

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

November 3, 2021  
Meeting Held by Zoom Conference

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Terry Craig, Bruce Fitch, Robert Gregory, Peter Grosshuesch, Arthur Hardin, Diane Hunt, Turk Montepare, Laura Rossetter, Paul Semmer, John Taylor

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Leigh, Todd Rankin, John Uban

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christine Zenel, Allison Mitchell, Jim Curnutte

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Cindy Ebbert – USFS, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco  
Danelle Cook– Town of Silverthorne, Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge

**Call to Order:** Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:33 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.

**Public Comments:** None.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:**

Staff provided an update on the Open Space & Trails Master Plan process. The project is now in phase two, which includes analyzing data from the summer visitor use survey and public visioning questionnaire; launching a second public survey related to potential management strategies and policies; understanding and mapping the existing conditions of the department's assets; and beginning to draft the master plan. After providing this update, staff facilitated a visioning exercise with the OSAC.

The exercise asked the following questions:

- 5-minute self-study. Where would our collective focus have the greatest impact in 20 years?
  - Step 1. Envision a national recognition that is awarded to the Summit County Open Space & Trails 10 years from now. What is the accomplishment(s)?
  - Step 2. What publications celebrated the accomplishment?
  - Step 3. Write 3-5 vivid excerpts from the publication on a blank paper.
  - Step 4. Re-write/copy paste your top 1-2 vivid descriptions in the chat.
- 20-minute group discussion. Where would our collective focus have the greatest impact in 20 years?
  - Step 5. As a group, discuss what you see in the chat:

- What is exciting? What inspires you to serve on the OSAC?
- What is memorable and easy to grasp?
- What will be exciting to the broad community, not just OSAC or BOCC?
- Will achieving any of these visions require great organizational change?

The following awards were posted and discussed in the Zoom chat for discussion:

- Best balance between resource conservation and public access
  - We've figured out how to address all of our challenges
  - The outdoors is still here, and healthy, and it provides a great visitor experience (the experience relies on a healthy ecosystem)
  - We did a good job in the face of overwhelming demand
  - Balance not only between natural resources and recreation, but also development
- Best Place to Experience the Outdoors
  - Ties into the above award
- Award for open space created by the community that invites the public and ensures sustainable ecosystems for the future
  - Celebrate community involvement and good listening to the community
  - Celebrate community support
- National recognition at USFS Washington Office level: collaboration and partnerships with regional, local and national conservation agencies to preserve and conserve significant natural and historic landscapes for the use and enjoyment of Summit County residents and visitors
  - The award would not only be for the big projects. This department has done a lot and needs to toot its own horn! The department could already receive awards for the above.
  - The collaborations and partnerships the department already has are inspiring. The department also has the opportunity to seek out MORE partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
- Nobel Peace Prize for bringing people into nature and nature into people
  - Not just the hardcore recreation activities, but also bringing in the element of people experiencing the natural environment in a passive, meditative way
- USA Today: Best place to experience the beauty of nature, with access to all and strong management of resources
  - Equitable access: the department helps ALL communities in Summit County have easy access to the National Forest
- Award for achieving a long term vision, working towards sustainable ecosystems and great outdoor experiences for all future generations
  - We haven't "spoiled the nest"

The OSAC also discussed the meaning of the word "resources" and term "natural resources," which are widely used in land management. The OSAC pointed out the need to better define these terms in the master plan, so that they are not misinterpreted as extractive. Natural resources are worthy of protecting.

The OSAC also discussed the need to preserve and recognize Summit County's historic resources. If not for Summit County's extractive past, we would not have the same recreation opportunities and Forest access (e.g., old roads in the Golden Horseshoe). Summit County's historic resources define the character of the County. Through preservation of historic resources, we have maintained access to the Forest. Through impacted ecosystems, we have had numerous opportunities for incredible restoration work.

**Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:** None. Staff provided the OSAC with updates on the London Placer, North Star Claims, and Willow Creek Placer closings, which are now public information.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Staff provided an update on the Fremont Recpath per request. This section of Recpath is nearly completed with slight delays due to snow this October and November. The Forest Service and Recpath contractors have created a final punch-list for the project. The contractors still need to repave one section the path and seed/add topsoil in some areas of the path.

OSAC members are welcome to walk the path if they wear safety equipment or anything with a Summit County logo. Construction is still occurring and the path is not officially open to the public yet.

The path will be closed November 23, 2021 through April 30, 2022 to protect lynx winter and spring breeding habitats. Signs relating to the closure will be posted, and staff/Forest Service will look into creating a press release and other communications to ensure that those skiing the Sky Chutes this winter will have an option to exit without impacting the closure.

Staff expects to have a formal ribbon cutting next spring/early summer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Zenel*

Christine Zenel, Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist