

Town of Eagle Open Space Management Planning

Stakeholder Focus Groups

June 2023

Recreation Focus Group Notes 6/15/23

Process

- Will want to have a prioritization strategy within the plans.
- Potentially engage Gypsum.
- Budgetary prioritization.

Access

- Non-motorized access is good.
- Trail adoption by communities is positive.
- Like safe crossings due to access within the town.
- Not fee-based; there isn't a barrier to access the open spaces.
- Using paved paths as commuter options.
- Mindful connections and hubs.
- Good progression of difficulty for trails.
- Larger parking areas help to keep cars out of neighborhoods and illegal parking.
- Having trailer parking is nice.
- Lack of motorized use access within town and county.
- There are some issues with connectivity across town.
- A lot of development occurring up valley where they will likely look to come to Eagle early and late season.

Equestrian

- Equine access is limited – would be nice for a designated equine trail.
 - Could have designated equine access to BLM.
- Feel they are an unheard voice in the community given this is a historically agricultural focused community.
- Gates for horseback riders should have an approach with a high lock. 6-8 feet of pivot area.

Winter Closure

- Conflicting management styles between open space and BLM with the winter closure (foot traffic allowed; confusing).
- Would like to preserve some year-round access.
- Dec 1 to April 15 last year.
- Impacts to elk are going to increase once the Haymeadow houses are built.
- Main impacts at Haymaker currently are dog walkers.

Messaging/Communication/Signage

- Other organizational messaging – partnerships and coordinated messaging.
 - Sometimes this is confusing to know who is sending out the messaging.
- Bilingual messaging is good to see, but could increase.
- Sometimes hard to tell where BLM/FS land starts.
 - Good and bad because it's cohesive in terms of aesthetics, but not great when rules change based on the land manager.
- All trails are multi-use and people are generally good at understanding this etiquette.
 - There are suggested arrows for MTBing which are helpful.

Diversity

- Encourage more Spanish speaking community members to get on the trails.
- Including more social opportunities for these folks.

Dogs

- Would like more areas for dogs off-leash.
- Potentially another dog park at the Haymaker TH.
- The existing dog park could be improved.

Commercial Use

- Is it necessary to have a permit system for summer camps? Not currently a problem, but something to watch.
- A lot of pressure at the Haymaker TH during events and camps.
 - Arroyo TH could also be used, though it's not set up for that volume.

Camping

- Camping demand in town is common but there are not reservable areas.

Impacts

- Recreation impacts are increasing.
- User group conflicts.

Carrying Capacity/Sustainability of Trails

- Somewhat limited by the amount of parking.
- Not a lot of conflict (compared to other areas).
- Could easily change in a matter of 10 years based on the amount of development.
 - Which are sold on the access to the outdoors and then there isn't always proposed access.

Parking

- Limited
- Could use clearer signage that shows where other parking is if an area is full.

- Hocket TH to come with apartment build.
- Other people from the valley are coming to this area as well (extended locals) where parking is issue.

E-Bikes

- Unsure how this will impact trails over the next few years.

Second Gulch

- Width is not the best way to regulate motorized use.
- Concern is for safety reasons.
 - Potential for a single-track to run alongside it to be for hikers, etc.
- Certain times a day the motorized use is loud.
- UTV's being allowed vs. plated vehicles.
 - Potentially re-allow UTVs.
- Suggestion of a one-year trial with camera, restricted parking, local use only, etc.
- No commercial use
- Safety of hikers and bikers is a concern.
- Potential gatekeeper/qualifier structure (to keep out street vehicles).
- Going there because that's what we have, not necessarily where users want to be.
- What was the historical intended use of second gulch? Likely hunting and game retrieval.

Motorized Use

- Inform Hocket Gulch residents of intended future use of motorized use by their home.
- Concern about commercial use – ensuring that if the UTVs rule changes, that no commercial use should be allowed.

Recreation Interest Stakeholders	Organization	Attendance
Mike Beach	USFS - Holy Cross Ranger District	Yes
Megan Carter	Mountain Recreation District	Yes
Lizzy Owens	Mountain Recreation District	Yes
Ernest Saeger	Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance	Yes
Laura Turitz	Hardscrabble Trails Coalition	Yes
Nicole Asselin	Hardscrabble Trails Coalition	Yes
Chris Kehoe	Rocky Mountain Sport Riders	Yes
Kirstin Shaw	Equestrian interests	Yes
Brian Bastuba	Rocky Mountain Sport Riders - singletrack motorized interests	Yes
Bryan Woods	Eagle County 4x4 club/ Colorado 4x4 Rescue and Recovery	Yes
Brian Woodrich	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Virtual
Layton Stutsman	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Virtual
Marcia Gilles	Eagle County Open Space	Yes
Pete Suneson	Eagle County Open Space	Yes
Carlie Bernhert (sp?)	Graphics designer for trail signage	Virtual