



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
August Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, August 2, 2022
9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway
Eagle, CO 81631**

This agenda, meetings, and information about the Committee can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

The public is invited to comment at the end of each agenda item

MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019

This will be an in-person meeting, although participants can still join via zoom. The link can be found here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83472864496> Meeting ID: 834 7286 4496

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER

9:05 a.m. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

9:10 a.m. DISCUSSION

9:10 a.m. (25 min) Open Space and Trails Master Plan Follow-Up and Next Steps

9:35 a.m. (60 min) Second Gulch Motorized Width Limit Discussion

10:35 a.m. (15 min) Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

10:50 a.m. (5 min) New Business/ Future Agenda Items

1. West Eagle Seasonal Closure Date Change on BLM Lands
2. Labor Day and OSRAC meeting date

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
9:00 AM
Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway
Eagle, CO 81631**

*This agenda and the meetings can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.
*The public is invited to comment at the end of each agenda item**

MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019

This was an in-person meeting, participants could join via zoom.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83472864496>

Meeting ID: 834 7286 4496

9:00am CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order at: 9:02

Absent: John Bailey & Lizzy Owens

9:05am APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

MOTION to approve the JUNE OSRAC meeting minutes by Erinn Hoban and second by Chris Kehoe. Motion passes unanimously.

9:10am DISCUSSION

New Committee Member Discussion and Recommendation

Motion to recommend that Town Council appoint the OSRAC applicant that receives the highest total number of points per the rubric in the July meeting packet by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously.

Open Space and Trails Master Plan Redline Edits Revision and Recommendation

- Staff presented the July 1, 2022, redline edits draft of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan to the Committee.
- The Committee discussed the redline edits draft.
- The Committee accepted public comment on the redline edits draft.

Motion to recommend that the Town Council of the Town of Eagle, Colorado adopt the Open Space and Trails Master plan as it exists in the July 1, 2022, Redline Edits Draft, with the following edits and additions:

- 1. Change T12 – Funding Relationships/ Restoration Opportunity Policies to: “Explore the opportunities to implement restoration projects or other mitigation strategies upon the development of new trail mileage.”**
- 2. Change P2 - Seasonal Wildlife Closures to: “With seasonal wildlife closures, work to balance consistency, changing habitat needs of wildlife, and winter recreation opportunities. All recreational opportunities in mapped wintering range and/or other environmentally vulnerable areas will be considered for seasonal wildlife closures. Dates will be determined in partnership with CPW, BLM, and other applicable land managers.”**
- 3. OS21: rename to Open Space Budgeting (moving “Consistent Funding Source” to OS21 and “Open Space Budgeting” to OS20): “Develop a ballpark cost estimate report for the annual open space budget and the prioritized projects and tasks listed herein to better plan budgeting and further funding needs. Cost estimates and budgets will be reviewed on an annual basis.”**

Motion by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business/ Future Agenda Items

- Motorized access limit on Second Gulch. Consideration to review the current ruling on the width of 50 inches for motorized access. Looking for background and recommendations from others.
- Update for new trailhead kiosks.

MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:37 by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: August 2, 2022

Agenda Item: Second Gulch Motorized Width Limit Discussion

Request: Staff requests that OSRAC review the Town's motorized width restrictions on the Second Gulch trail and consider if the width restrictions are still consistent given advancements/ changes in motorized technology.

Background: The Town of Eagle travel management plan is embedded in [Title 6 of the Town of Eagle Municipal Code](#). Among other things, the Code regulates the types of uses permitted on trails through Open Space and other travel management restrictions.

[Section 6.03.030 of the Municipal Code](#) addresses motorized use in open space areas. Subsection A covers the Second Gulch trail:

- A. *"Operation of motor vehicles, motor bikes, motorcycles, snowmobiles or off-highway vehicles (OHV) which are less than 50 inches in width shall be allowed access to the Hardscrabble Road via the trail going up Second Gulch. Access to such trail is obtained by following the Second Gulch Trail signs from the parking area located at the bottom of Arroyo Drive. See map contained in Section 6.03.130. The operation of any motor vehicle, motor bike, motorcycle, snowmobile or other off-highway vehicle (OHV) in any other open space area is prohibited."*

[Section 11.09.020 of the Municipal Code](#) addresses off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on Town streets:

- A. *In accordance with C.R.S. § 33-14.5-108, all Town streets, roads, and alleys, except any street or road which is part of the State Highway System, within the Town are hereby designated as limited off-highway vehicle routes. Off-highway vehicles shall be permitted on such routes for the limited purpose of traveling to or from the owner's or operator's residence or place of storage directly to or from a recreational site that allows the use of such vehicles.*

These two provisions in the Town Municipal Code permit Eagle residents to access BLM and National Forest System lands via an OHV from their residence or storage without trailing their machines to a trailhead. This is helpful because the only trailhead in the Town of Eagle built for trailers is the Arroyo trailhead, with minimal spots available.

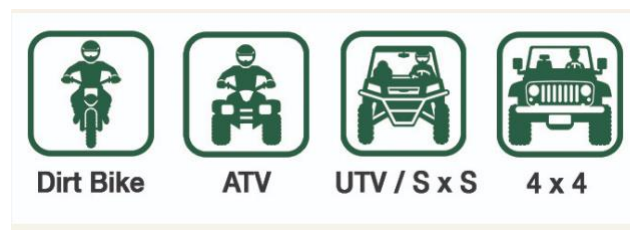
However, the abovementioned arrangement only provides this access with OHVs that are 50-inches or less. Full-size vehicles and OHVs larger than 50 inches are required to access West Eagle via Hardscrabble Road (FS Road 413) from Brush Creek Road.

The goal of this restriction was to permit OHVs access to public lands from Town without allowing access for full-size vehicles. The Town did not want this to turn into a destination trailhead or have BLM car traffic routed through neighborhoods.

However, OHV technology has advanced over the past 15 years. Whereas All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) were the primary OHV use in the past, Side by Sides (S x S) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) have become much more common. UTVs and S x S are generally wider than ATVs.

OHV Technology

The typical width of an ATV is less than 50 inches. This is the reason for the 50-inch width restriction on Second Gulch. UTV and S x S can be as wide as full-size vehicles, but most are narrower. Generally, UTV and S x S vehicles are between 58-64 inches in width. Most 4x4 and full-size cars are wider than 70-inches.



Second Gulch Management and History

The 50-inch rule has been the prevailing rule since the late 2000s. At the bottom of the Second Gulch trail, giant boulders limit the width restriction on the trail. However, the actual width of the boulders was not placed at exactly 50-inches. This has been permitting much larger vehicles to access the Second Gulch Trail. Certain features on Second Gulch were not built to accommodate the width and weight of UTVs and S x S vehicles.

There is a cattle guard at the Town boundary on Second Gulch. The cattle guard has sustained consistent damage over the years due to larger and heavier vehicles accessing the trail. Significant staff time and resources have been invested in maintaining this cattle guard.

In spring 2021, staff replaced a broken cattle guard on the trail. By fall 2021, the cattle guard was damaged beyond repair. In spring 2022, staff partnered with the BLM to install a new cattle guard on the trail. The width and strength of this new cattle guard are specific for ATVs at 50-inches or less.

Following the installation of the cattle guard, Town and BLM staff placed width restrictions at both ends of the trail to 50-inches to protect this new cattle guard. This was thereby enforcing the width limit in the Town Municipal Code on the trail.

So far, two community members have expressed concern about this change and limiting access for motorized users to public lands.

Analysis: Enforcement of the 50-inch rule on Second Gulch in 2022 to protect infrastructure and adhere to the provisions in the Municipal Code caused some concerns among UTV and S x S owners in the Eagle community. At a Council meeting in June, a member of the public requested that the Council reconsider this rule.

Town Council will ultimately need to determine if the rule changes. Council has requested that OSRAC weigh in on this issue.

Adjusting this rule would provide UTV and S x S users access from their residence to BLM lands without needing to trailer their equipment to Gypsum or Hardscrabble Road. Advocates have asserted this is in line with the original intent of our code – the change would just be to accommodate updates in technology. UTV and S x S are equipped with more safety features than traditional ATVs and are easier to drive. Last, Second Gulch is the only motorized access point and trail in Eagle. All other routes that leave from Town to public lands are non-motorized.

Upholding the existing rule would likely limit the motorized traffic on Second Gulch owing to the decrease in popularity of ATVs. Further, the Town would not need to invest in new infrastructure to accommodate the increase in vehicle size and weight.

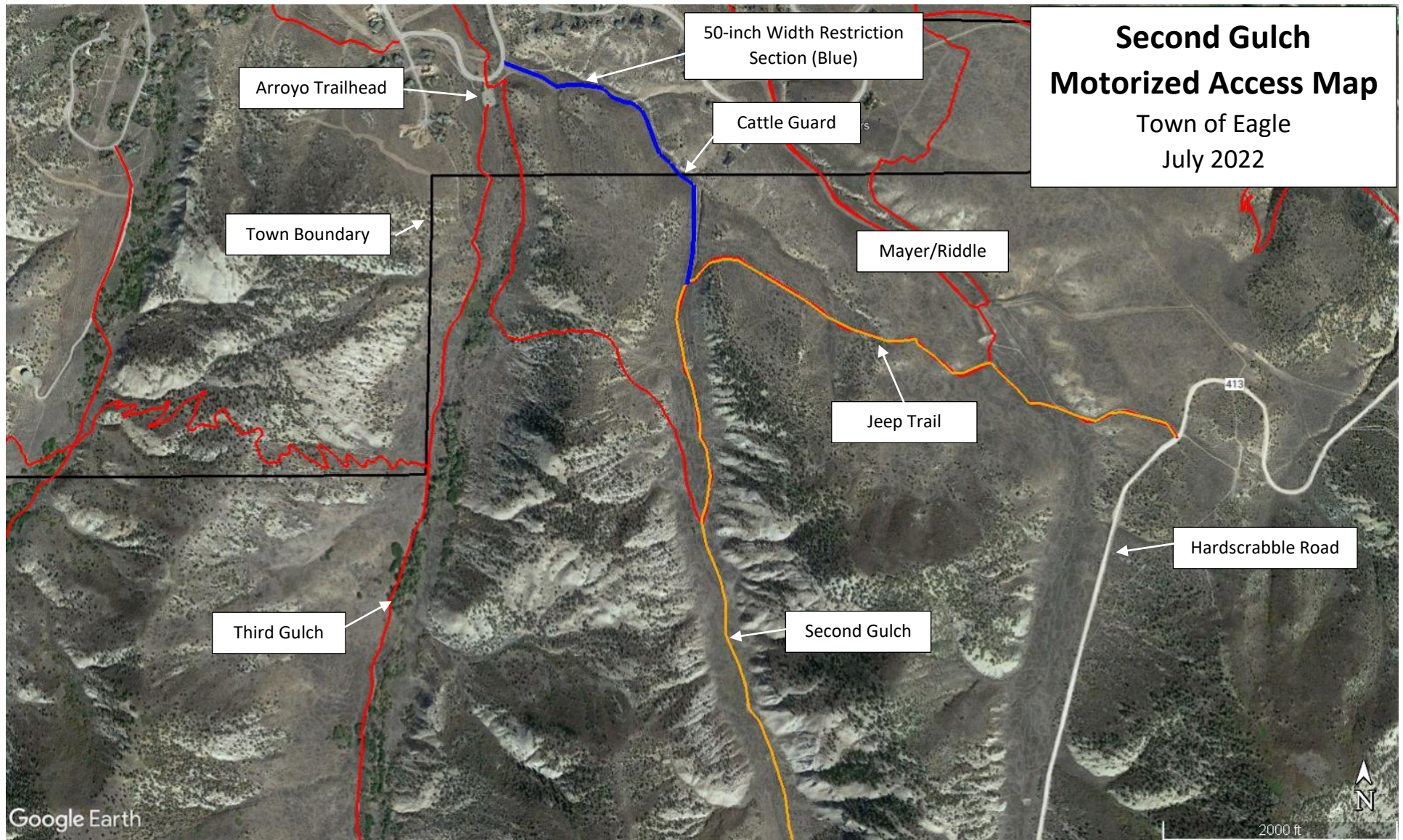
In the past, staff have fielded concerns from the community about motorized traffic on Second Gulch. The complaints have mostly been related to speed and etiquette of motorized users on Second Gulch. Some community members have also expressed concern about the dust and damage to the trail caused by motorized use.

Community Input: Specific community feedback has been summarized in the Analysis section above. Staff encourages the Committee to accept public comment at the OSRAC meeting to identify additional community sentiments on this issue.

Budget/ Staff Impact: At a minimum, the Town would need to replace the cattle guard on Second Gulch with one that can accommodate wider and heavier vehicles if the Code was updated. Improvements to the trail could be considered, however, it would not be essential.

Recommend Action or Proposed Motion: Provide direction to staff on what additional information would be required to inform this discussion. Layout a plan to provide feedback to Council this fall.

Attachments: Map 1 – Second Gulch Motorized Access Map



Map 1: Motorized access from Town of Eagle to BLM Lands via Second Gulch. Non-motorized trails are in red. OHV motorized trails are in orange. Roads that accommodate full-size vehicles are in grey. The section of Second Gulch that is limited to 50-inch width or less is in Blue. The Town of Eagle boundary is in black.

Motorized vehicles less than 50-inches in width can access BLM lands via Second Gulch from Eagle Ranch. Motorized vehicles above 50-inches are required to access BLM lands via Hardscrabble Road from Brush Creek Road. OHVs can travel from the owner's or operator's residence or place of storage directly to Second Gulch to access BLM land in the Town of Eagle. However, all OHV travel on roads is prohibited in unincorporated Eagle County.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: August 2, 2022

Agenda Item: Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

REQUEST: Staff requests that OSRAC review the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) project by looking at the project website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016085/510>. In addition, review the comment letter submitted to the BLM by Council last week.

BACKGROUND: To comply with a settlement agreement in litigation of the CRVFO, the BLM is completing a SEIS to evaluate downstream impacts of oil and gas leasing on federal lands. The SEIS will augment the CRVFO 2015 Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Town of Eagle is participating in this process as a Cooperating Agency. The BLM requests that all Cooperating Agencies provide initial comment letters by the end of the month.

The SEIS process will take about two years. Currently, the BLM is requesting input from cooperating agencies to help define new alternatives for the RMP. The Town will continue to be involved with this process and will likely have additional opportunities to provide comments.

RMPs for the BLM provide management objectives and strategies for lands managed by each BLM field office. Smaller areas within the field office are often broken into special designation areas with additional criteria and standards to achieve specific management objectives.

The 2015 RMP for the CRVFO creates four special designation areas on public lands adjacent to the Town of Eagle. This includes two Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Town was instrumental in these designations through our involvement with creating the RMP in 2015. The SRMAs and ACECs have distinct management objectives for recreation and natural resource protection that are valuable for our community.

ANALYSIS: The 2015 RMP indicates that the four special designation areas adjacent to the Town of Eagle are open to new oil and gas leasing. However, oil and gas development potential in the Eagle area is thought to be low, so the potential for new oil and gas development is likely limited.

Owing to the settlement agreement, the BLM is required to reevaluate downstream impacts of oil and gas leasing. These impacts will likely include the effects of adding greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas development on federal lands into the atmosphere. To combat this, the BLM proposes closing

all areas in the field office with low to medium development potential of oil and gas. This would include the area around Eagle.

Staff supports this alternative because our community values recreation and wildlife in the Eagle area. Staff believes resource extraction is not consistent with the intent and management objectives of the special designations in our area and would support this change to minimize downstream impacts from oil and gas development.

COMMUNITY INPUT: The Open Space and Trails Master plan, 2021 Community Survey, and Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan all indicate that Eagle Residents place immense value on access to natural open space, recreation, and the existence of wildlife in our area. In general, resource extraction can detract from these values.

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT: None.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: Action item #3.10 in the Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan highlights our community's desire to continue working with the BLM to implement community-supported resource management objectives on federal lands adjacent to Town.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. July 26, 2022, Draft Comment Letter to the BLM
2. Additional information about this project can be found on the BLM's project website:
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016085/510>



July 26, 2022

Bruce Krickbaum
Supplemental EIS Project Manager
Planning and Environmental Specialist
BLM Colorado State Office

RE: Colorado River Valley and Grand Junction Field Office Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DOI-BLM-CO-G020-2022-0001-RMP-EIS)

Bruce and the Planning Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

The Town of Eagle (Town) was involved as a Cooperating Agency during the development of the 2015 CRVFO Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Town strongly supported the designation of the East and West Eagle Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and the two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that protect recreation and resource values in the Town's backyard. The Town is thankful for our continued partnership with the CRVFO to accomplish recreation and land management goals that benefit our local community, visitors, and wildlife.

Over the past year, the Town has been working with the CRVFO and other partners to develop our first Open Space and Trails Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan outlines community-supported management objectives for Town-owned open space and provides a vision for resource objectives in the special designations on federally managed lands adjacent to Town. Development of the plan included extensive public and stakeholder engagement.

The Master Plan indicates that the Eagle community continues to consider recreation, proximity to open space and public lands, and wildlife as the top reasons to live in Eagle and primary factors contributing to a high quality of life. These sentiments are further supported by the Town's recent Community Survey (2021) and Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan (2020).

To protect these community values, the Town supports closing new oil and gas leasing in the two SRMAs and the two ACECs adjacent to Town. We believe resource extraction is not consistent with the intent and management objectives of the special designations in our area. This is especially relevant

considering the low potential for oil and gas development in the Eagle region. Therefore, the Town is supportive of the Preliminary New Alternative that is currently proposed.

The Town looks forward to being involved throughout this process and is thankful for the collaborative approach to resource management in the Eagle area. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Turnipseed', written in a cursive style.

Scott Turnipseed
Mayor
Town of Eagle