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Kathleen Neel - Summit County Recorder

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 43**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF MESA CORTINA/WILDERNEST OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN: AMENDMENT 2 (OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS)**

**WHEREAS**, The Summit County Open Space Program was created with the goal to actively protect and preserve lands that maintain the County's rural mountain character for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Summit County have approved three separate property tax mill levies to fund the acquisition and management of Open Space properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the County acquired this 95.7-acre property upon specific criteria including, but not limited to, access to adjacent Federal lands, extensions of public lands, recreation, and the protection of view corridors, undeveloped community buffers, and lands of unique cultural and ecological importance; and

**WHEREAS**, the County places high importance on managing these properties to allow and facilitate public uses, providing new opportunities for hiking and mountain biking, while protecting and enhancing the resource values for which these properties were acquired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Space Advisory Council unanimously passed a motion to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached Mesa Cortina/Wilderness Open Space Management Plan Amendment 2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners finds as follows:

The proposed management plan amendment:

- Is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Summit County Open Space Protection Plan, adopted in December 1996.
- Is consistent with all applicable voter approved ballot measures.
- Provides a comprehensive management strategy for the Mesa Cortina/Wilderness Open Space Property.
- Protects the public health, safety and welfare.
- Protects Summit County's proprietary interests in this property.
- Preserves the property, protects its natural environment, and provides a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Is consistent with state statutes.

*Re-recorded to add attachment*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT, STATE OF COLORADO THAT THE MESA CORTINA/ WILDERNEST OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN: AMENDMENT 2, AS SHOWN IN ATTACHMENT "A" IS HEREBY APPROVED.**

**ADOPTED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2019.**

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
STATE OF COLORADO  
BY AND THROUGH ITS  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Thomas C. Davidson, Chair

**ATTEST:**



Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder

# **MESA CORTINA / WILDERNEST OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **Amendment 2**



**Management Plan adopted February 25, 2002**

**Amendment 1: adopted May 22, 2007 to incorporate the adjacent 26.65 acre Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Extension property (a.k.a “Bashore acquisition”)**

**Amendment 2: adopted June 11, 2019 to update travel management and mechanized use**

**Prepared by: Michael Wurzel  
Summit County Open Space and Trails**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan (the “Management Plan”) was adopted by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners as Resolution 2002-21 to identify allowed uses and management direction for the Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space (the “Property”). Amendment 1 to the Management Plan was adopted on May 22, 2007 to incorporate management of the 26.65 acre adjacent property (the “Extension Property”), located between the Property and Wilderndest Road, which was purchased as open space in 2005 (see Addendum 1: Vicinity Map). The intent Amendment 1 was to integrate management of the two properties by providing guidelines for sustainable enjoyment of both properties by the people of Summit County, while protecting the open space values for which they were acquired. Amendment 2 to the Management Plan is to incorporate new trail construction and mechanized travel management into allowed uses on portions of the open space (See Addendum 2: Trail Map).

The Property was acquired by Summit County as open space primarily to protect this undeveloped buffer between neighborhoods and towns, enhance scenic viewsheds, and provide recreational opportunities. The intent of the Management Plan and Amendments are to provide guidelines for sustainable enjoyment of the Property by residents and visitors of Summit County, while protecting the open space and conservation for which the Property was acquired, and for which conservation easements were placed on the property.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The 2002 Management Plan called for identifying and constructing a sustainable, natural trail to connect the eastern and western sections of the property. The 2007 Management Plan Amendment 1 called for identifying and constructing a sustainable, natural surface trail onto the Extension Property with a connection to the Town of Silverthorne, if possible.

The 2019 Management Plan Amendment formalizes the construction the “Cortina Connect Trail” by the Town of Silverthorne, Summit County Open Space and Trails, and partners. This trail crosses Summit County open space and Silverthorne open space. Of the proposed 1.5 miles of trail, the main emphasis of the project is to connect Silverthorne to the Wilderndest/Mesa Cortina Open Space west of the town. This connection offers town residents and visitors miles of trails to explore in the Mesa Cortina/Wilderndest, Salt Lick, and Eagle Nest Wilderness areas. Additionally, the proposed trail improves connectivity for residents of the Wilderndest and Mesa Cortina neighborhoods to downtown Silverthorne. Finally, the proposed trail improves fall-line, social trails that have been user created in the area where much needed sustainable, side-hill, full-bench trails should be constructed.

## **PUBLIC USES AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

Public uses and travel management on the Combined Property shall be in accord with the Amendment 2 of the Management Plan which states:

All public uses shall conform to the Rules and Regulations for Open Space Properties, approved by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners as Resolution #2015-55 and the above mentioned conservation easements. The following passive recreational uses shall be allowed only in a manner designed to avoid impacting the resource values on the Property: hiking, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, picnicking and mountain biking (east of Buffalo Drive). Other passive recreation uses may also be allowed only if they do not negatively impact natural resources on the Property. These passive recreational uses shall remain off areas that are closed due to resource concerns. The following public use restrictions shall not limit administrative access, facility installation, or maintenance functions by representatives of the County or easement grantees.

### **Mechanized Vehicles**

The 2002 Management Plan and 2007 Management Plan Amendment 1 did not allow mechanized uses, i.e. mountain bikes, based on resource protection concerns and lack of demand and popularity at the time the plan was written.

Having addressed the natural resource concerns, the 2019 Management Plan Amendment 2 allows mountain biking from Silverthorne to Buffalo Drive, so mountain bikers can access the communities on Buffalo Mountain and the greater Salk Lick Trail System. Mountain biking would not be allowed above (or west of) Buffalo Drive because of the trail's proximity to the Eagles Nest Wilderness, where mountain bikes are prohibited. See Exhibit B.

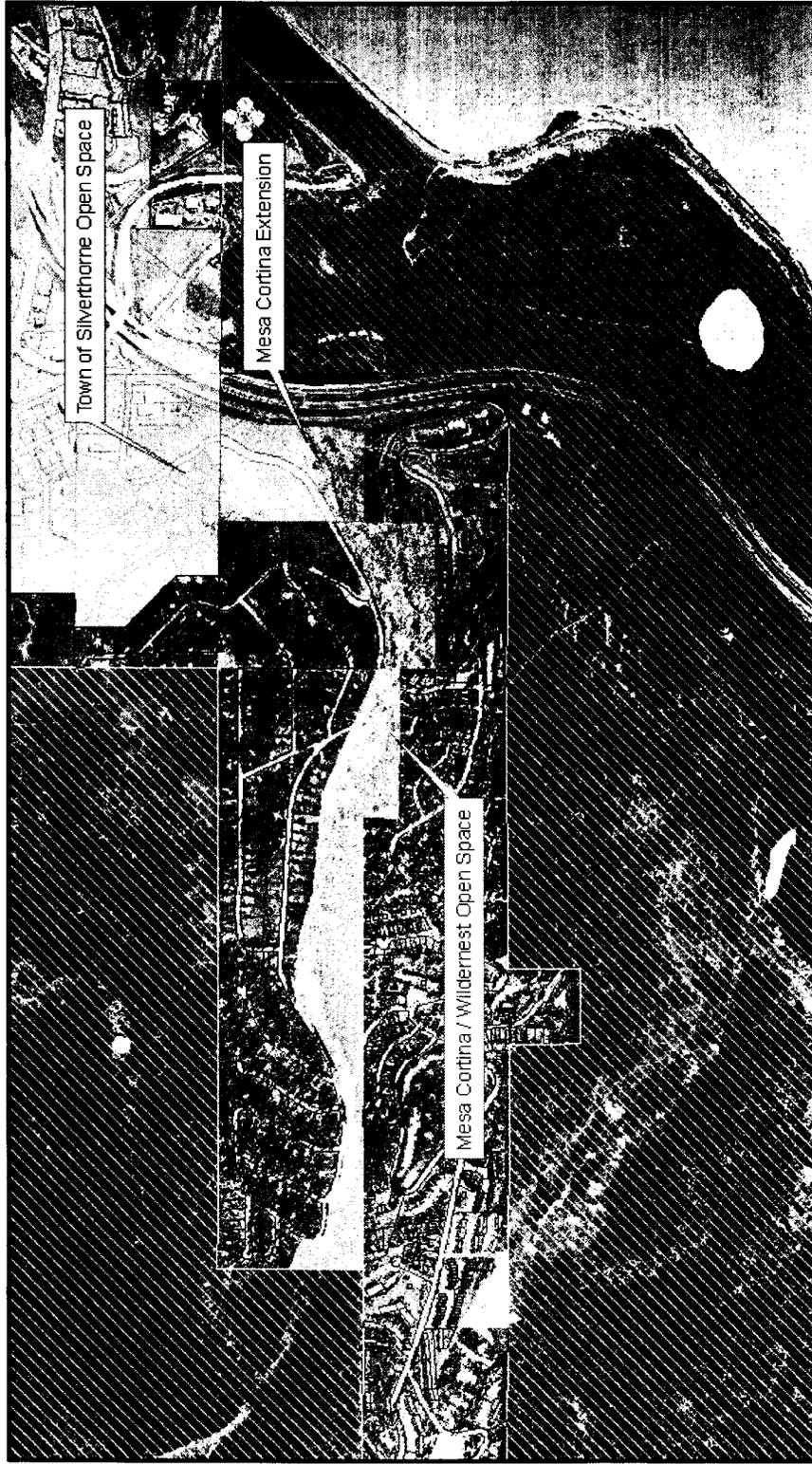
### **MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL AND AMENDMENT PROCESS**

The Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) as resolution #2002-21. The Summit County Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC) made a unanimous recommendation to the BOCC to adopt the Management Plan Amendment 1. Amendment 1 to the Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan has been reviewed and approved by the BOCC as resolution #2007-06.

Amendment 2 has been reviewed by the grantees of the two Conservation Easements covering the Combined Property, and OSAC made a unanimous recommendation to adopt the Management Plan Amendment 2. The Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan Amendment 2 was reviewed by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners at a Work Session on June 11, 2019 and approved by the BOCC as resolution #2019 - \_\_\_\_ on June 25, 2019.

The adopted Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan and its Amendments will be reviewed by the OSAC and Grantees of the two conservation easements, on an as needed basis. The OSAC will evaluate proposed amendments and make recommendations for review by the BOCC. All Amendments to the management plan shall continue to preserve or strengthen the open space and conservation values of the Property.

**Addendum 1: Vicinity Map**



**Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space Management Plan  
Addendum 1**

**Figure 1: Vicinity Map**

The map is a digital map prepared by Summit County GIS. It is based on the 2018 aerial photograph. The map is not to scale. It is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal purposes. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. © 2019 Summit County Government

## Addendum 2: Trail Map

