

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

October 7, 2020  
Meeting Held by Zoom Conference

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Gregory, Laura Rossetter, Art Hardin, Bruce Fitch, John Uban, Jeff Leigh, Todd Rankin, Turk Montepare, Terry Craig, John Taylor

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Diane Hunt

**STAFF PRESENT:** Brian Lorch, Jason Lederer, Jordan Mead, Jim Curnutte

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco, Anne Murphy – Town of Breckenridge, Danelle Cooke – Town of Silverthorne, Anna Bengtson – US Forest Service,

**Call to Order:** Bruce Fitch called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:42 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Summary Report:** Additional discussion of RMYC efforts to help thin lodge pole stands and aspen regeneration project. Laura Rossetter emphasized that future press releases should inform public that they are part of the process. Though the forest management activities help, it is also the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain their properties in order to maximize success of the broader mitigation activities. Brian Lorch emphasized just how many resources the County is using to reach the community about this important topic.

**Public Comments not included on the Agenda:** Danelle Cook thanked the OST Department for all of the hard work and coordination on the Willow Creek Trail.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:**

*Trails Planning in Illinois Gulch Area of Baldy:* Todd Rankin provided an overview of challenges and potential opportunities for improved trail connectivity between Breckenridge and the Aspen Alley trail. In the vicinity of the hydraulic cut off of Boreas Pass Road, the County owns some properties that may make good opportunities to improve a “trail desert” with opportunities to improve connections in the Iowa Mill, Copper Canyon, Larium, and other trail zones. Much of this is at the discretion of the Towns, County, Forest Service and potentially other partners, but many areas are already informally used. The OSAC was very enthusiastic about Todd’s ideas. Obvious challenges also include parking.

Brian noted that the County is already having discussions of how to manage winter trailhead parking. Brian invited interested OSAC members to let him know if they would like to participate in this ongoing discussion.

*Trail and Trailhead Improvements:* Mineral Hill Trail update – hiking trail from B&B parking lot up to the connection with Side Door trail. This trail is designed to accommodate walkers and hikers in the area in order to better separate mountain bikers from pedestrians. Part 1 of this two-phase project is complete. Part 2 will be completed following NEPA review.

TOB has hired a contractor to expand the Gold Hill trailhead. This expansion will better accommodate parking for

Nordic and backcountry skiers in the area.

*Lakeview Meadows (near Farmers Korner)* – A County ROW connects to the Forest from the backside of this property. This summer, the neighbors took efforts to close off the ROW. Staff have been spending time to deal with this situation and the BOCC has directed the Attorney's Office to take legal action. The County is very clear that this is a ROW and are working to ensure this stays open to the public. An upcoming meeting with the neighbors aims to clarify the County's intent of managing this ROW including discussions of installing a portal post to indicate what uses are allowed.

*Swan River Restoration:* Jason provided a brief update on the Swan River Restoration Project highlighting the design-build firm of Ecological Resource Consultants/Tezak Heavy Equipment (ERC/Tezak) was hired following an RFP process yielding eight proposals. ERC/Tezak is the same firm that completed Reach A and previous planning studies. Design and permitting work is underway with construction scheduled for 2021. As an initial component of the design process, ERC/Tezak and staff coordinated to identify Rock Island Road crossing alternatives, which identified an exciting opportunity to reuse a temporary bridge from the Fremont Pass Recpath project. The temp bridge will be repurposed as a permeant Rock Island Road crossing, likely reducing project costs and beneficially reusing materials from within the County.

*Forest Management Planning:* Jordan Mead provided an update on the Mesa Cortina Hazardous Fuels Reduction project – pile burning at the Mesa Cortina Open Space. This is the first project of this kind on County Open Space properties. There are 457 slash piles on the Open Space property. The goal is to reduce fuels connectivity and risk. Forest Stewards Guild is a non-profit performing the burning work for the County. They have a lot of experience doing this work and recently combined with The Nature Conservancy. Forest Stewards Guild is in the process of developing a burn plan to be implemented later this fall and over the winter. Funded by the Summit County Strong Futures Fund and approved by the Wildfire Advisory Council. County has a Prescribed Fire Smoke Control Permit and are conducting ongoing communications effort with the Mesa Cortina Property Owners Association and Buffalo Mountain Metro District. The County will also be deploying VMS Boards and CDOT message boards, as well as sending out emergency alerts to notify the public of the burns. The actual burning work will occur while there is snow on the ground and ideally during a good snow storm in order to limit smoke impacts.

*Quandary Trailhead:* The project consultant, OTAK is performing surveys at the trailhead on most weekends. They will be conducting a separate survey of valley residents soon. In-person surveys indicate that users are relatively happy with the experience. The survey does ask demographic information to determine if participants are visitors or more local.

### **Discussion of Recpath Management:**

Jason Lederer provided an update on the Fremont Pass Recreational Pathway project, County Road 450 improvements, and Dillon Dam Recpath Re-Shouldering effort near Heaton Bay Campground.

*Fremont Pass Recpath:* FHWA's contractor is making progress, but the project will carry into 2021. The extent of work remaining will not be clear until winter shut down. The Hwy 91 bridge crossing is scheduled for installation in October.

*County Road 450 Recpath:* Summit County's construction contractor, Columbine Hills Concrete, substantially completed work on the CR 450/Huron Road reconstruction project in September. As a component of the project, a new side path connects the recently completed grade separated path at Huron Landing with Reiling Road via a new at-grade crossing near the Kennington Townhomes. The new crossing also connects to a relocated bus stop.

*Dillon Dam Re-Shouldering:* Summit County's construction contractor, RPM Construction, commenced work on a Recpath shouldering project along the Dillon Reservoir Recpath paralleling Dillon Dam Road. With a total project of \$60,000, the contractor will work to complete work on as many of the deficient locations as the budget allows. Several of the locations require installation of dry stack boulder retaining walls or fill slopes. The anticipated construction duration is approximately four weeks.

**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 7:14 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brian Lorch*

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director