acre = $1,634
- Six property acquisitions in 2018 totaling 22.83 acres
Snake River Basin Protected Lands

Protected Since 1995

- Total Acres = 1,732.24 acres
- Acquisition Costs = $5,410,842
- Cost Per Acre = $3,124
- One property transaction in 2018 totaling 11.92 acres

Legend

- Summit Co Open Space
- Partial interest/Restrictive Covenant
- Conservation Easement
- Trail/Access Easement
- Property Conveyed to USFS
- Open Space Easement/Dedication
- Private Parcels
- White River National Forest
Snake River Basin Highlights

- Protection of backcountry character and rural, mountain scenery
  - Dispersed mining claims would have led to additional roads and development resulting in a highly fragmented landscape with limited recreation opportunities
- Water quality improvements
- Mine reclamation
- Wildlife habitat protection: lynx corridors and elk migration paths
- CDNST: Continental Divide National Scenic Trail conservation
- Historic preservation
- Access: many trails & trailheads
Snake River Recreation and Trails

- Access: ~25 trailheads & local trail portals
- Snake River Recreational Path
- 2019 Planning: Improve Recpath Connectivity in Summit Cove
Snake River Highlights – Montezuma

- Protection of backcountry character & dispersed mining claims
- Recreation & Access to the National Forest
- Preservation of Historic Resources like the Saints John Townsite

Legend
- Trailheads & Portals
- Summit Co Protected Land
- Partial Interest/Restrictive Cov
- Property Conveyed to USFS
- Private Parcels
- White River National Forest

Map details:
- Mountainous landscape with trails
- Map legend indicating various land uses and protected areas
- Saints John Townsite marked on the map
Lower Blue Basin – North

- Protection of Summit County’s agricultural heritage
- Preservation of ~10 miles of scenic viewshed along the Gore & Williams Fork Ranges
- Acquisition of private inholdings on public lands
- Access to the Lower Blue River

Protected Since 1995
- Total Acres = 9,626.6 acres
- Acquisition Costs = $11,379,584
- Cost Per Acre = $1,182
- Two property acquisitions in 2018 totaling 1,123.6 acres
Preserving and Protecting the 1,123 acre Knorr Ranch

- Partnership between Summit County, local landowners & Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust
- Protected through land purchase & conservation easement
- Conservation easement eliminates the potential for 64 home sites & protects the entire property as open space and agricultural land
- Funded through $4.3 million from private landowners, $1.84 million from Summit County, $866,000 Great Outdoors Colorado Open Space Program Grant, $10,000 Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Protection Program Grant & in-kind services
Lower Blue Basin – South

- Access to recreation and the National Forest: ~13 trailheads & local trail portals
- Buffers between developed areas
- Wetland & sensitive resource area protection
- Partnership: Town of Silverthorne & USFS
- 2019 Planning: Cortina Ridge Trail connecting Wildernest/Mesa Cortina to Town
Summit County Recreational Pathway

Ongoing Goals & Challenges:

- Fremont Pass Connection to Lake County
  - Tenmile Canyon Extension construction scheduled for 2019
- Vail Pass Improvements
  - Tunnel lighting and drainage improvements installed in 2018
- Hoosier Pass Connection to Park County
- Providing excellent user experience with increasing numbers & diversity of uses

- 38 Miles of Summit County Recpath outside of town jurisdictions
- One of the Open Space and Trails Program’s most visible and cherished resources
- ~$9.2 Million Historic Construction Cost, primarily grant-funded
- Over 200,000 user visits per year
- ~$200,000 per year allocated to maintenance
- Through “Adopt-a-Recpath” Program, volunteers maintain 35 unique sections throughout the system

New in 2018 – In coordination with the Towns of Frisco and Breckenridge, grooming the Recpath between the Frisco Nordic Center and Breckenridge Recreation Center

Summit Biking presenting the County with a $20,000 donation to use towards construction of a Recpath extension through Tenmile Canyon.
Natural Surface Trails and Trailheads

Ongoing Goals & Challenges:

- Maintaining access to public lands
- Securing easements
- Public information and signage
- Consistency with US Forest Service and town management goals
- Balancing enhanced recreational amenities and diverse uses with preserving ecological values

- Together with its partners, Summit County manages over 100 trailheads and local trail access portals
- The County also manages approximately 45 miles of singletrack and 40 miles of dirt roads with its partners

A volunteer from Summit Hockey performing quality control on the newly completed trails at the Summit County Resource Allocation Park.

Coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service, Town of Breckenridge, and Trout Unlimited to realign a portion of the Mountain Pride Trail.
## Our People

### Open Space and Trails Staff

- **Brian Lorch** – Director
- **Katherine King** – Senior Resource Specialist
- **Jason Lederer** – Senior Resource Specialist
- **Michael Wurzel** – Resource Specialist
- **Brad Kremske** – Seasonal Resource Specialist
- **Karen Russell** – Principal Administrator
- **Paul Molnar** – Seasonal Technician
- **Nathan Guild** – Seasonal Technician
- **Christine Hartman** – Seasonal Technician

### Open Space Advisory Council

- **Turk Montepare**, Chair – Upper Blue Basin
- **Terry Craig** – Snake River Basin
- **Bruce Fitch** – Tenmile Basin
- **Robert Gregory** – At Large
- **Arthur Hardin** – At Large
- **Diane Hunt** – At Large
- **Jeff Leigh** – Lower Blue
- **Todd Rankin** – Upper Blue
- **Laura Rossetter** – Tenmile Basin
- **John Taylor** – Lower Blue Basin
- **John Uban** – Snake River Basin
Partnerships

The Open Space and Trails Program maintains ongoing partnerships with numerous key stakeholders and landowners. Our work would not be possible without their collaboration and support, as well as the strong support of the citizens of Summit County.

For more information visit summitcountyco.gov