



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 2, 2019
FOR: October 8, 2019 Consent Agenda
REQUEST: Approval to exercise option agreement to acquire the Monarch Lode (Snake River)

The OSAC made a unanimous recommendation at their September meeting that the County pursue acquisition of the Monarch Lode mining claim on Glacier Ridge (see attached map).

Monarch Lode, Schedule No. 3009668, 5.16 acres. Owner: Donna Mae Euler. Cost: \$17,500

The owners of the Monarch Lode reached out to Open Space staff to gauge the County's interest in acquiring the claim. Rob Small, who owns a number of property interests in the area, has been contacting them trying to acquire the property, but the family stated they would prefer it become open space. They accepted OSAC's recommended price of \$17,500, which is also the assessed value. A staff site visit has confirmed there are no environmental concerns on the property.

Open Space Values: On the eastern side of Glacier Mountain, this backcountry mining claim is heavily wooded and has limited vehicular access. Open space values include:

- Extensions: The property is surrounded by USFS lands and other privately-owned claims. The County owns land on the west side of Glacier Ridge, and hopes that this acquisition could serve as a catalyst for acquiring other claims on the east side. Staff will be reaching out to these claim owners in the near future.
- Access/Recreational: Protection of the property as open space would prevent the development of the site and associated roads, which would significantly alter the backcountry character of the area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION/REQUEST: Staff concurs with OSAC's recommendation to pursue acquisition of the Monarch Lode at a cost of \$17,500 to the Open Space fund. Staff requests BOCC approval to exercise the option agreement and move forward with closing at the end of October.

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