



**TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE**  
**OPEN SPACE & TRAILS**

**Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission**

January 24, 2022

Zoom Meeting

This meeting will be broadcast live over Zoom.  
Log-in information is available in the calendar section of our website:

<http://www.townofbreckenridge.com>.

Questions and comments can be submitted prior to the meeting to

[websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com](mailto:websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com).

<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b><i>Call to Order</i></b>	
<b>5:35 pm</b>	<b><i>Discussion/Approval of Minutes</i></b>	<b>1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 2021 Draft BOSAC Minutes</li></ul>	
<b>5:40 pm</b>	<b><i>Discussion/Approval of Agenda</i></b>	
<b>5:45 pm</b>	<b><i>Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)</i></b>	
<b>5:50 pm</b>	<b><i>Staff Summary</i></b>	<b>4</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field Season Update</li><li>• 2022 BOSAC Calendar</li><li>• BOSAC Term Limits</li><li>• Trail Name Change</li></ul>	
<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b><i>Open Space Discussion</i></b>	<b>6</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Space &amp; Trails Master Plan Update</li><li>• Beaver Documentary</li></ul>	
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b><i>Adjournment</i></b>	

### ***Roll Call***

Duke Barlow called the December 13, 2021 meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Other BOSAC members present included: Erin Gigliello, Ian Hamilton, Nikki LaRochelle, Matt Powers, David Rossi, and Chris Tennial. Staff members present included Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Anne Lowe, Tony Overlock, Zara Hickman, and Joel Dukes. Members of the public included Peter Grosshuesch, a Summit County OSAC member, attending virtually.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

The November 22, 2021 minutes were approved.

### ***Public Comment***

There were no public comments.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

Ms. Lowe: There are no changes to the agenda, but BOSAC members should have received the winter survey via email notification. There is also a Spanish version of the survey. Please share the survey with your contacts and encourage participation.

Ms. Gigliello: Is there a deadline to submit the winter survey?

Ms. Lowe: As of right now, we are aiming for the first week of the New Year.

### ***Staff Summary***

#### **Summer Concessionaire Data**

Mr. Overlock: Our OST license agreements help staff know which concessionaires are operating and where within our open space network. Currently, all permitted concessionaires appear to be following the rules. Questions came up regarding VTN Birds, but they were resolved. VTN Birds hosted a free social ride event that does not require a license agreement. Ridden is the only current permit holder to take 20 people per day in two groups of 10 on the repath. Additionally, Breckenridge Outfitters is the only guiding service on the Blue River for angling. The permitted number limits for each group might be something to review in the future if additional permits are requested. As a reminder, the concessionaires educate their clients on Leave No Trace principles and proper resource etiquette as part of their experience.

Mr. Rossi: How does this system work with the Breckenridge Recreation Center programs?

Mr. Overlock: The Recreation Center was focused on getting folks outside this summer. The Outdoor Recreation program runs kids groups in the morning and the afternoon. OST staff received good feedback regarding a Rec Center group descending the Extenuate Trail that pulled over for a mountain biker riding uphill. The mountain bike user was Jeffery Bergeron. He called to express his enthusiasm for the Rec Center group's trail etiquette.

Ms. Gigliello: Do the Friends of Dillon Ranger District host trail etiquette events in addition to the trail work events?

Mr. Overlock: Friends of Dillon Ranger District provides a historical mining tour in addition to the trail work events.

Ms. Gigliello: Do the Recreation Center outdoor groups maintain one instructor to five participant ratios similar to the commercial groups?

Mr. Overlock: Yes, the Recreation Center outdoor programs also maintain six total people, including the guide.

Ms. Gigliello: Has there ever been a discussion about non-profit group size? For example, the Keystone Science Center maintains a group size average of 11.8.

Mr. Overlock: We purposefully excluded non-profits from the group size requirement from the license agreement. These groups do not have as many restrictions due to their internal standards and rules with a strong emphasis on local youth and stewardship.

### **Field Season Report**

Ms. Gigliello: How do the 2021 Friend of Breckenridge Trails numbers compare to previous years, specifically those with high turnout numbers?

Mr. Overlock: The number of volunteers is lower than in previous years, but that might be due to the pandemic and the types of projects this year. For example, certain past projects drew in 80-90 volunteers, whereas this year's Doody Free Breck Day had a turnout of seven people. For the 2022 season, staff will focus on advertising to get more people involved and increase event turnout numbers. As a staff, we believe that community involvement through Friends of Breckenridge Trails is a critical part of our program.

Mr. Rossi: Is there any estimate on the number of downed and hazardous trees the Open Space Technicians removed?

Mr. Dukes: Currently, we do not, but the technician crew will record this information via tablet in the future as we develop additional tracking methods.

Mr. Tennial: What is the most common interaction the Open Space Technicians have with the public?

Mr. Dukes: The Technicians overwhelmingly receive thank you's and high-fives from public trail users.

Mr. Hamilton: What is likelihood that the Open Space Technicians will return next season?

Mr. Dukes: I believe the Technician return rate will be pretty high. I have received verbal confirmation from at least half of the crew, and the rest have expressed interest in returning. We did a good job creating a safe and fun working environment that allowed them to learn new skillsets.

Ms. Lowe: For 2022, staff will be adding two more Open Space Technicians to the team. Additionally, Joel will be coming on full-time in January. The staff is thrilled to have him with us year-round.

Mr. Hamilton: Regarding the winter survey, how did consultants feel about the larger survey format? Did the consultants provide any feedback?

Ms. Lowe: Cost-wise, the winter survey in this format is approximately the same cost, as it contains the same number of questions the consultants had initially planned. The consultants are working on ways to analyze the new questions and provide meaningful data to the report. As a result, the analysis may take additional time than initially anticipated.

Ms. Gigliello: Can the winter survey be linked to the Town of Breckenridge website homepage?

Mr. Reid: Yes, we can link the survey to the Town website.

Mr. Barlow: Regarding the Cucumber Gulch Preserve guided hikes, I think it is interesting that many participants found the event in the Summit Daily newspaper.

Ms. Gigliello: I was asked a question regarding the demographic data of the surveys. Will we have access to it, and if so, when will that be?

Ms. Lowe: The information will be captured in the report once DTJ has analyzed it. The complete analysis within our Master Plan process will take DTJ some time to assemble and finalize.

Ms. Gigliello: Will the analysis detail include how different user groups responded per question? For example, what user groups reacted positively or negatively per question?

Ms. Lowe: Yes, I believe the survey results will show that level of detail. That type of information will help staff understand the needs of different communities and user groups. BOSAC members, please continue to share the survey link throughout the community. The winter survey contains a QR code posted at some trailheads, but sharing the survey link electronically is a great strategy.

Ms. LaRochelle: Has there been any progress for renaming the Trail of Tears?

Ms. Gigliello: I do not believe the question has been brought in front of the Social Equity Commission yet.

Ms. LaRochelle: My second question pertains to Weber Gulch; it is excellent access to the Sisters Hut. Is the Open Space and Trails program tracking this as a winter route?

Mr. Reid: At this point, we have not tracked user traffic on Weber Gulch for the Sisters Hut. However, it would certainly make a good loop.

Mr. Barlow: Does the Open Space and Trails program have the same agreement to groom the recpath?

Mr. Reid: Yes, we have an agreement to continue with the same frequency as last year.

Mr. Hamilton: Is there enough snow to begin trail grooming?

Mr. Reid: The Town is still hoping to make more snow. The Gold Run Nordic Center has created a surplus of artificial snow, but it cannot be spread due its consistency and the high temperatures. Once artificial snow is spread out, it almost immediately sublimates.

Mr. Rossi made a motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting. Ms. Gigliello seconded it. The general meeting of BOSAC concluded at 6:29 pm.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

---

Duke Barlow, Chair

---

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission  
From: Open Space & Trails Staff  
Re: January 24, 2022 Meeting

---

**Staff Summary**

**Winter Field Season**

The following projects are completed or underway:

- Snowmobile grooming continues on a weekly basis on permitted trails adjacent to the Gold Run Nordic Center, including Dry Gulch, Upper Flume, Middle Flume, Tom's Baby, Slalom, Hard Luck, Fall Classic, and Gold Run Road.
- Visitor use data is being collected at our popular winter trailheads and trails, including B&B Trailhead, Sallie Barber Trailhead, Gold Run Road Trailhead, Recreation Path near Valley Brook Road intersection, and the Trollstigen Trail.
- Removing downed trees system wide.

**Staff Update**

We are happy to announce Joel Dukes is officially a full-time employee of the Open Space & Trails division as the OST Operations Lead. Joel's main responsibilities are the design, implementation, and oversight of OST projects and services, and the leadership and oversight of OST Technicians and volunteers. During the winter months, Joel will also assist with the grooming program, trail maintenance, and project planning for the upcoming field season.

**2022 BOSAC Calendar**

The BOSAC calendar for 2022 has been set. While meetings typically fall on the 4th Monday of every month, there may be exceptions. The October meeting will be held a week early to avoid the school district's fall break and the December meeting will be held two weeks early to avoid the busy holidays. The 2022 dates are as follows:

- January 24<sup>th</sup>
- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 28<sup>th</sup>
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Annual BOSAC Meeting and Election of Officers
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Open Space & Trails Open House
- June 27<sup>th</sup>
- July 25<sup>th</sup>
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- September 26<sup>th</sup>
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – changed to avoid SCSD Fall Break
- November 28<sup>th</sup>
- December 12<sup>th</sup> – changed to avoid the holidays

### **BOSAC Term Limits**

Three BOSAC members have terms expiring in Spring 2022: Matt Powers, Duke Barlow, and Ian Hamilton. BOSAC members are limited to serving two consecutive four-year terms and must reapply for a second term, if interested. Duke and Ian are eligible to serve a second term. Staff is awaiting the Town attorney's interpretation of the Town Code regarding Matt Powers' eligibility in reapplying since he has served a two-year term followed by a four-term term. Additionally, Erin Gigliello is terming off Council and will no longer be the Council liaison to BOSAC.

The Town is in the midst of standardizing the application process of its committees and commissions. If that process is finalized soon, we will proceed with a new application. If not, we will follow our past process of asking for a letter of interest. Staff will work with BOSAC to form a subcommittee, consisting of our BOSAC Council liaison, a staff person, and a sitting BOSAC member whose term is not expiring this year to review applications and interview candidates. The subcommittee will then make a recommendation to Council.

Council will make appointments on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and any newly appointed BOSAC members will begin serving a four-year term starting at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The March 28<sup>th</sup> BOSAC meeting will be the last with our current commission. In order to meet these deadlines, staff will post an ad in Summit Daily News during the month of February and interested applicants can send a letter describing their interest and background to Anne Lowe at [websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com](mailto:websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com). Applicants must be electors and reside in the Town of Breckenridge. Applications will be accepted through 4 pm on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The subcommittee will meet during the month of March to review applications and set up interviews prior to the Council meeting. Please let Anne know if you have any questions.

### **Trail Name Change**

The Social Equity Commission met last week and recommended renaming the Trail of Tears, a topic which BOSAC has also discussed during the past year. Although the trail name was given in memory of a Town resident who tragically lost his life, the name disrespects Native Americans and trivializes the tragedy of the Trail of Tears. We wish to change the name. Staff has reached out to a former close companion of the late resident to seek suggestions for an alternative trail name that would be more appropriate. If there are no other suggestions, staff will follow our trail naming conventions and search for a topographic feature, nearby mining claim, or other historical name and seek consensus with Summit County, as the trail is located on jointly-owned land. Staff will keep BOSAC apprised.

## Open Space and Trails Discussion

### **Open Space & Trails Master Plan Update**

The winter survey wrapped up in early January with approximately 440 responses, which is a huge response nearing the number of participants in the larger, more comprehensive fall survey. Consultant DTJ is now in the analysis phase and will soon begin drafting the initial version of Master Plan report. DTJ will also hold an Open House in late February or early March to engage the general public with the overall direction, framework, and initial results of the plan. From there, DTJ will make any final tweaks and additions to the draft plan with a goal of presenting it to staff and BOSAC for review by the end of March. Once BOSAC makes a recommendation, the Master Plan will go to Council for review and adoption in April.

In an effort to keep momentum, and especially public engagement, after the Master Plan is finalized, staff anticipates an overhaul of our social media accounts. As part of the Master Plan, we want to clean up our Facebook and Instagram accounts to offer a professional and cohesive representation of our Open Space & Trails program. Staff would like to work with Civic Brand, a current subcontractor for the Master Plan, to assist staff in creating these channels, developing templates, ensuring positive engagement, and helping push out our content. Civic Brand would also work with staff to continue the success of the podcasts by producing a number of short podcasts on Open Space topics, such as our restoration efforts, forest health projects, trail projects, naturalist tours, etc. As we think about retaining and continuing the public engagement in Open Space with a new Master Plan in place, we continue to be mindful of our social media presence to avoid marketing and ensure we coordinate existing Breckenridge Tourism Office messaging like their “B like Breck” campaign. We anticipate being focused on etiquette messaging, current projects, Friends of Breck Trails volunteer events, and other program-based content.

Summit County is planning to host a virtual Open House for their Master Plan process on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please stay tuned for timing and details through the County’s [project webpage](#).

Staff requests BOSAC to consider the following questions:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions or concerns about the status and timeline of the Master Plan?**
- 2. Does BOSAC have any questions or concerns about updating our social media channels?**

### **Beaver Documentary**

Staff was approached last fall by Chad Hagan, whose family foundation (HFF Nature Trust) is working with the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF). HFF focuses on a number of initiatives in the natural history and conservation world. Working with CWHF, they would like to produce a documentary on beavers in Cucumber Gulch Preserve (Preserve). The documentary would focus on Breckenridge leading the way in conservation of water quality, beavers, and wildlife habitat in the Preserve and its uniqueness in a popular ski town. Chad has a home in Breckenridge and was very excited to walk the site last fall with staff and EcoMetrics to learn about our wildlife monitoring and research efforts with beavers. Beavers are keystone species and indicators of biodiversity in the Preserve.

Chad is a skilled producer and his family foundation will cover all costs of the project. HFF produced a documentary about beavers in the UK and other parts of Europe that was a catalyst for recent legislation

to give beavers legal protection in the UK. Please watch the documentary, Beavers without Borders, [here](#).

Please see attached proposal for the documentary. The proposal has some excellent links to an article about beaver populations in Summit County and the [Colorado Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool \(BRAT\) mapper](#), which displays potential beaver dam-building capacity by stream reach for beaver-based or beaver-mimicking riparian restoration projects.

The documentary would be filmed during a couple of on-site days, likely in July after the sensitive wildlife calving and fawning, and bird nesting period within the Preserve. HFF would work with staff to film and set up interviews with people to speak about and demonstrate our conservation and biodiversity efforts in the Preserve. HFF intends to submit the film to wildlife and environmental film festivals.

Staff requests BOSAC watch the UK documentary and review the proposal:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions or concerns regarding the beaver documentary?**
- 2. Does BOSAC support the documentary project and staff involvement?**
- 3. Does BOSAC have any questions about our conservation efforts and beaver monitoring in the Preserve?**



# Multimedia Project

The Beavers of Breckenridge

Partners: Town of Breckenridge, HFF Nature Trust,  
Colorado Wildlife Foundation

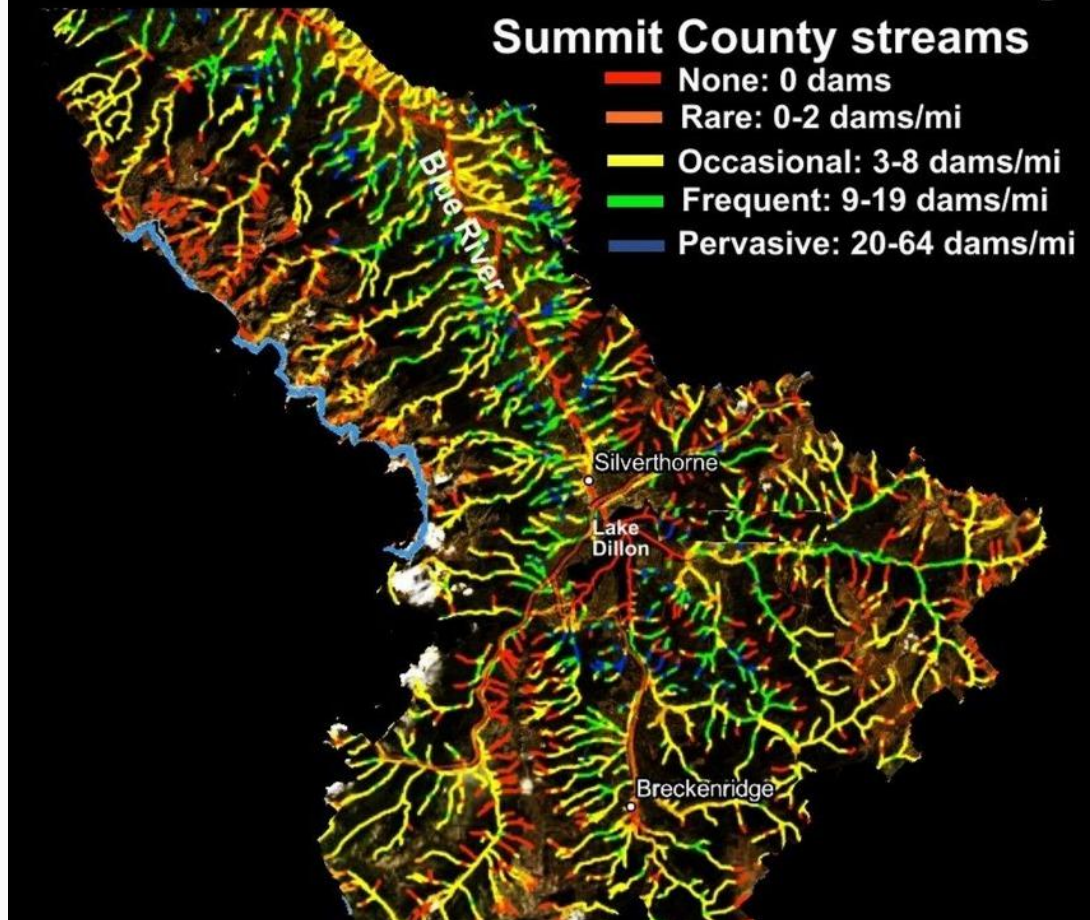
# Beavers in Summit County

“Beaver ponds feed groundwater, which allows plants to withstand drought and wildfire better. And it doesn’t end with plants. Beaver ponds provide refugia – places where organisms can survive unfavorable conditions – for animals imperiled by fire or other existential threats. Given the explosive increase of wildfires in the West, these results are perking up ears at public agencies. As this data emerges into public consciousness in Summit County – where the combination of serious drought, rising temperatures and a colossal fuel load created by beetle-killed pine trees leaves us all wondering whether we will be the next to suffer the consequences of a devastating fire – one naturally wonders what can be done. While it’s clear that beavers can help, no comprehensive inventory of Summit County’s beaver population exists.”

- Bill Betz, June 2021

<https://www.summitdaily.com/opinion/columns/get-wild-beavers-are-the-answer/>

# Beaver Habitat Suitability



# Overview

We believe strongly in beaver reintroduction, and have been focusing our energy on beaver reintroduction for a number of years, globally, as well as in the United States. We are very proud to say that our funding, activism and our short film, *Beavers Without Borders*, helped establish beaver reintroduction policy in England. We are now focused on doing the same in the state of Georgia (Chattahoochee River) and the state of Colorado (Colorado Headwaters).

The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is native to Colorado, and its role as both an environmental engineer and a keystone species has profoundly impacted the state's ecology and history. Current Rocky Mountain National Park conservation and wildlife management plans do not directly focus on beavers apart from the "Elk and Vegetation Management Plan" of 2007. We believe that if beavers are put back into focus the powers that be will embrace reintroduction of the beaver for flood management, fire prevention and ecosystem health. We also believe Breckenridge's devotion to beavers and Cucumber Gulch deserves regional and national attention.

# What We Need

- Permission for two days of supervised access to Cucumber Gulch in June or July 2020 for a small film crew and a drone.
- Permission to film the town of Breckenridge and areas of the Blue River in Breckenridge by film crew and drone.

For those who wish to contribute information and or appear on film...

- Access to relevant staff to discuss flora / fauna of Cucumber Gulch.
- Access to relevant staff to discuss water conservation efforts by the Town of Breckenridge.
- Access to relevant staff and town council members to highlight how Cucumber Gulch is supported financially (we think this could be a great template for other Colorado and US towns / cities to follow for appropriate environmental finance).

# Film Objectives

To produce a series of vignettes and a short film on the following:

- the story of Cucumber Gulch;
- the beaver population in Cucumber Gulch and in the Blue River near Breck;
- other wildlife and nature dependant on these habitats and the Blue River tributaries in Breckenridge including water conservation efforts by the Town of Breckenridge and other relevant topics surrounding such.

\*This film will be submitted to wildlife and environmental film festivals in North America and Europe

# About HFF Nature & CWF

HFF Nature Trust is an affiliate of the Hagan Family Foundation, a private foundation based in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded by Bob Hagan in 2011. HFF Nature Trust was organized by Chadwick Hagan to promote nature conservation and wildlife protection through the production of nature oriented films; funding lobbying efforts for increased wildlife support, and supporting citizen scientist initiatives.

Colorado Wildlife Foundation, officially the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, was formed in 1989 to work in cooperation with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, multinational corporations, and the public to provide funding and resource support services for wildlife and habitat conservation projects statewide.

# HFF Nature & CWF Links

## **HFF Nature Trust**

<https://www.hffnature.org>

Guidestar: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/61-1638491>

2020 Film: Beavers Without Borders:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4Mmjm22GiY>

## **Colorado Wildlife Foundation**

<https://cowildlifefoundation.org/>

Guidestar: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/84-1119674>