



**TOWN OF
BRECKENRIDGE**

Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission

Monday, September 16, 2024, 5:30 PM

150 Ski Hill Road

Breckenridge, Colorado

THE TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE IS HOLDING HYBRID MEETINGS. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT BRECKENRIDGE TOWN HALL. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN PERSON ATTENDEES MUST NOT ACCESS THE VIRTUAL MEETING WHILE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

This meeting will also be broadcast live over Zoom. Log-in information is available in the calendar section of our website: www.townofbreckenridge.com. Questions and comments can be submitted prior to the meeting to websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com.

4:15 PM Site Visit to Laurium Trailhead

5:30 PM Call to Order, Roll Call

5:35 PM Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- August 19th, 2024 Draft BOSAC Meeting Minutes

5:40 PM Discussion/Approval of Agenda

5:45 PM Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)

5:50 PM Staff Summary

- Field Season Update
- Friends of Breckenridge Trails
- CPW State Trails Grant Submission
- Camp Hale Continental Divide National Monument Access Planning
- Forest Health/Hazardous Fuels Reduction Update
- Signage Workplan Update
- OST Website
- Bioacoustics in Cucumber Gulch
- DNR Kennels
- The Keystone Drill

- **Wellington-Oro Treatment Plant**
- **CGP Spreader Pond clean-out**
- **Peak 10 Community Trails Project**
- **Proposed McCain Open Space Parcel Programming**
- **Proposed 2025 BOSAC Meeting Schedule**

6:05 PM Open Space & Trails Discussion

- **Dogs on Town of Breckenridge Open Space & Trails**
- **2024 Naturalist Report**
- **Virtual Attendance at BOSAC Meetings**
- **Laurium Parking Lot**

7:00 PM Council Matters Related to Open Space

7:05 PM Other Matters

7:10 PM Executive Session

7:30 PM Adjournment

I) CALL TO ORDER

Nikki LaRochelle called the August 19th, 2024, regular meeting of BOSAC to order at 5:36 pm. Other members of BOSAC present included David Rossi, Bobbie Zanca, Matt Powers, Krysten Joyce, and Town Council liaison Jay Beckerman. Chris Tennal was absent. Staff members present included Mark Truckey, Tony Overlock, Duke Barlow, Julia Puester, and Alex Stach. Larissa O’Neil and Larry Crispell from Breckenridge History were present. There were no virtual attendees. Katherine King from Summit County Open Space & Trails was present. Members of the public present included: Ben Brewer, Doozie Martin, Wayne Haley, Jeffery Bergeron, and Ellen Hollinshead.

II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) BOSAC REGULAR MEETING – July 17th, 2024

The minutes were approved as presented.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bergeron: “We just wanted to say that we think the new Ellie’s Features trail is awesome! We’d encourage further critical edge work, which we know is planned but it’s a really nice addition to the network.”

Mr. Martin introduced himself as the executive director of the Friends of Dillon Ranger District. He thanked the Town of Breckenridge’s Open Space & Trails Program and BOSAC for their support throughout the town grant cycle. Mr. Martin highlighted the program's growth, which had over 1000 volunteers participate in around 60 projects in 2023 and a continued focus on education and youth programming.

IV) OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nikki LaRochelle was nominated for BOSAC Chair by Krysten Joyce and David Rossi seconded that motion. All BOSAC members voted in favor of Mrs. LaRochelle.

BOSAC Chair: Nikki LaRochelle (all in favor 6/0)

David Rossi was nominated for BOSAC Vice-Chair by Bobbi Zanca. Krysten Joyce seconded the motion. All BOSAC members voted in favor of Mr. Rossi.

BOSAC Vice-Chair: David Rossi (all in favor 6/0)

BOSAC also welcomed Matt Powers as the newest committee member.

V) STAFF SUMMARY

A) FIELD SEASON UPDATE

B) FRIENDS OF BRECKENRIDGE TRAILS

Ms. Joyce and Mr. Beckerman asked about the status of the Nightmare on Baldy reroute. Mr. Overlock replied that we would begin maintenance in the upcoming weeks and the reroute of the first ~50 yards. The reroute alignment has been flagged and the work will be completed through either a volunteer effort or by OST staff/a contractor, ideally before the end of the season.

C) SAFE PASSAGES LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

D) XCEL / B&B RESTORATION

E) FRENCH GULCH WATER TREATMENT PLAN UPDATE

F) CLYDE LODGE IGA

G) TRAILS PLAN UPDATE

Mrs. Zanca was curious about the terminology referencing a “hiking pod” at Little Mountain. Mr. Barlow explained he saw the potential for a number of hiking-specific trails in the area of the Little Mountain Trail because we now own the land surrounding it and there is already an established hiking-only trail.

H) SIGNAGE WORKPLAN UPDATE

I) REILING ADA PARKING

J) SWAN RIVER – REACH B RESTORATION

Mrs. Zanca asked about the site visit to Reach B with Summit County Open Space & Trails. It is still scheduled for September 4th at 4 PM.

K) MCCAIN NAMING PROCESS

Ms. Joyce asked about the status of the McCain parcel. Mr. Barlow replied that the Town is working with the Keystone Policy Center to gather information regarding the history of the Indigenous Ute peoples that once resided in what is now Summit County. We will continue to update BOSAC on this process going forward.

VI) OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

Breckenridge History 2025 Capital Projects Presentation

Larissa O’Neil and Larry Crispell presented on Breckenridge History’s 2025 Capital Projects

Breckenridge History (BH) plans to focus on restoring several historical sites in the coming year that rose to the top of their Board of Directors list of priorities based on the organization’s Management Plan. Their list of projects includes:

- 1) Reiling Dredge Punt
- 2) Reliance Dredge
- 3) Preston Townsite
- 4) Laurium Mine
- 5) Minnie Mine Machine Shop

The remainder of the presentation focused on the Minnie Mine Machine Shop. Mr. Crispell explained the historical significance of the site and the physical dimensions of both the historical structure and the proposed restoration project. The restoration work would preserve the original structure and take advantage of the components still on site, while also addressing the hillside retention issue. There was a discussion between BOSAC and Breckenridge History

on the potential programming and interpretive messaging to be included as an aspect of the project.

Mr. Truckey asked about the direction of Breckenridge History's proposed projects, pointing out that most previous projects were focused stabilization of existing structures. He asked how the BH Board of Directors feels about this new direction and if the construction of new structures fits into the program's wheelhouse.

Mr. Crispell replied that there is a wide spectrum of projects to be considered by the organization. He stated BH has "taken care of a lot of the low-hanging fruit" and that materials in the debris pile are still valid for use. He also stated the structure still has some of its original frame and hasn't completely collapsed, so it wouldn't necessarily be a completely new construction.

Mr. Beckerman shared some concerns that trail users could have their experience impacted, but overall is in support of this project and BH's mission. He feels the potential results compared to the existing conditions are spectacular and that moving the potential project 30 feet away from the trail would be a good thing. Mrs. Zanca was in support and said she was excited to see this happen. "Such an interesting story to tell – looking forward to the interpretive signage!" Mr. Rossi was also in support and echoed the statements of Mr. Beckerman and Mrs. Zanca.

Ms. Joyce was in support. She said she feels there is a sense of urgency and a narrow window to save a lot of these structures. Mr. Powers agreed with previous sentiments. "French Gulch is now a destination... family-oriented and a destination in the network." Mr. Powers also was concerned about some of Mr. Beckerman's comments when it came to the trail interface.

Mrs. LaRochelle asked how this project would specifically interact with the trail itself. Mr. Overlock replied that we'd work with BH and make sure to communicate our messaging when it comes to safety and trail width. "We could sign this in a number of ways to assist BH with safety concerns and the interaction with the Minnie Mine Trail" Mrs. LaRochelle was also slightly concerned with promoting to additional visitor traffic to the French Gulch. Mr. Powers stated he agreed that was a concern, but the issue of overuse already exists, and we should manage the area to the best of our ability. Ms. Joyce wanted to make sure both OST and BH's Master Plans would work together on these projects going forward. Mr. Rossi agreed and shared some ideas on how to manage that use with transit.

Mr. Powers brought up the price of the project to which Mrs. O'Neil explained that there was some disparity in cost "between some of our other projects and this one." Mrs. O'Neil also explained that there is "no established protocol when OST contributes to BH projects and that they are grateful for any amount the commission would recommend to us."

Mr. Truckey suggested that BOSAC hold off on deciding on a number in terms of financial support at this particular meeting. Mr. Truckey stated that we haven't heard from the Town Council and our partners at OSAC yet and that it might be a good idea to circle back on this decision at a future meeting. BOSAC Chair Mrs. LaRochelle and the other members of BOSAC agreed on that protocol.

Open Space & Trails Pro Forma

Mr. Truckey presented on the OST Pro Forma, highlighting the fund balance and projected expenses over the next five years.

The budget includes revenues from sales tax, TDRs, grants, and interest, as well as expenditures on personnel, materials, and capital projects. There was a discussion between OST staff and BOSAC on the allocation of funds for various projects and the potential for future acquisitions and trail projects.

Mrs. Joyce asked about the transfer line item regarding the McCain parcel and if it was related to the rec. path, OST purposes, or the proposed parking area. Mr. Truckey explained it could be used for a number of different things at the McCain parcel, although we have the option of just using the regular Open Space Fund for those items. Mr. Truckey stated that particular line item is a placeholder and will help us plan for what we want to do in the future. Mrs. LaRoche was curious if we make any profit off of the Wellington Water Plant to which Mr. Truckey replied that we used to, but the cadmium and zinc are now just sent to a landfill.

Transferable Development Rights Discussion

Mr. Truckey presented on Transferable Development Rights.

He explained the program, its history, and its role in preserving open space and managing development throughout Summit County. The concept of the program involves stripping density from backcountry land and transferring it to more urban areas, with the county administering the bank. There was a discussion between OST staff and BOSAC on the value of TRDs and their impact on development in the basin, including the inclusion of wetland lots in the program.

Land use related, but not entirely pertinent. One basin = plan as a whole and protect the resources. Let's not overwhelm the system. No additional development aside from what is zoned. You can't upzone to create more density unless you bring it from somewhere else.

Ms. Joyce asked what would happen if the Open Space program wanted to sell a backcountry property (that's already been stripped of its TDR) to a private developer in the future. Mr. Truckey explained that the OST program does do that via land trades with the Forest Service.

Directional and Single-Use Trails Discussion & Slalom Designation

Mr. Overlock presented briefly on the Slalom Trail, provided a background of how the trail has changed over the past 10-15 years, and how OST Staff would like to address user safety on this trail. Mr. Overlock provided some examples of single-use trails within our network and explained how the shared-use uphill routes have been successful in reducing conflicts between the two user groups (hikers and bikers). Mr. Overlock also talked about some of the alternative routes for climbing in this area aside from Slalom, highlighting the new Ellie's Features Trail and the potential future connection between Little Corporal and Upper Flume. Finally, Mr. Overlock mentioned that the Summit County Open Space & Trails Advisory Council discussed this issue last week and approved the designation of "downhill recommend" for this trail. BOSAC and OST Staff discussed the concept of single-use trails and their efficiency more generally.

Mr. Rossi asked about the Peabody Placer Forest Health Project and if there was any opportunity to utilize the clear-cut. Mr. Overlock replied that we would consider that area for the Upper Flume to Little Corporal connection and potentially a reroute of the Middle Flume trail as well. Mr. Rossi was also curious about the Special Use Authorization (SUA) with the Forest Service and how that played in role in the designation. Mr. Overlock replied that the SUA allows us to designate trails as recommended, but not downhill only. Mr. Powers stated that he felt the pods of single-use trails and climbing trails work really well together because of the proximity of ascending and descending routes. Mrs. Zanca stated that OST Staff creates something that is clearly meant for biking only, we need to have a place for the hikers who may have been using the trail previously.

Mr. Beckerman brought up that Slalom was listed as a climbing route on a number of different web pages and recommended routes, which should be corrected. Mr. Beckerman stated he was a “proponent of directional trails as long as it eliminates the possibility of an odd/even day management practice in the Front Range. Mrs. LaRochelle asked about the ETA of submitting new trail proposals through the NEPA process. Mr. Overlock replied it’s really all up to the Forest Service and their staff availability. Mr. Truckey chimed in that we typically package multiple trails into one proposal for efficiency purposes.

Mrs. Zanca questioned if creating single-use trails is equitable and that it felt a bit unfair to have to share the uphill trail with climbing bikers. Mr. Overlock replied he understood that frustration, but that this would address a lot of the safety issues on this particular trail. Mr. Bergeron echoed some of Mrs. Zanca’s sentiments and said that the creation of features – jumps, berms, and tables – creates an attractive nuisance. Mr. Bergeron reminded BOSAC and staff that each time you designate a trail as downhill recommended, you end up with another trail construction that could impact wildlife and user experience. Mr. Bergeron also stressed the importance of improved signage warning both user groups of the presence of the other.

Mr. Powers felt that Slalom should be recommended for downhill travel. Ms. Joyce agreed. Mr. Rossi felt the same – “it’s a safety concern for me. Increase the signage and include messaging to expect foot traffic.” Mrs. Zanca was not in favor of recommending Slalom for downhill travel until there is an alternative route for hikers. Mr. Beckerman echoed some of the statements made by Mr. Bergeron and Mrs. Zanca, and that he felt it wasn’t appropriate to designate the trail downhill until additional uphill alternatives were provided.

The vote to designate the Slalom trail to downhill recommended passed with 4 votes yes to 2 votes no.

Council Matters Related to Open Space Topics

Mr. Beckerman brought up the Food & Beverage Delivery Program, Block 11, Vistra Verde & Stables Housing, music at the Riverwalk Center, the success of the Breckenridge e-bike program, Natural Healing Centers, and New Year’s Eve fireworks.

There was a discussion between Mr. Beckerman and the other BOSAC members about the future of the McCain parcel. Mr. Beckerman explained some of the changes regarding road construction, retention ponds, bike path realignment, and skier parking. Mr. Beckerman stated there were still some decisions to be made regarding the size/placement of the skier parking.

Other Matters Related to Open Space

N/A

VII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. LaRochelle moved that BOSAC go into executive session under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategies for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators concerning a property that the Town may be interested in acquiring for open space purposes. Matt Powers seconded the motion. BOSAC went into an executive session at 7:58 PM.

The executive session of BOSAC concluded at 8:24 PM. The participants in the executive session were Krysten Joyce, Nikki LaRochelle, Matt Powers, Bobbie Zanca, David Rossi, and Council liaison Jay Beckerman. Staff present included Duke Barlow, Tony Overlock, Mark Truckey, Scott Reid, and Alex Stach. Katherine King was present from Summit County Open Space & Trails.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting was made by Mrs. LaRochelle and Mr. Rossi seconded it. The August 19, 2024 regular meeting of BOSAC ended at 8:25 pm.

The next regular meeting of BOSAC is scheduled for September 16th, 2024.

Nikki LaRochelle, Chair

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space & Trails (OST) Staff
Re: September 16, 2024 Meeting
Subject: Staff Summary

Staff Summary

Field Season Update

The Town's Trails Technicians and contractors have been working on the following projects:

- Compacted the recycled asphalt and installed signs at the Reiling Dredge impaired mobility parking area.
- Completed extensive maintenance on boardwalks and interpretative stations in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Also, replaced 1,200 feet of buck & rail fencing below Peak 7.
- Installed 50 feet of rock armoring on the Middle Flume Trail.
- Staff is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to stabilize the bank along the French Creek crusher fine trail.
- Higher Ground Earthworks completed the All-Persons Trail in Cucumber Gulch Preserve.
- Timberline Trail Craft completed the new reroute of Toad Alley in Cucumber Gulch Preserve.
- Dry Gulch septic tanks were cleaned, and a Full Use Inspection Report was conducted to evaluate the condition for possible future programming.
- Little Daisy septic was cleaned on September 11th. A replacement septic system is scheduled to be installed next month.
- Summit County Open Space (SCOS) Staff completed a small reroute of the Spiral Staircase Trail below Cumberland Drive to formalize the trail where it was bisected by driveway improvements. SCOS Staff is working with the affected property owners on finalizing a public access easement for this new section.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails had its final volunteer event of the year on August 24. We had a solid turnout and were able to wrap up some of the final switchbacks on the new Ellie's Features trail. We celebrated the incredible volunteer effort from this summer with our annual End of Season Party on Thursday, September 12 at RMU.

CPW State Trails Grant (Maintenance Category) Submission

OST Staff submitted a Letter of Intent to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program in early September. Our grant request focuses on the design and fabrication of accessibility signage highlighting our recently constructed All-Persons trails and the construction of a new bridge on the Blue River Trail, which falls into the maintenance category of submissions. OST staff will work on completing the full grant application throughout the remainder of September and early October.

Camp Hale Continental Divide National Monument Access Planning

OST Staff, in partnership with Summit County Open Space & Trails, the US Forest Service, and the US Department of Transportation's Volpe Center, have been conducting both Parking and Visitor Use Surveys at local trailheads that are within the recently designated Camp Hale Continental Divide National Monument. This data, along with input from neighbors in the area, will aid this collaborative effort in determining appropriate amenities, resources, and level of management required at the trailheads in question – Quandary, Blue Lakes, McCullough Gulch, and Spruce Creek.

A community meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024. Staff will keep BOSAC posted on the specifics of the meeting should commissioners be interested in attending.

Forest Health/Hazardous Fuels Reduction Update

OST Staff will be meeting with Red, White, and Blue Fire District, Summit County Fire and EMS over the coming months to begin planning a site-specific burn plan for slash piles within the Airport Road and Shock Hill Open Space. The piles have cured to a point that we can begin operational phases this winter, conditions permitting.

OST has permitted Teague Saves Homes tree service to conduct work on its Open Space parcel near the Highlands neighborhood/Upper Flume Trail in August 2024. The primary objective of this project is to thin competing lodgepole pine to increase available sunlight and space throughout the canopy and improve evergreen health and symmetry.

Signage Workplan Update

Our public-facing survey: [Breckenridge Trails System: Wayfinding Survey](#) was launched on August 22. We've collected over 100 responses as of September 5. OST Staff met with MERJE last Friday to analyze results and review the wayfinding component of their assessment.

MERJE will be in Breckenridge next month to attend the October 21 BOSAC and October 22 Town Council meetings.

OST Website

The new OST website is nearing completion. CivicBrand recently added an accessibility plugin, a new page on Cucumber Gulch, and a document library page. The final update will include a new page on current projects, a trail conditions reporting tool produced by our GIS division, and a new blog posts on e-bike allowed locations, fall foliage hikes, and Ellie's Features trail.

Staff encourages BOSAC to review the website in the coming weeks before our final update. Please send any comments, edits, or suggestions to be incorporated into the final update to alexs@townofbreckenridge.com.

The Hagen Family Foundation (HFF) Nature/Bioacoustics in Cucumber Gulch

OST Staff will be partnering with Chad Hagen and HFF to conduct a bioacoustics project in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Bioacoustics is the use of autonomous recordings of animal sounds to detect bird species. Bioacoustics is emerging as a popular conservation data tool and they are currently conducting a similar project in Kingston, Georgia - <https://www.hffnature.org/rewilding-copy>.

In the summer of 2022, HFF began filming a documentary on beavers in the Cucumber Gulch Preserve. The film is now in the final stages of editing and will be submitted to scientific and environmental film festivals at the end of the year and the beginning of 2025. The film is solely focused on high-altitude beavers and the environs in CGP. It will be titled "High Altitude Beavers" - [High Altitude Beavers: Cucumber Gulch, Breckenridge - IMDb](#).

DNR Kennels

Xcel Energy, in coordination with the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County, has established a one-year agreement to use part of the former DNR Kennels property as a natural gas injection site. This property was purchased in 2018 using Open Space and Housing funds. The injection site will provide a temporary, critical natural gas supply to Xcel customers and will resemble the site previously located on the southeastern corner of the McCain Parcel, adjacent to Coyne Valley Road.



6' CHAIN LINK FENCE WITH GREEN FABRIC COVERING

RENDERED VIEW LOOKING WEST FROM HWY 9



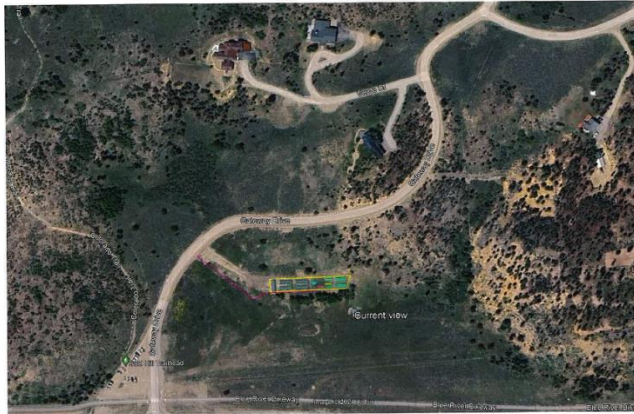
DISCLAIMER: IMAGE IS A RENDERING OF THE SITE LOOKING WEST WITH THE PROPOSED EQUIPMENT. LOCATION OF TREES AND VEGETATION IS BASED OFF OF KNOWN EXISTING COVERAGE.

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PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESIGN - SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION

08-26-2024

EXPANDED AERIAL VIEW OF DNR KENNEL SITE



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PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESIGN - SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION

08-26-2024

The Keystone Drill

Breck History installed the Keystone Drill and its protective overhead structure on the East end of the B&B trailhead. Work was completed September 3. Interpretive signage will be installed in the coming weeks.

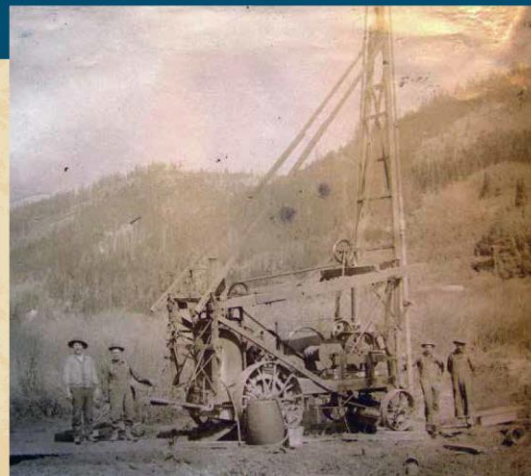


The Keystone Drill

When prospectors arrived in the Breckenridge area, they discovered gold in winding streams and rivers. Miners recognized that these gold-laden waterways had shifted course over thousands of years, leaving valuable deposits scattered beneath the valley floor. To access these hidden treasures, miners turned to innovation.

The portable Keystone Drill became their tool of choice, enabling them to sample sediments from various points along the valley. To operate the drill, miners erected a towering wooden structure equipped with a pulley system. Large crossmembers moved up and down, driving a heavy drill deep into the earth. The results of drilled samples guided miners' next moves, directing the paths dredge boats took.

Dredge boats were floating behemoths that moved up and down rivers in self-made ponds. With their long bucket arms, dredges dug down to bedrock, scooped up gold-bearing gravel into giant buckets, extracted the gold on board the boat, and dumped the waste rock behind. Their presence left an indelible mark on the landscape. Massive mounds of waste rock, remnants of their labor, still cover the valley floor today.



Photograph courtesy Robin Theobald

Keystone Drill generously donated by Chuck and Kathy Brantigan.

breckhistory.org



Scan the QR code to read this sign in Spanish and learn more about the Keystone Drill.
Utilice el código QR para leer este cartel en español.

SUMMIT COUNTY
Open Space & Trails

BRECKENRIDGE
HISTORY

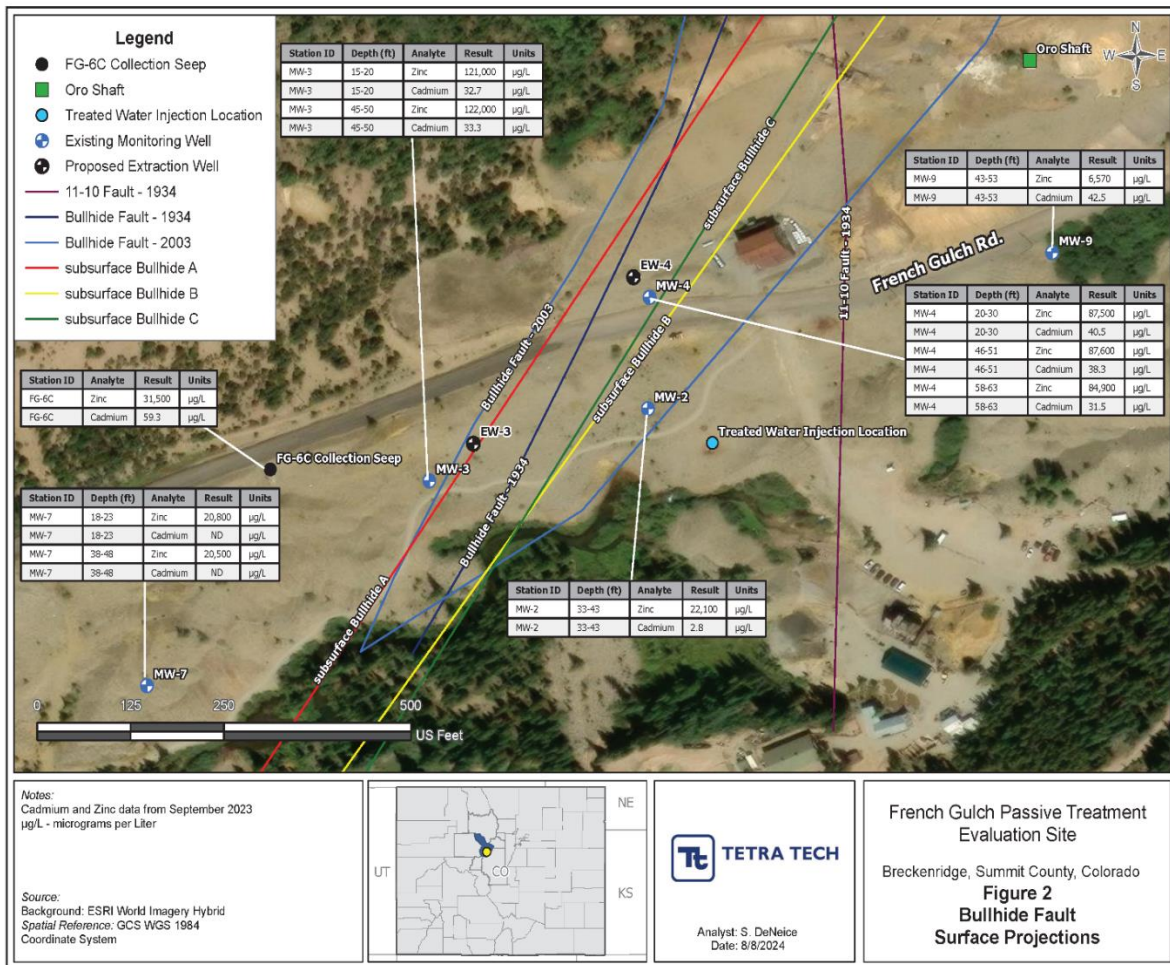
TOWN OF
BRECKENRIDGE

Please respect this historic site • Do not climb on or remove artifacts

Wellington-Oro Water Treatment Plant

As part of the ongoing feasibility phase of the Passive Treatment Evaluation Project, Tetra Tech will be drilling two test wells near the existing Wellington-Oro Water Treatment Plant in late September, 2024 (indicated as “EW3” and “EW4” on the map below, short for “proposed extraction well”). These wells will enable “pump draw down” tests to identify the locations and flow rates of mine-impacted water prior to it reaching the valley floor alluvium. The water from these wells will be pumped through the

treatment plant for processing and the tailings (deemed non-hazardous waste by the EPA) dispersed on site.



CGP Spreader Pond clean-out

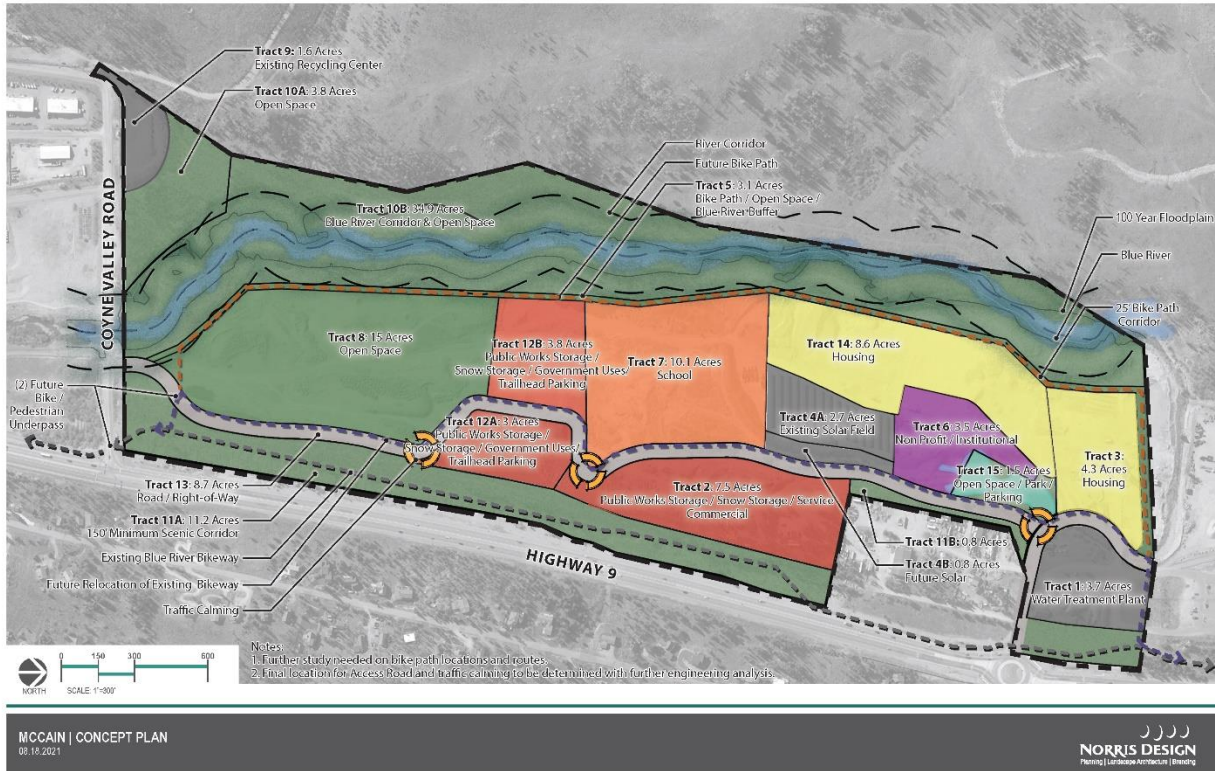
EcoMetrics' 2023 Cucumber Gulch Preserve Wetland Monitoring Update recommended cleaning out the Cucumber Gulch Spreader Pond. This pond is located near the top of the Cucumber Gulch Preserve, just below Ski Hill Road and the Peak 8 base area, and has shown increased sediment accumulation since its last cleanout in 2019. On September 12, the Breckenridge Ski Resort, in conjunction with Ecometrics and TOB OST Staff, completed this project.

Peak 10 Community Trails Project

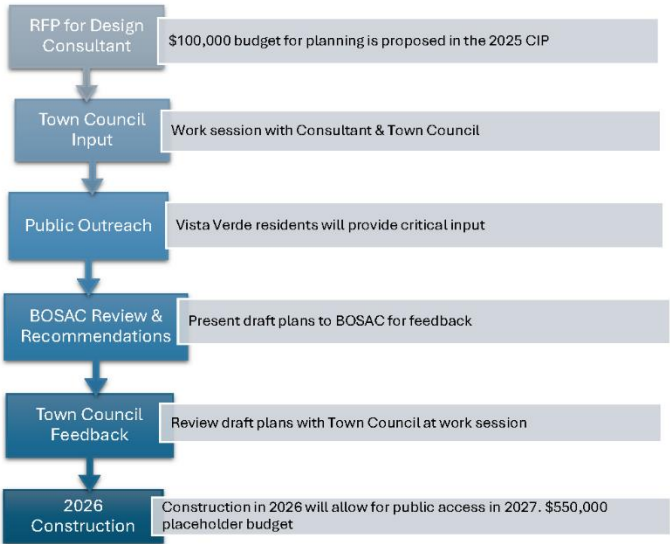
Staff recently engaged with the United States Forest Service (USFS) on a proposed Peak 10 Community Trails Project. The goal of this project is to address the network of user-created trails and mixed uses from the Peak 10 neighborhoods to USFS property and the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) permit area. The USFS is looking to collaborate with the Town, BSR, and other stakeholders on the project. This will be a multi-year effort and is currently in the data collection phase. Aside from the absence of the fuel reduction component, the [Frisco Backyard Project](#) represents a general blueprint.

Proposed McCain Open Space Parcel Programming

OST Staff presented the proposed McCain Open Space planning process to Town Council during their September 10, 2024, work session. A design development is anticipated in 2025 inclusive of hiring a consultant, gathering input from Town Council, BOSAC, and facilitating a public outreach process with some improvements to be made in 2026. Public access to the McCain Open Space parcel would begin in 2027, aligning with recommendations from Ecological Resource Solutions (ERS), our hired contractor, on revegetation efforts.



McCain Open Space Planning



Proposed 2025 BOSAC Meeting Schedule

Staff proposes that 2025 BOSAC meetings be held on the following dates: **January 27, February 17, March 17, April 28, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15.** These fall on the third Monday of each month, as planned, with the exceptions of January 27 and April 28, which have been adjusted for Presidents Day and Summit County School District Spring Break, respectively.

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space & Trails Staff
Re: September 16, 2024 Meeting
Subject: Dogs on Open Space and Trails
2024 Naturalist Report
Virtual Attendance
Laurium Parking

Open Space & Trails Discussion

Dogs on Town of Breckenridge Open Space & Trails

Staff has fielded multiple recent complaints relating to negative dog encounters on Town of Breckenridge Open Space and joint Town/Summit County Open Space and has engaged the Town of Breckenridge Police Department (PD), Summit County Animal Control, and MERJE in an effort to learn more about the current issue and potential mitigation steps.

The PD and Summit County Animal Control have seen an increase in public complaints for failure to control dogs on Open Space property managed by the Town and County, especially during summer months (Appendix A).

- Town Code requires that dogs must be leashed within Town of Breckenridge limits.
- Outside of Town limits, Summit County Open Space and Trails Regulations apply (Appendix B). This includes open space parcels jointly owned by the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County (e.g. B&B claims). Dogs must be under “immediate control” (voice control over animal within ten feet of responsible person, or physical control with a leash no longer than six feet).
- Summit County and Town of Breckenridge each have their own mandatory licensing system.
- The United States Forest Service (USFS) recommends the use of leashes to control dogs on their property, except in wilderness areas and designated campgrounds where leashes are required.

Depending on the location of the incident, Summit County Sheriff’s Office or PD responds to dog incident calls and are each able to issue warnings, citations, and court summons. Summons are used in the event of the potential need for restitution, such as treatment for injuries incurred from a dog bite to a human or dog. Summit County Animal Control works in conjunction with both entities.

In addition to warnings, citations, and summons, Summit County Animal Control has the ability to institute bite confinement measures and initiate the process for Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Dog Designations, referring to the [Dunbar Dog Bite Scale](#) to determine the severity of the biting problems and corresponding prognoses for the dog in question. Colorado is [one of 42 states](#) to adopt [Dangerous Dog Designation](#) laws.

Recommendation

All entities recommend an increased emphasis in dog owner education as an appropriate next step to address uncontrolled dogs. Two specific suggestions were to increase signage at major trailheads and seasonal social media messaging through official channels. Suggested signage could include the phone number for Summit County dispatch (non-emergent), providing both a helpful resource to victims and a notice of potential accountability to dog owners.

Jesslyn (JJ) McGill, Summit County Animal Control Director, will join the BOSAC meeting to provide history and expertise on dog incidents in Summit County.

1. ***Does BOSAC have any questions for Ms. McGill?***
2. ***Does BOSAC support instituting suggested signage at major trailheads and increased social media education?***
3. ***Are there additional ideas for improving education for dog owners?***

2024 Naturalist Report

Ella Garner and Lauren Sawyer, Open Space and Trails Naturalists, will be presenting the 2024 Naturalist Report. This annual report will summarize guided hikes, naturalists programming, wildlife cameras/studies and visitor use reports from this past season.

Does BOSAC have any questions or concerns regarding the content of the report?

Virtual Attendance at BOSAC Meetings

Virtual attendance policies vary across Town of Breckenridge Council and Commissions: TOB Planning Commission allows for virtual attendance with the stipulation that the virtual attendee(s) video camera remain on during the meetings. Planning Commission meets twice each month and requires that no member miss more than five meetings annually. Town Council allows for members to attend virtually but, when doing so, are not allowed to participate in the meeting or to attend executive sessions.

Would BOSAC like to institute a policy regarding virtual meeting attendance?

Laurium Parking

Winter use parking for the Laurium Open Space has become a public safety concern due to its steep grade (14%) and increasing popularity. The Laurium Trailhead is located on property jointly owned by TOB and Summit County, on County Road 528, and is designated as a Midcountry management zone in the 2023 OST Master Plan.

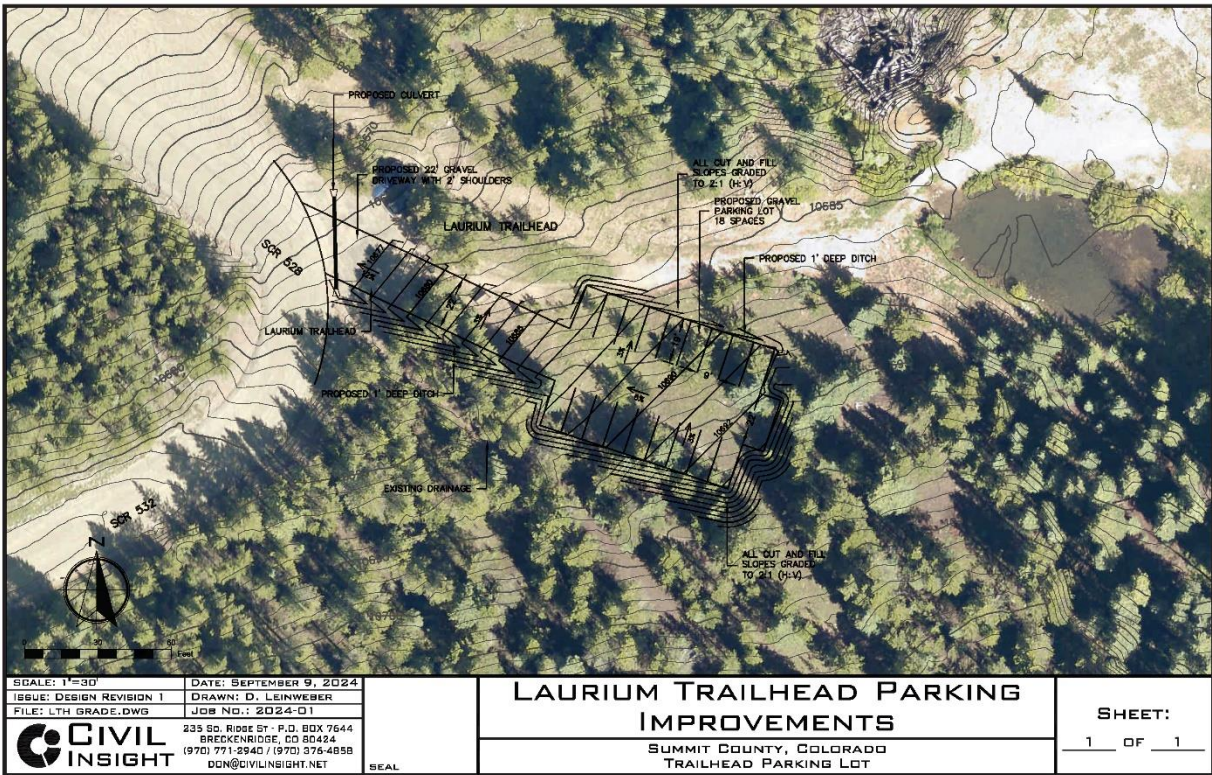
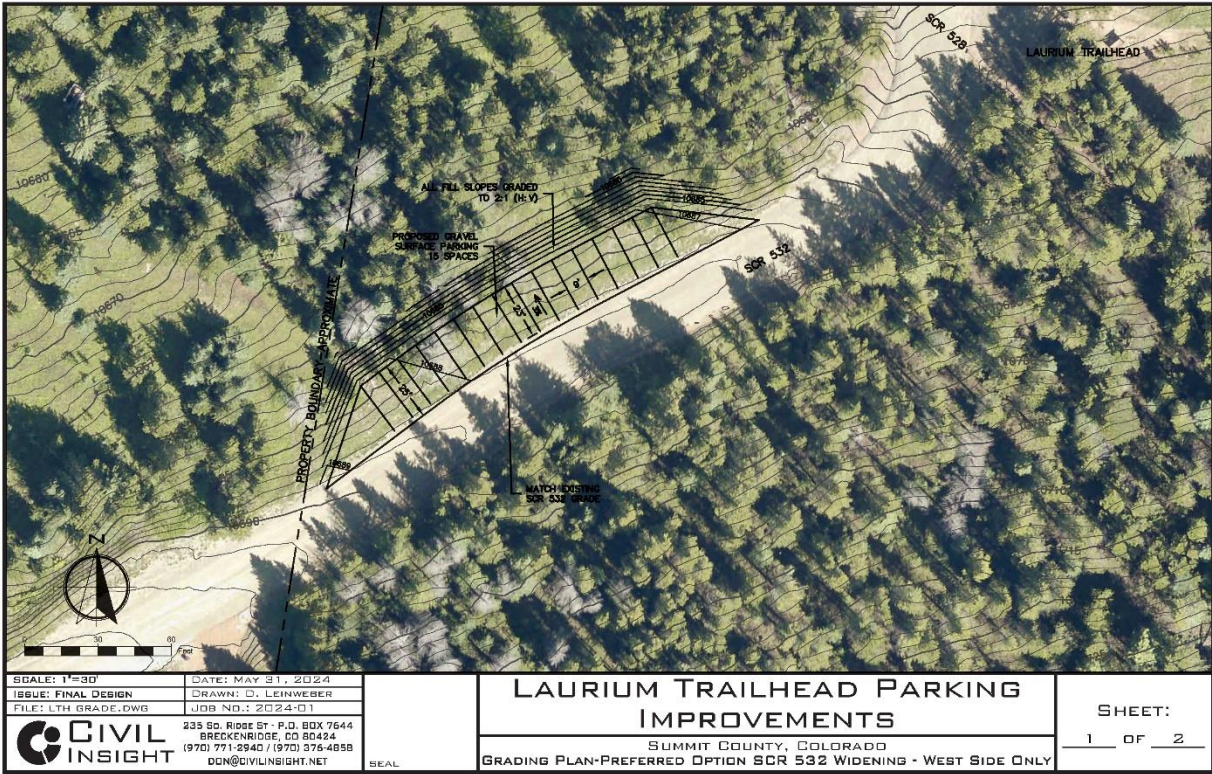
TOB and Summit County OST staff began exploring alternative parking options in Spring 2023. An inside-the-gate parking lot with fifteen spaces was recommended and then later dismissed due to concerns of encroaching on Open Space, specifically the Laurium meadow. Redesigning the existing parking lot location by flattening the grades proved impractical due to the dirtwork required, resulting dropoff, and the problematic location of a nearby electrical box. A parking area uphill (Southwest) of the gate with parking on both sides of the road has been rejected due to objections from Summit County Road and Bridge and Sheriff's Office regarding winter road maintenance and plowing.

There are two options currently being reviewed:

1. A streetside parking lot, 15-space capacity, on the West side of the road and uphill (Southwest) of the gate, referred to as "Widening West Side Only" in the cost estimate table below. Cost for this project is estimated at \$231,265.00 and received support from OSAC during their August meeting. It has yet to be discussed by BOCC.
2. A new, inside the gate parking lot, 18-space capacity, tucked into the hillside south of the existing trail. Cost for this option is estimated at \$177,963.00. This option addresses issues regarding encroaching on the Laurium meadow and historical structures but concerns remain over the grade of the access driveway (12%), wetlands proximity, and winter plowing.

Upon recommendation of one of the proposed parking options from BOSAC and Town Council, the next step would be completing final designs- including onsite survey work- for the new parking lot and the closure of the current parking area in preparation for construction in 2025.

Does BOSAC have a preferred Laurium trailhead parking option?





Laurium Trailhead
 Design Revision 1 September 9, 2024
 Engineer's Estimate of Probable Construction Costs September 9, 2024

Civil Insight, LLC
 235 South Ridge Street, Unit 2-A
 PO Box 7644 – Breckenridge, CO – 80424

Item No.	Description	Units	Preferred Option - Widening West Side Only			Laurium Trailhead Parking Lot		
			Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Mobilization	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
2	Traffic Control	DAY	10	\$2,000	\$20,000	-	\$2,000	\$0
3	Surveying	LS	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
4	Geotechnical Testing	LS	1	\$2,500	\$2,500	1	\$2,500	\$2,500
5	Tree Removal	EACH	20	\$1,000	\$20,000	30	\$1,000	\$30,000
6	Clear and Grub 6' Depth w/haul and removal from site	SY	1,000	\$10	\$10,000	1,200	\$10	\$12,000
7	Relocate Trailhead Sign	EACH	-	\$1,500	\$0	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
8	Subgrade Preparation	SY	1,000	\$15	\$15,000	1,000	\$15	\$15,000
9	Excavation to Embankment	CY	50	\$30	\$1,500	-	\$30	\$0
10	Excavation to Export	CY	-	\$50	\$0	700	\$50	\$35,000
11	Import to Embankment	CY	1,100	\$75	\$82,500	-	\$75	\$0
12	Aggregate Base Course Class 6 (6' Depth)	TON	180	\$75	\$13,500	260	\$75	\$19,500
13	Revegetated Drainage Ditch (8-FT wide x 2-FT deep)	LF	300	\$5	\$1,500	130	\$5	\$650
14	Install Culvert	EACH	-	\$4,000	\$0	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
15	Topsoil Placement (4" Depth)	CY	40	\$90	\$3,600	40	\$90	\$3,600
16	Revegetation	SF	3,000	\$1	\$3,000	3,000	\$1	\$3,000
17	Erosion Control	LS	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
SUBTOTAL					\$201,100			\$154,750
CONTINGENCY 15%					\$30,165			\$23,213
TOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY					\$231,265			\$177,963

Council Matters Related to Open Space Topics

Other Matters

Appendix A

4. Animal Control Activity – Year End Total

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Patrol Hours	2,293(36%)	1,798 (32%)	1,671 (37%)
Total Patrols	N/A	1,454	2,661
Total Calls Answered	2,166	1,984	2,249
AC Type Calls	643	568	825
Cremation Calls	1,325	1,178	1,126
Veterinarian Calls	64	67	131
Errand/Donation Pick Up Calls	134	108	167
Public Contacts	15,525	10,477	13,569

- Animal Control patrol hours have decreased 7% due to being down 2 ACO's for 4 months of the year. Noted (in parentheses) are the percentages of hours patrolled from total AC hours scheduled (patrol rate), which has decreased. The number of patrols increased 83% since 2022.
 - The total calls answered by ACOs have increased 13%.
 - AC Type Calls are calls such as at large, barking, aggressive, injured, neglect, etc. These have increased 45% since last year and is the highest number of AC type calls to date.
 - Cremation calls decreased by 4%. ACO's pick up and return ashes of deceased animals from five Summit County vet clinics and Park County Animal Hospital in Fairplay.
 - Veterinarian Calls include delivering and picking up shelter animals for vet appointments. These calls increased by 95%.
 - The number of public contacts by ACO's have increased 30% over last year's figures.
-

Appendix B

The Summit County Open Space and Trails Regulations

ADOPTED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2007 -59 ON AUGUST 14, 2007

AMENDED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2015 -55 ON OCTOBER 16, 2015

Section 1. Intent

The Summit County Open Space and Trails Program was created for a numerous public purposes as referenced in Summit County's Open Space Plan; Summit County's land use plans, regulations and policies; and other applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations. Summit County also owns, operates and administers various recreational facilities through the Open Space and Trails Program and other instrumentalities or agreements such as property interests, public recreational access easements, roads, roadways, highways, and other recreational facilities for numerous beneficial public purposes including but not limited to: protecting Summit County's open space character and rural mountain environment; providing for public access to natural areas and trails; encouraging compatible recreational activities; appropriately utilizing scenic roads, highways, and federally administered lands and trails; coordinating trail plans and development among legal jurisdictions; and promoting or protecting the public health, safety and welfare (all of which is hereinafter referred to as "Open Space"). Open Space is acquired and managed to protect buffers between communities, prominent view corridors, significant agricultural lands, undeveloped shorelines and riparian corridors, trails and recreation access points, and lands of unique ecological value. It is the intent of the BOCC in adopting the "Summit County Open Space and Trails Regulations" (the "Regulations") that the users of Open Space be responsible for their conduct, that they utilize the Open Space in a manner which protects these properties, recognizes the rights, health and safety of other users, and that they be held strictly liable for conduct which violates the provisions of these Regulations.

Section 2. Definitions

For purposes of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

- 2.1 **Motorized Vehicle:** Every vehicle that is self-propelled by an internal combustion engine or electric power, including but not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, mopeds, electric bicycles, motorized bicycles, motorized scooters and motorized skateboards. However, such term shall not include self-propelled wheelchairs used for the transportation of physically handicapped individuals.
- 2.2 **Mechanized Vehicle:** Every vehicle that is human powered, including but not limited to, bicycles, skateboards, and scooters.
- 2.3 **User:** Any person using Open Space in any manner permitted by these Regulations including, but not limited to, operating a motorized vehicle, bicycling, jogging, walking, and skiing.

Section 3. Camping

- a. Camping is strictly prohibited, except in areas officially designated for camping, in accordance with designated and posted restrictions for each area. No camping areas have been designated at the time of adoption of these regulations.

Section 4. Closed Areas

- a. The Open Space Director ("the Director") and/or the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County ("the BOCC") may, in the exercise of sound discretion, determine at any

time that a portion or all of any Open Space property shall be closed to the public and/or certain domestic animals based upon, but not limited to, any of the following grounds:

- i. Wildlife, natural resource, historic resource, or vegetation protection concerns warrant such closing;
 - ii. Management actions warrant such closing;
 - iii. Contractual agreements call for the closing of such areas;
 - iv. Closure is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare;
 - v. Closure is necessary to protect the proprietary interests of the County
 - vi. Natural disasters warrant such closing; and/or
 - vii. Law enforcement officers direct closure to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens or to protect a crime scene or law enforcement work area.
- b. The Director may activate temporary or seasonal closures for any of the above reasons.
 - c. The BOCC, in its sound discretion, may designate property closures of a temporary, permanent, or indefinite nature.

Section 5. Commercial Use and Special Events

- a. Commercial use or operations, without the prior, express written consent or permit from the Director, is strictly prohibited. Commercial use is defined as providing any service, product, or event for which a fee is charged.
- b. It shall be unlawful to hold any special events or conduct any special uses except when such activity has been authorized by the Director and a permit duly issued by Summit County Government in accordance with such authorization.

Section 6. Destruction of Public Property

- a. It is unlawful to remove, destroy, collect, deface, or alter in any manner any natural or man-made condition of any Open Space, without the express, prior written consent of the Director. Such objects include, but are not limited to, the following: wildlife, trees, down timber or branches, shrubbery, plants, flowers, rocks and minerals, fences, signs, kiosks, bulletin boards, restrooms, tables, benches, cultural resources and trash containers.
- b. It is unlawful to place rock bolts or pitons, install gates, plant trees or any other type of landscape material, establish or construct trails or other facilities for public or private use, or implement improvements of any other kind without the prior, express written consent of the Director.
- c. Firewood collection, without the prior, written consent of a duly authorized agent of Summit County, is strictly prohibited.

Section 7. Firearms and Fireworks

- a. No person shall discharge, use, or allow the use of firearms or weapons at any time.
- b. The possession or discharge of any type of fireworks is strictly prohibited.

Section 8. Fires

- a. No open fires are allowed, except as authorized in writing by the Director.
- b. It shall be unlawful to burn any material in a careless manner.

Section 9. Horses and Livestock

- a. All horses and livestock must be directly attended to, and under constant physical control of the appropriate owner, guardian, or caretaker of the animal, except for those animals permitted to be under a lesser degree of control by the prior express consent of the Director.

- b. Domestic animals or livestock shall not be tied or left unattended in any manner that damages vegetation or structures, or interferes with public use.
- c. All feed brought onto Open Space shall be certified “weed free” as defined by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Section 10. Litter

- a. No person shall deposit or leave any refuse, trash, litter, or organic or non-organic waste of any type, except in designated receptacles.
- b. It shall be unlawful to deposit any refuse, trash, or litter generated or located outside of Open Space into receptacles located on any Open Space property.
- c. Under no circumstances may hazardous materials be transported into, or utilized or deposited within any Open Space
- d. It shall be unlawful to clean vehicles and/or livestock trailers.

Section 11. Nuisance

- a. No person shall engage in any activity which interferes with the health, safety, or welfare of the users or neighbors of any Open Space or which creates a hazard or nuisance to the use and/or safety of others.
- b. No person shall engage in any activity that may be deemed a public nuisance, pursuant to Title 16, Article 13, Part 3, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended, including but not limited to unauthorized congregation or conduct such as to annoy or disturb the peace and enjoyment of other persons lawfully utilizing Open Space. Fines provided herein for such nuisance actions shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, all applicable Colorado law.
- c. All disorderly conduct (including disruptive amplified sound) shall be prohibited.

Section 12. Parking

Vehicles, boats, campers, trailers or other items must park in designated areas, in accordance with designated and posted restrictions for each area, and may under no circumstances be left unattended for more than 72 hours, unless expressly authorized by the Director.

Section 13. Pets

- a. All pets shall be under “Immediate Control” as defined by Section 2.16 of the Summit County Animal Control and Licensing Regulations, as amended, or on a leash
- b. No person shall allow their pets to harass wildlife, other pets, and/or other people, regardless of whether such wildlife, pets, and/or people are actually harmed as a result of such harassment.

Section 14. Road and Trail Uses

- a. Users of roads and trails must yield to other users in the following manner while on Open Space, unless otherwise posted:
 - i. All users yield to equestrians.
 - ii. Motorized users yield to mechanized users and pedestrians.
 - iii. Mechanized users yield to pedestrians.
 - iv. Descending users yield to ascending users.
- b. For the purposes of these regulations, yielding shall be strictly defined to be constituted of the following steps: slowing to a safe speed, being prepared to stop at all times, establishing communication, moving to the edge of the road or trail if necessary, and then passing safely.
- c. Users shall comply with posted signage, including one-way travel designations, and all applicable Colorado Motor Vehicle laws (Title 42 Colorado Revised Statutes) and

regulations for Off-Highway Vehicles and snowmobiles (Title 33, Colorado Revised Statutes).

- d. The BOCC and/or the Director may adopt use restrictions on specific Open Space properties and/or specific routes on Open Space properties when such restrictions are necessary for resource protection, protection of the public health, safety or welfare, or protection of the County's proprietary interests.
- e. Traveling off the designated route between sections ("short-cutting") is strictly prohibited at all times, except in the event of a bona-fide medical emergency.
- f. The following County Roads are hereby deemed to be wintertime nonmotorized recreational trail facilities that are also closed to use by snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles designed, altered, or used for travel on snow or ice:
 - i. Baldy Road (Summit County Road (SCR) #520) starting from the Baldy Trailhead at the intersection of Baldy Road and Emmett Lode Road (SCR #536), to the terminus of Summit County's road easement from the United States Forest Service, and from which point winter motorized travel is prohibited according to the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan; as depicted on Attachment 1 to this Resolution; and,
 - ii. Boreas Pass Road (SCR #10), from a gated point just past the trailhead to the Summit County line at Boreas Pass, as depicted in Attachment 2 to this Resolution; and
 - iii. Gold Run Gulch Road (SCR #300) starting from its north east terminus adjacent to the Town of Breckenridge boundary at the Gold Run/Peabody Trailhead, continuing to the southwest point of closure at the intersection of Gold Run Gulch Road and Preston Way (CR 475) as depicted in Attachment 3 to this Resolution; and
 - iv. Sallie Barber Road (SCR #559) in its entirety as depicted in Attachment 4 to this Resolution.

Provided, however, that owners of property who must access their property via such closed roads (Baldy Road, SCR #520; Boreas Pass Road, SCR #10; Sallie Barber Road, SCR #559; and Gold Run Gulch Road, SCR #300) may continue to access their property via snowmobile use and operation.

Section 15. Vehicles, Mechanized Uses, and Equestrian Activity

- a. No person shall operate or park a motorized vehicle or mechanized vehicle within any Open Space except on routes, and/or parking areas that are officially designated and posted to permit operation of such vehicle(s).
- b. Equestrian activity is permitted only on those routes officially designated to permit such use.

Section 16. Wildlife and Fishing

- a. No person shall feed, hunt, pursue, trap, molest, harass or kill any wildlife at any time, with the exception of fishing and the activities of personnel authorized by the Director.

- b. No person shall disturb any wildlife habitat at any time, with the exception of the activities of personnel authorized by the Director.
- c. Fishing is allowed strictly in accordance with all applicable State and local regulations.
- d. The Director, in consultation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, may close specific areas to fishing in order to protect aquatic resources.

Section 17. Miscellaneous

- a. Posting of advertisements or placement of brochures, of any type or content is prohibited, with the exception of brochures specifically authorized by the Director.
- b. It shall be unlawful to take off or land with any motorized or non-motorized aircraft, except for emergency landings. Aircraft includes, without limitation, the following types of devices: airplanes, helicopters, ultralights, gliders/sailplanes, and hot air balloons.
- c. Golfing, Frisbee golfing, paintball, hangliding, paragliding, parapenting, parachuting, parasailing, and the use of remote controlled land, water, or air-borne devices are prohibited.
- d. All research projects must comply with these regulations, and receive written authorization in advance from the Director.
- e. It shall be unlawful to directly pollute land, water, or air within any Open Space.
- f. No person shall interfere with employees or designated agents of the County or Town of Breckenridge while in the performance of their official duties.

Section 18. Enforcement

- a. The Office of the Summit County Sheriff has the authority to enforce any and all laws, rules, and regulations on Open Space, including but not limited to all applicable state laws, and all regulations adopted by the BOCC regarding the use and protection of Open Space.
- b. The Summit County Sheriff may appoint or deputize, as applicable, other persons to enforce such Open Space regulations, as it deems reasonable and necessary.

Section 19. Schedule of Fines

Violation of Sections 5, 7, 8, 10, or 15: \$150.

Other violations:

First offense:	\$50
Second offense:	\$150
Third or further offenses:	\$300 plus a mandatory court appearance

Rules and regulations outlined in this resolution are enforceable as class 2 petty offenses pursuant to 29-7-101(2) CRS, as amended.

Property damage shall be assessed at full replacement value or full costs for restoration. If property damage due to violation of any of these regulations exceeds the amount of the fine, a court appearance is required. The court shall have the discretion to impose a greater fine, as well as other remedies in addition to the fines provided for herein. As set forth herein, the County expressly reserves all rights as property owner to request the court to order reparation for damages to property or to pursue other potential criminal and civil charges.

Section 20. Incorporation and Severability

- a. These rules and regulations are promulgated to be consistent with and in addition to, not in lieu of, any applicable Federal, State, or County rules and regulations. Moreover, the

County reserves all proprietary and administrative rights and interests in the effected property, subject to applicable law.

- b. These regulations shall not preclude administrative or maintenance activities by County employees, agents, or persons under contractual agreement as deemed appropriate by the BOCC or the Director, nor shall they preclude the activities of persons exercising rights pursuant to proprietary rights, existing easements or agreements.
- c. If any of these provisions are deemed to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate this ordinance in its entirety, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.
- d. These rules and regulations shall take effect immediately upon adoption, and are necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety due to the inherent dangers of unregulated use of public open space lands.

[August 17, 2024]

[To be shared with BOSAC]

Earlier this summer I had a horrible dog and owner encounter that has been traumatic on many levels. The attack has left me in daily chronic pain, unable to run or move in the mountains and unable to race several European mountain races that I've worked so hard to prepare for. We've sunk thousands of dollars into canceled travel arrangements and ongoing medical bills. I am unable to adequately take care of my children when my husband is working which feels embarrassing and deflating. I spend several days a week in PT or at various doctor appointments and there is no end in sight.

There have been many layers of difficulty and strain on our family that I don't need to bore you with. Working my way through all of this in the last few months has made me reflect on the nature of dog ownership in Summit County. I love dogs. There have only been a couple of years of my life where I have not owned a dog. I grew up in a ranching and rodeo family where dogs were such an integral part of our family as companions and fellow workers. Throughout my adult life my dogs have given me profound emotional support through times of grief and also kept me feeling safe for thousands of miles on the trails. So please know that I offer up this topic from the standpoint of feeling such value for dog ownership.

However, since living in Summit County I've had so many close calls and frustrating situations with dogs and owners. I've never really ruminated about these situations because nothing harmful transpired but after my incident this summer I am seeing this through a different lens. I feel like the large majority of dogs out on the trails are harmless and just happy to be in the forest with their owners. That being said, there are a small percentage of dogs on the the total opposite end of the spectrum with dangerous behaviors and/or just aren't trained adequately to be running free. In addition, some owners don't seem to value protecting other people and dogs above their own dog's ability to do whatever it wants to. I can't even count the number of times in the past few years where a dog has chased me while I am running or skiing, tried to bite me, ripped gear and clothing, knocked me over, charged at me, etc. Almost always the owner is off at a distance and casually yelling "they are friendly"! Sometimes the owner isn't even in eyesight to see the encounter. I've had five Bernese Mountain dogs surrounded me on Wellington trail and start growling at me and showing aggressive behaviors. A few months later the same dogs were off leash and came after me again. Both times the owner had zero control over them and was totally unapologetic. This would also be scary if your own dog was surrounded by five huge off leash dogs with no owner control. Even worse if a child was caught in a situation like this.

I guess what I'm requesting in this long ramble is for there to be some dialogue about how dog owners and people recreating can coexist in our county in a way that feels safe and fair. I don't think it's realistic or necessary to have a leash law for the county but I do think that there needs to be some sort of enforcement that feels tangible for owners that aren't able to control their dogs. The safety of people, other dogs and wildlife should be protected over the entitlement of some owners to let their dogs have free rein in shared spaces. Perhaps something as simple as signage at popular trailheads reminding owners that dogs must be on a leash or within the owner's voice and sight command at all times. Also, having Animal Control's contact information for reporting purposes. I think it's important for owners to know what is expected of them but also for those recreating to know what they can expect and demand out of dog owners. In the past I have tried to politely tell owners that I don't want their dog chasing, biting or jumping on me and surprisingly many people have been incredibly combative and indignant. It would be so helpful in situations like that if you could hold someone accountable to rules, laws, regulations that are visible and clear. The requirement that dogs must be on a leash or within 10 feet and voice command

is great but I can't gather than there are any sort of fines or repercussions if you are violating that. Hopefully in the future, that could be reconsidered.

I know that this is a highly sensitive and nuanced situation that can be looked at from different angles but I hope that there can be a sense of protection to keep our trails a place where animals and people can safely coexist. I don't have a clear solution but you all are much wiser than I am and have a much better tap on what is best for the community so that is why I want to bring this issue to you and hope that you have some clarity on how it could be navigated.

I also want to take a chance to thank you for everything that you do to keep our trails and open spaces some of the best in the world. Every day I feel so lucky to live in our mountain paradise. I know that so much of what we have here is thanks to community members like you rolling up your sleeves and working so hard to keep Breckenridge magical.

Thank you for considering some of my thoughts!

Alicia Vargo

[September 10, 2024]

[To be shared with BOSAC]

Heard about the upcoming BOSAC agenda and that dogs had made the discussion list. I'm going to try and be at the meeting, but wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts from this Summer on the topic.

To start, I have two dogs... I love dogs... and one of my dogs isn't always the kindest to other dogs (so he is always on a leash). I am an "ok" dog owner as far as the training of my dogs has gone, but they are lovers of people when we walk around and (despite some anxious inter-dog barking) stay out of other people's physical spaces when on the trails.

I'm also an avid user of trails on bikes and via hiking / running. I probably spend about 15 hours on trails per week, so I have a lot of visibility into the who / how others are using our amazing trails. This year I've seen a noticeable step in the wrong direction with dogs on the trails. There are a few amazing dog owners out there and I'm always impressed at the discipline their dogs exhibit as I pass. However, I'd estimate that there are maybe 40-50% of other dog owners out there that use the trails as their "dog park" instead of a shared use area.

The amount of times I hear the phrase "I'm so sorry, he / she never does this..." after being jumped-on / scratched-at / nipped-at / chewed-on / aggressively barked-at by an un-leashed dog is uncomfortable. Just 8 weeks ago I was running at 6:30 am and two off-leash dogs approached me with the ole' "good cop / bad cop" method. Their owner was maybe biking ahead by about 20'. One dog was nice (but I had to stop to keep from falling as his passion for me to pat him was strong) while the other was not so nice (and kindly bit a 2" gash into my shin along the bone). The owner threw out a new line this time; "I'm so sorry, I couldn't find his muzzle this morning." WHAT? NO!

I know many people who hike / bike with off leash dogs that are well behaved and stay within range / voice command, but it seems like a lot of people have a false perception of how well their dogs act and listen under voice control when around new people or wild animals. I often see dogs running far away, chasing wildlife, and putting bikers / kids at danger with their anxious jump-ups and nips...

I just feel like we need some better parameters or, at a minimum, **signage** helping people understand that this is a more serious issue (and an issue they can be *liable* for). I'm not the only one in our small

community circle to be hurt by dogs this year. I know two others that had very serious dog-related issues. I'm also concerned about children hiking with their families who are much closer to the "bite and claw zone" of dogs with less responsible owners.

Ok, that's all I got, but thanks for letting me share!

Paul Steinweg / 970.409.8705

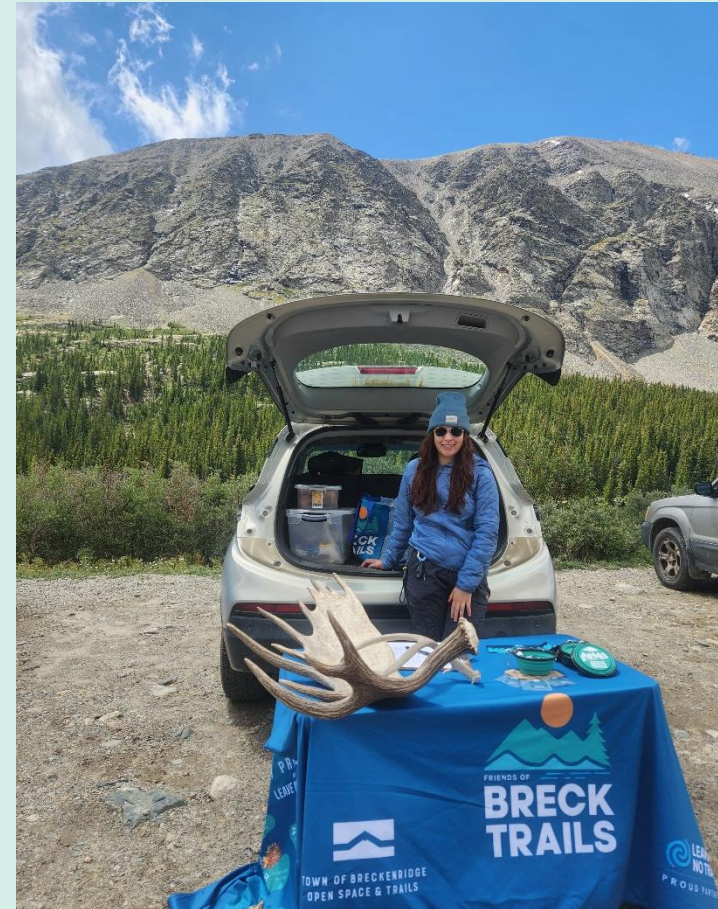
paul@ironforestbuilding.com

2024 Naturalist Field Report



TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

Open Space and Trails Naturalists educate the public about local flora and fauna, and conduct wildlife monitoring in Cucumber Gulch Preserve.



Introduction: Cucumber Gulch Preserve

- Wildlife preserve containing **rare fen wetlands** and beaver wetlands.
- **Beaver are the keystone species.** Their vast wetland system protected by fencing.
- **Winter (November - April): Open to Breckenridge Nordic Center pass holders** for XC skiing and snowshoeing.
- **Annual Spring Closure (May – July 5th):** Closed to the public for fawning/ calving, and nesting season.
- **Summer (July 6th – October): Open to the public** for hiking and mountain biking.
- **Dogs are NEVER permitted** in the preserve.



Introduction: Cucumber Gulch Preserve

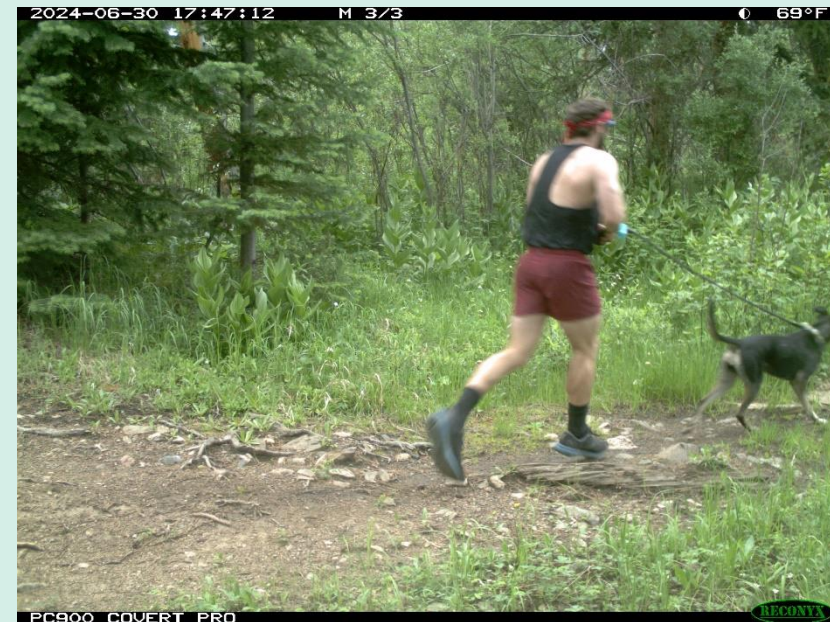
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- **Dogs are NEVER permitted** in the preserve.



Annual Closure of Cucumber Gulch Preserve:

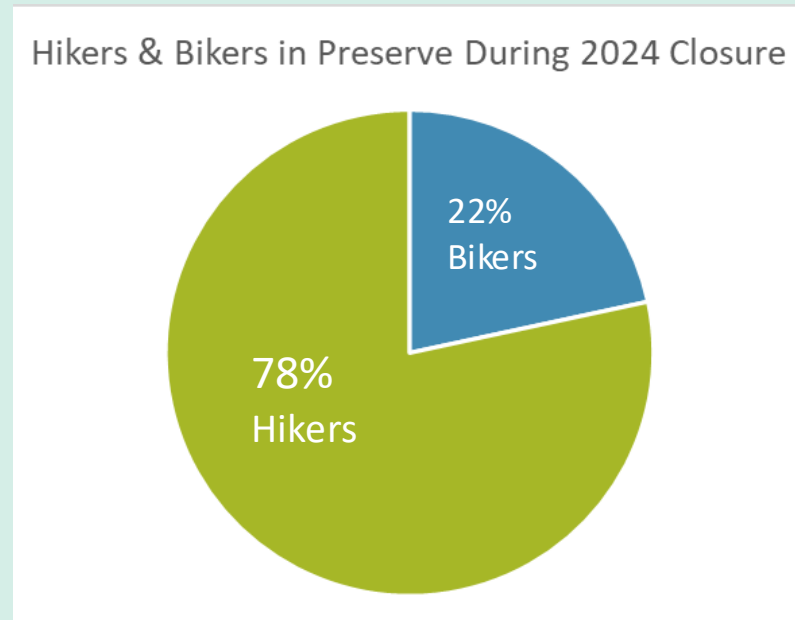
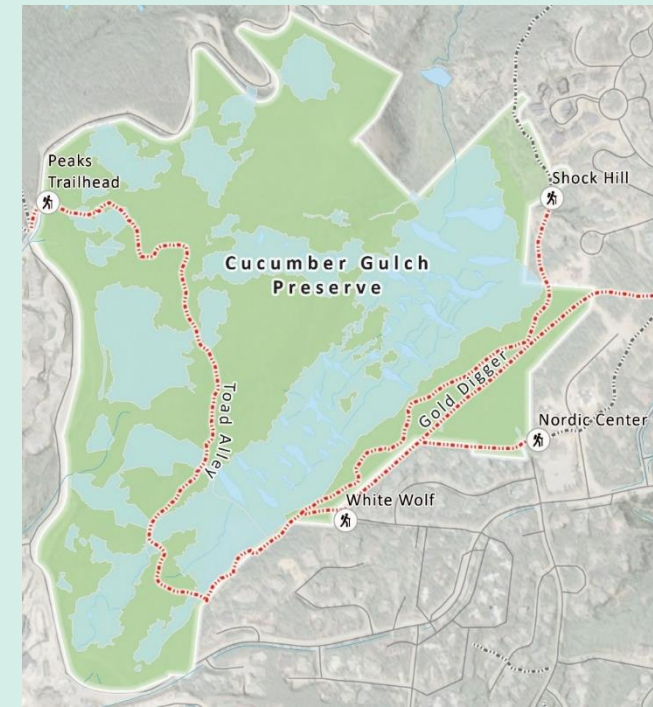
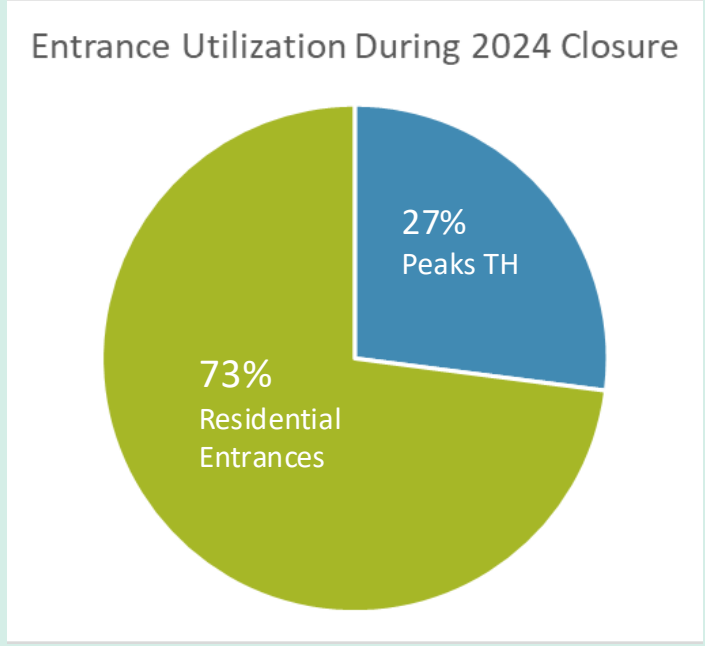
May 1st – July 5th

- Cucumber Gulch Preserve is closed annually for fawning/calving, and nesting season.
- Naturalists rove the Preserve to inform about and enforce closure.
- Wildlife and visitor use monitoring conducted during this time.

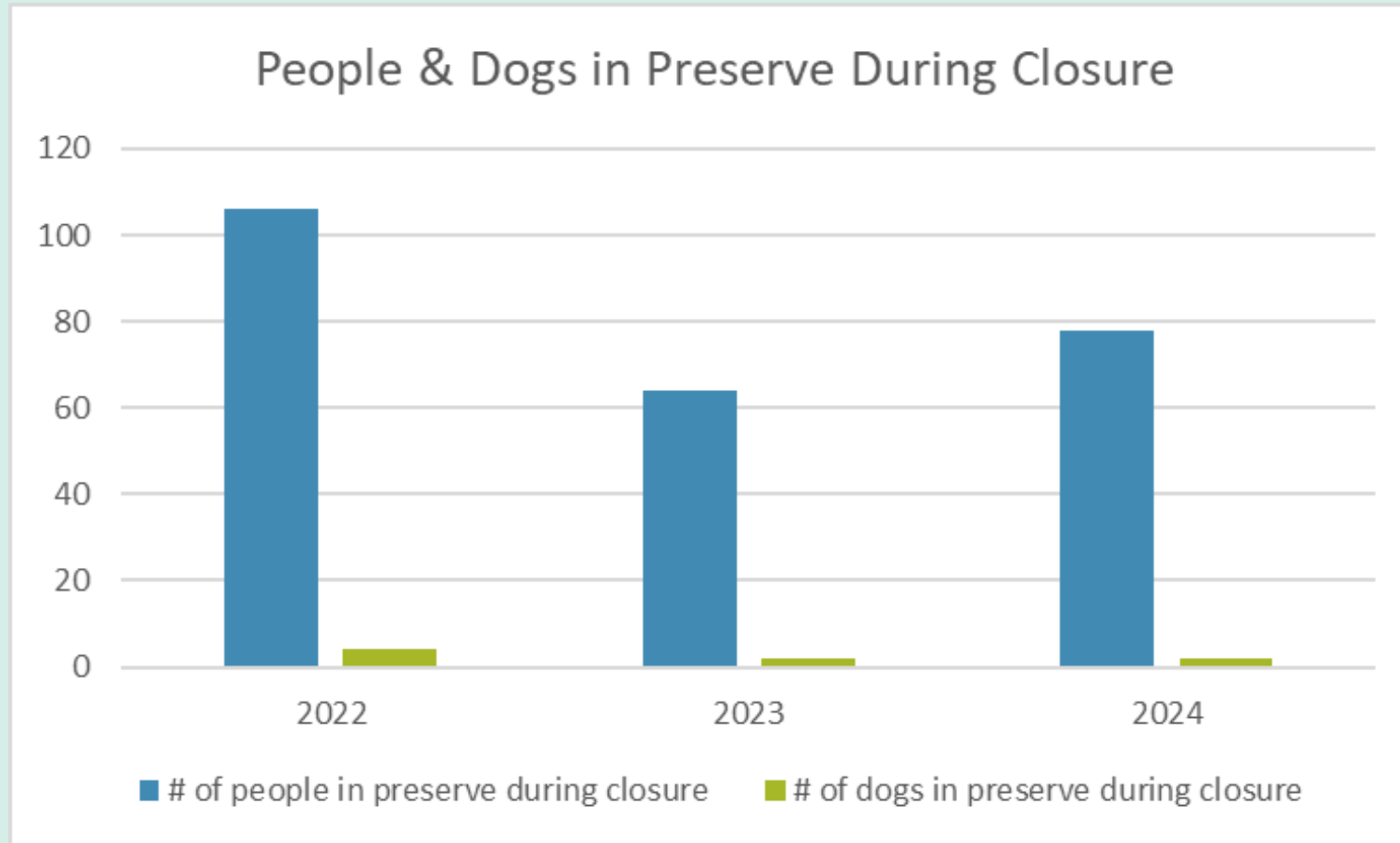


Visitor Use of Cucumber Gulch Preserve During 2024 Closure:

- LED police CLOSED signage Peaks Trailhead and Cucumber Creek Road.
- **78 people and 2 dogs recorded on camera during 2024 closure.**
- **73%** of trail users entered the preserve **from lower/ Residential entrances** (Shock Hill, White Wolf and Nordic Center), and **27% from Peaks Trailhead/ Resorts.**
- Trail users consisted of **78% hikers**, and **22% mountain bikers.**



Visitor Use During Closure 2022-2024:





PC900 PROFESSIONAL



PC900 COVERT PRO



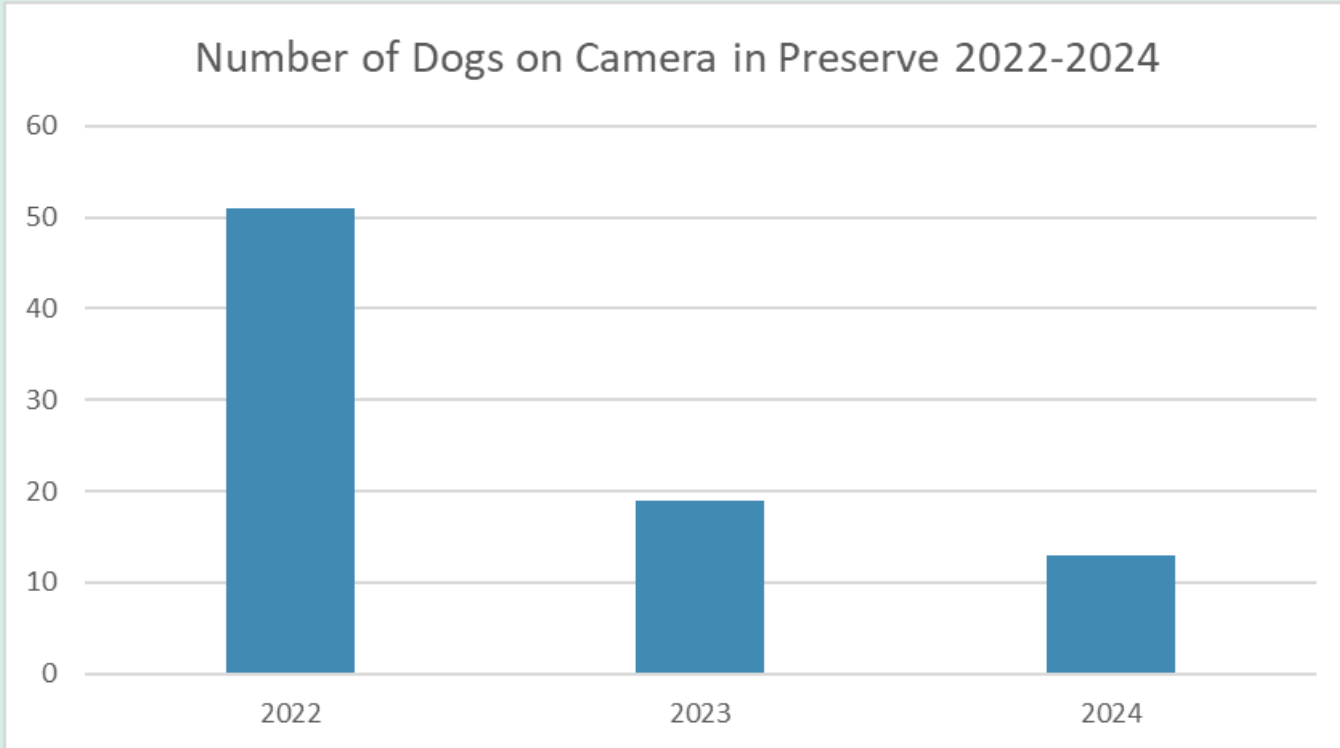
PC900 PROFESSIONAL



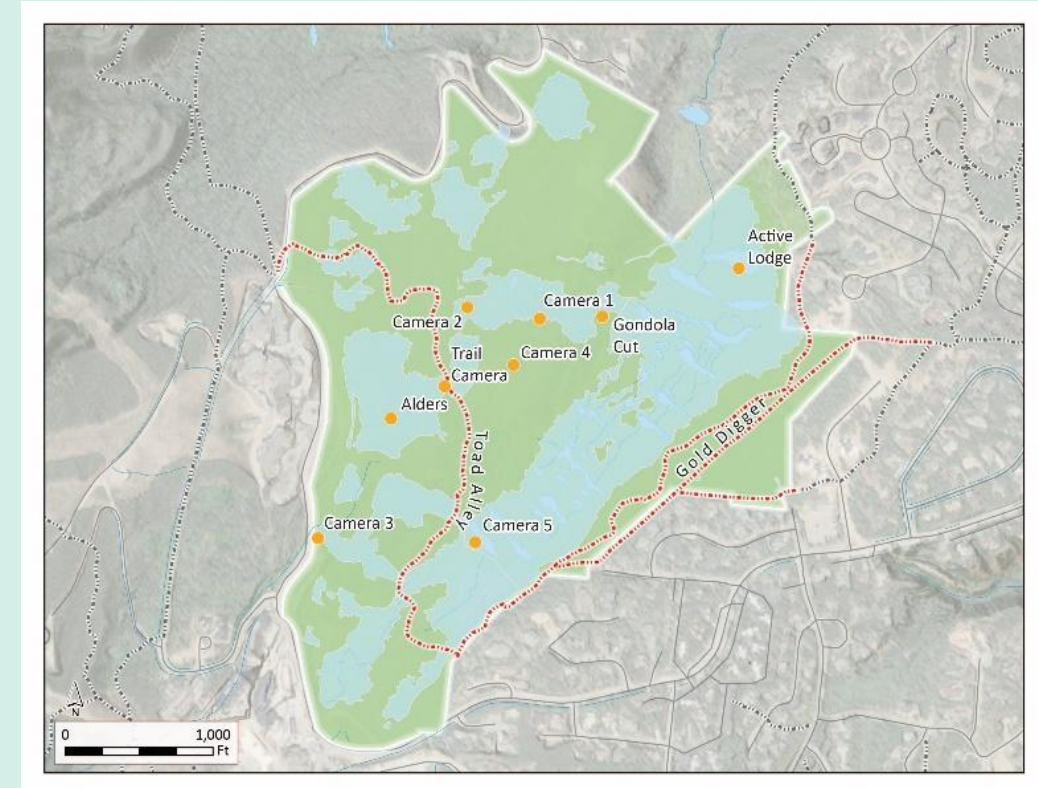
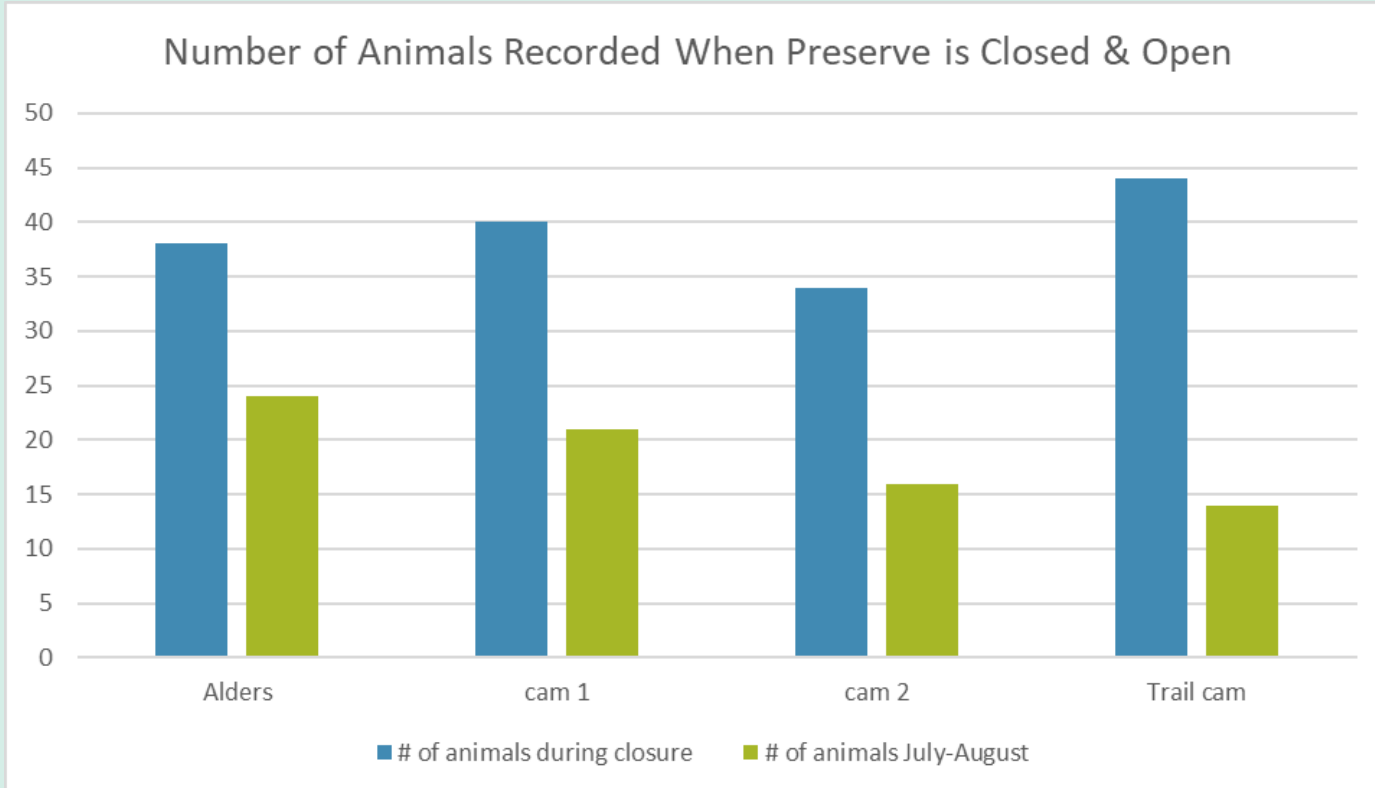
PC900 COVERT PRO



Dogs in the Preserve 2022-2024:

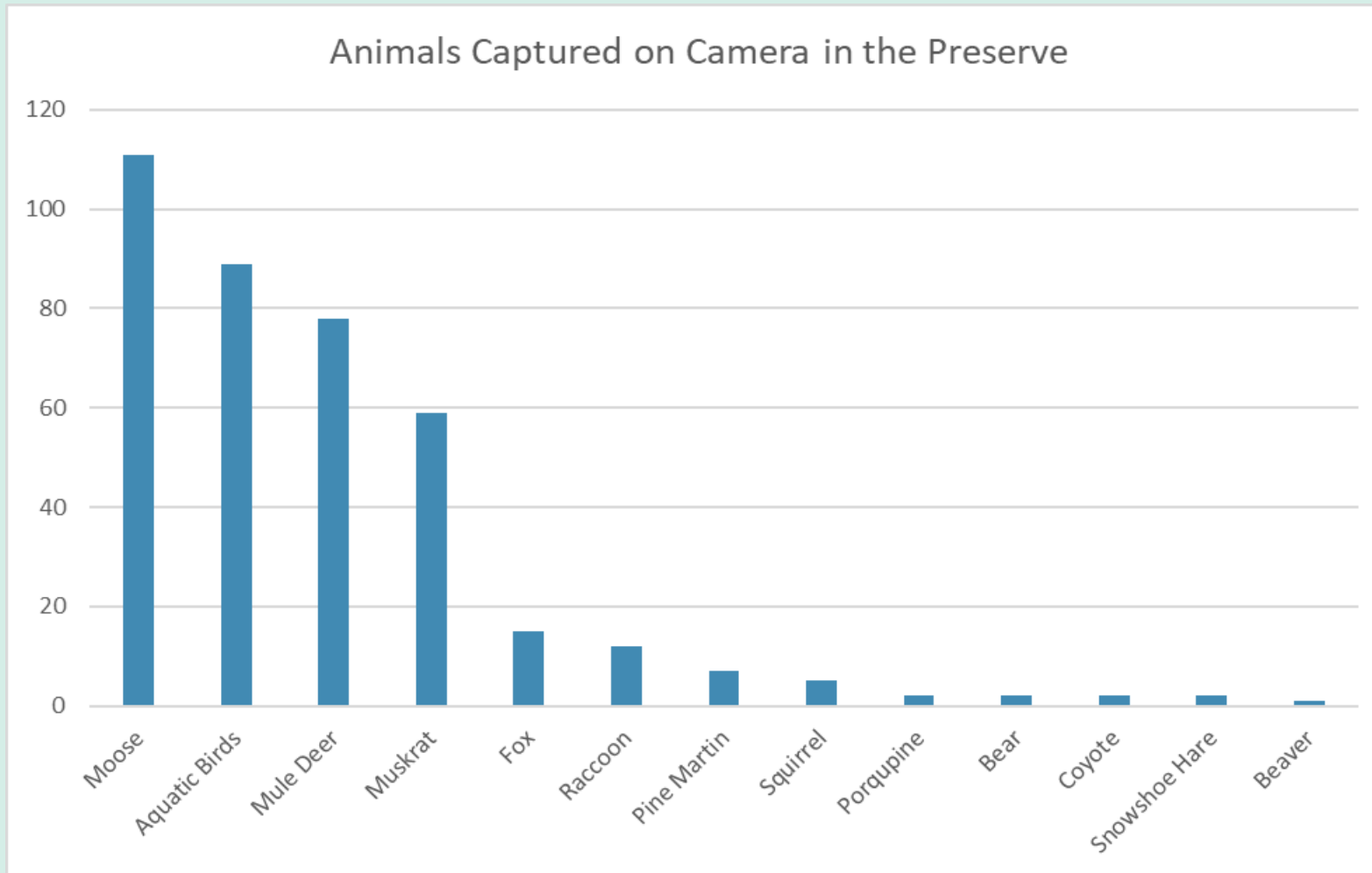


Number of Animals on Cameras During Preserve Closure (May-June) & Number of Animals on Cameras while Preserve is Open (July-August)



Species Richness & Biodiversity in the Preserve

- In 2024, 17 different species of animals were recorded in the Preserve.
- Aquatic birds include Mallard Ducks, Great Blue Herons and Canada Geese.



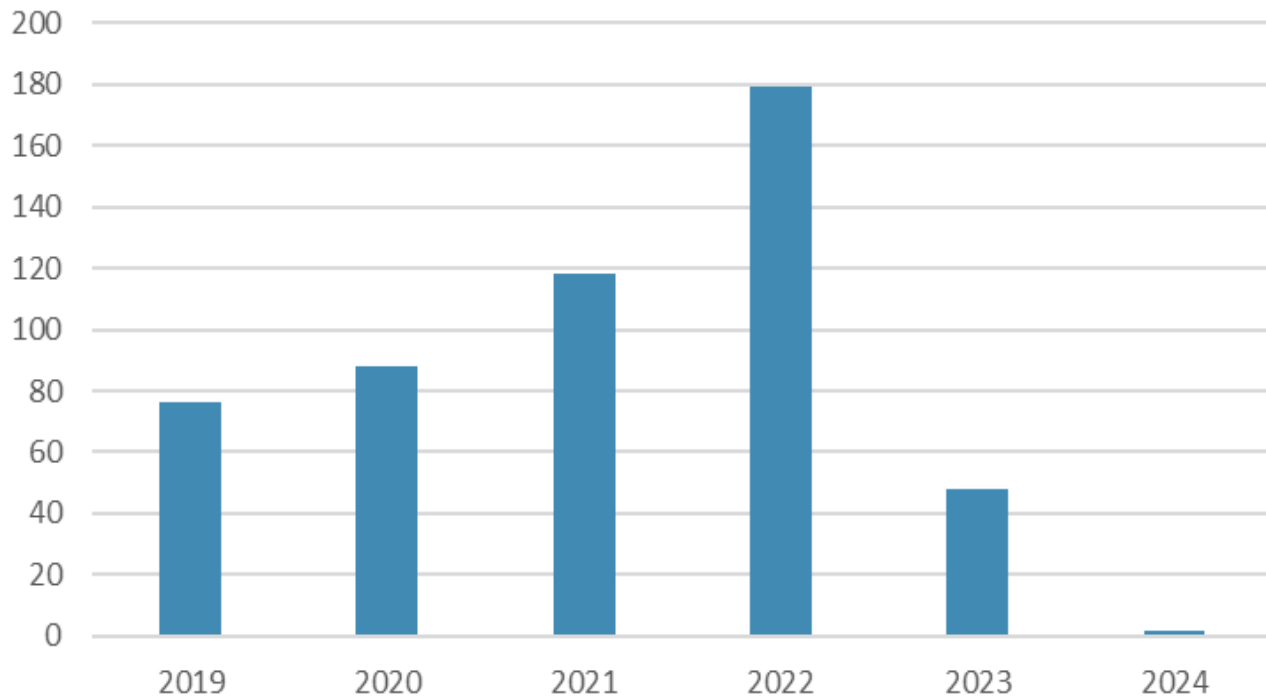


Mom and baby moose



Beavers in the Preserve

Beavers in the Preserve During Surveys



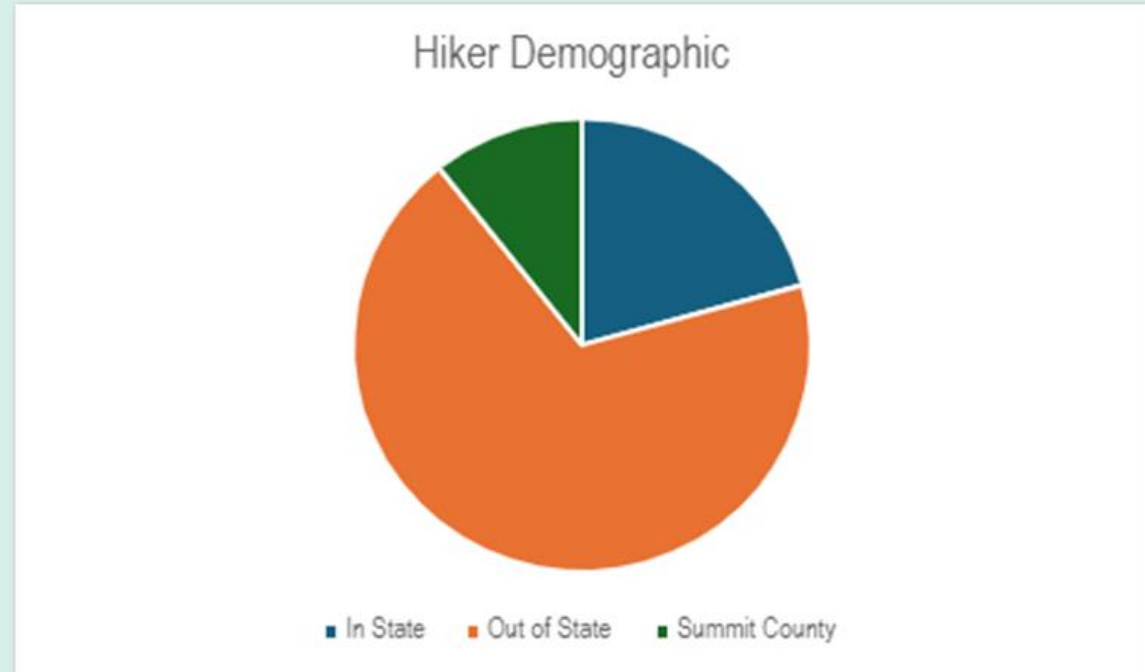
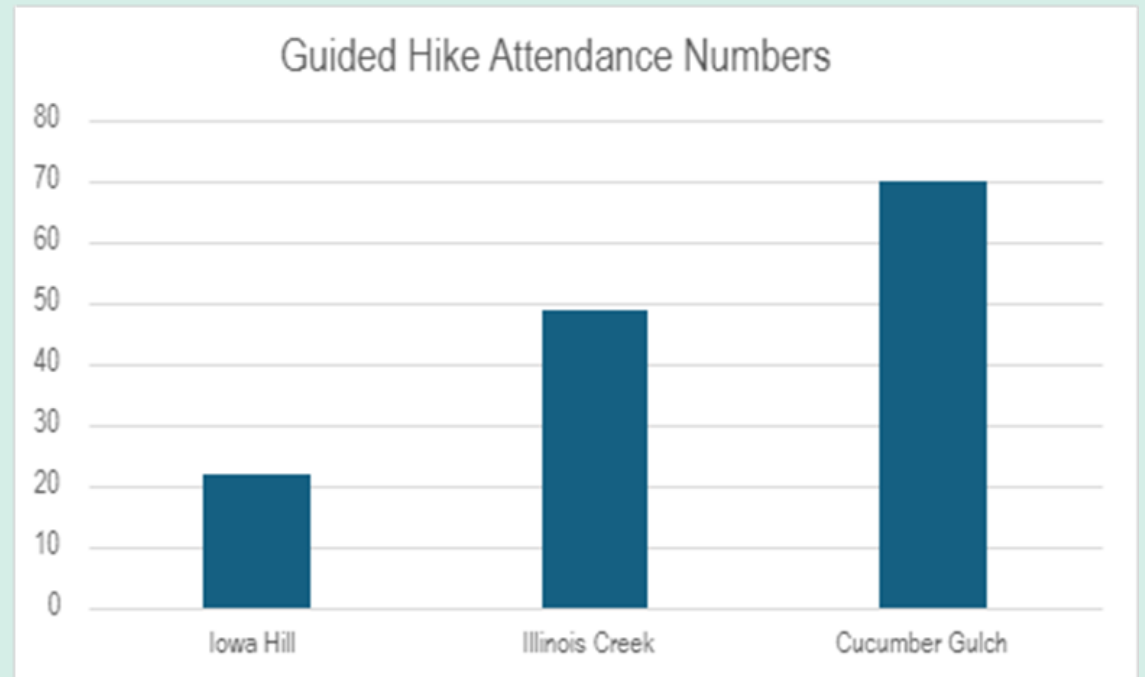
Beavers are known as the keystone species in this ecosystem, providing habitat and food supply for other animals.



The only beaver captured on camera during this season

Guided Hikes

- Guided hikes offered at Illinois Creek and Iowa Hill during Cucumber Gulch Preserve Closure
- Guided Hikes offered twice daily in Cucumber Gulch Preserve July-August
- Additional locations provided alternatives to hiking in the Preserve during closure, and for groups larger than 7



Thank you!



TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS