

**SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

August 4, 2021

Meeting Held by Zoom Conference and In Person

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Hunt, Laura Rossetter, Terry Craig, Turk Montepare, Peter Grosshuesch, John Taylor, Art Hardin, Jeff Leigh, Bob Gregory, John Uban, Paul Semmer, Bruce Fitch

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Rankin

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Jordan Mead, Allison Mitchell, Christine Zenel, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Jeremy Call – Logan Simpson, Andy Grinstead – Logan Simpson, Katherine Raffio – Colorado Open Lands, Anne Bergtson – USFS, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:43 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Approval of Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Piney Acres Concept Trail

After opposition from surrounding neighbors, the Piney Acres trail will not be built this year in Dillon Valley. Discussions will occur next year to potentially continue the project. An OSAC member encouraged the OST department to be vigilant of the precedent that it sets if neighbors or groups can block proposed plans. It is vital to mitigate concerns while also continuing the County's mission to provide connectivity and increase access in neighborhoods with limited trail access.

Golden Horseshoe

Surveys will be completed this month, and public scoping will occur mid-September. OST will send the trail plan to the OSAC members.

Noxious Weeds

There is an increase in noxious weeds this year, especially in clear cut areas. Two notable areas are near the Wilderness neighborhood and the Frisco Peninsula. OSAC recommended that noxious weed control could be a volunteer project to help with some of these problem areas.

Fremont Pass Rec Path Construction

The new section of rec path will not be opened this year due to numerous delays. The current contractor is still fixing problems that occurred last year due to mistakes that occurred from the previous contractor. One question was asked if OST could find a new contractor. However, this is a Federal Highway Project, so OST is not involved.

Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch Pilot System

In late June, the Board of County Commissioners directed the OST department and County to begin a pilot parking reservation and shuttle system for Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch due to concerns regarding the health and safety of the public. On Friday, July 30, the pilot shuttle and parking reservation system began which will end October 31. Prior to the pilot program, the Road and Bridge Department expanded the Quandary Parking lot to include 72 spots and striped the lot to allow for more efficient parking. The department also created a helipad, which operates as the shuttle turnaround area.

Parking reservation system

- The County partnered with Interstate Parking to oversee the parking reservation system.
- Visitors will be able to choose between three different reservation types (half day, full day, and short term). Fees for these reservations are: \$20 for a half day (4:00am – 11:30am, 12:00pm – 7:30pm), \$50 for a full day, and \$5 for three hours.
- Visitors can access the parkquandary.com website to make a reservation, which can be made up to two weeks in advanced.
- Interstate Parking will use Saturn's Systems as a collections agency. Each parking ticket is \$100.

Shuttle System

- The County partnered with Summit Express to offer a free shuttle system from the Airport Road Lot in Breckenridge to the Quandary Peak trailhead.
- Three shuttles run every 30 minutes in addition to an onsite shuttle to McCullough Gulch.
- Each shuttle can accommodate 13 visitors in addition to dogs.

OST staff created a survey to gauge visitor satisfaction. The survey is available at trailhead kiosks, in the shuttles, and online. Staff will also install two trail counters and two vehicle counters to monitor visitation levels and the "ripple effect" of visitors going to other areas. Staff will meet with the BOCC next week to discuss logistical challenges and questions that have arose since the start of the pilot program such as overnight hours, a fee system for locals, and visitor traveling from the Park County side. OST will provide a FAQ sheet for OSAC members and other groups that address these questions as well as a way to provide consistent messaging about the program.

Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) will be permanently closing their gates near Blue Lakes at the end of the season. This decision was based on the fact that they have not acknowledged or allowed access through their property. CSU and the Forest Service are beginning discussions about access to and through the Blue Lakes area. CSU is also formalizing a sign program to install signs denoting their property and the rules.

OSAC voiced concerns that the least popular methods were selected even after the County put tremendous effort into researching and surveying the community about ways to address the overcrowding at Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch. Other concerns involved the local community and the need to ensure the County is still livable for the locals and that all County resources and money is not going toward visitors only. A third concern was regarding the cost to make a reservation. An OSAC member mentioned that in Sedona, Arizona a full day fee is \$4, so \$50 is a big difference. The reservation system also reduces any spontaneity and ability to change plans due to inclement weather. One final thought is that overcrowding is occurring everywhere and that this pilot program will be a test for the entire County.

Open Space and Trails Master Plan

OST hired Logan Simpson as their master plan consultant. Currently, the team is beginning their community engagement process and focus groups with different community entities are underway. The master plan will help the OST department shift from only acquisitions to now include management as well. The goal is to have this plan supplement the open space and trails components of the four basin plans.

Master Plan Session

During the OSAC meeting, Logan Simpson provided a power point presentation about the plan and led a brief discussion and visioning exercise. Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director, mentioned that the County code will need to be amended in order for this plan to be part of the County's decision making process. Below are summaries from each discussion question and topic.

What is missing in the vision statement from 1996?

One OSAC member mentioned that the whole statement is outdated. There are too many ambiguous terms and it no longer resonates with what the department does. There was also a comment that the statement does not mention anything about management. In 1996, the department focused solely on purchasing land, but today, the department must also manage the 17,000+ acres of land it now owns. It is vital however that management does not focus only on trails, that staff must also continue the acquisition process and the protection of natural resources including wildlife, vegetation, habitats, and historical resources. To emphasize this, one OSAC member reminded everyone the County voted for open space protection and highlighted the importance of not becoming a trail centric group. Other comments about the vision statement including making sure terms such as public access, diversity, stewardship, and relationships with other land managers were included.

1996 Master Plan Audit

Logan Simpson tasked the OSAC members to review the 1996 Master Plan and complete an audit survey. OSAC can also review the County-wide Comprehensive Plan and four Planning Basin Plans as part of this audit task. The review will take roughly one hour and must be completed by the next September OSAC meeting. This audit will be sent to the towns, USFS, County commissioners, and Basin commissioners as well.

OSAC Master Plan Meetings

Logan Simpson will conduct four workshops with OSAC members throughout the master plan process. It was suggested that these meeting be help outside of the regularly scheduled OSAC meetings to ensure adequate time is given to the plan. In addition to OSAC, Logan Simpson will be working with a variety of stakeholders. OST staff will provide OSAC a list of stakeholders to see if anyone has any additions.

Additional Updates

Swan River Restoration

- The contractor is mobilizing equipment and beginning the stream channel work during the week of August 9.

Dillon Reservoir Rules

- The DRReC committee will meet with the BOCC on August 10 at 1:30pm to finalize the amended DRRA rules. The amended items better define special uses, special events, and swimming.
- The new rule for swimming is wading is allowed but swimming is prohibited.
- The amended rules also provides an updated definition for a "vessel." A vessel that has only a single chamber is prohibited unless it is a paddleboard. The rule also include battery powered devices that will have a speed limit of 5mph or under.

Contracted Projects

- The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is completely work on Giberson Hill near Gold Run Gulch Road.
- The EPA is in the process of restoration the Illinois Gulch and Manila Loads.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: A motion was made to enter into Executive Session, and it was seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 7:49pm. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 8:42 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Mitchell

Allison Mitchell, Resource Specialist