



Parks and Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503
303.678.6200 • Fax: 303.678.6177 • www.bouldercounty.org

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE August 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by John Nibarger in the Hearing Room of the Board of Commissioners, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse, Boulder, Colorado.

POSAC Members in Attendance

Present: Sue Anderson, Jenn Archuleta, Cathy Comstock, James Mapes, John Nibarger, and Heather Williams

Excused: Scott Miller, Gordon Pedrow, and Jim Krug

Staff in Attendance

Renata Frye, Jesse Rounds, Kristi VanDenBosch, Conrad Lattes, Therese Glowacki, Vivienne Jannatpour, and Eric Lane

Approval of the July 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Action Taken: Jenn Archuleta moved to accept the July minutes, and Sue Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. [Heather Williams and John Nibarger abstained because they were not at the July meeting.]

Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda

None

Trail and Property Management at Heil Valley Ranch 2

Staff Presenter: Jesse Rounds, Planner

Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: James Mapes moved to accept staff recommendation for the plan as presented, and Heather Williams seconded the motion. After discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Regional Trail Map Application Project Update

Staff Presenter: Kristi VanDenBosch, GIS Manager

Action Requested: Information Only

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: Information Only

Update on Elk and Vegetation Management Plan for Rabbit Mountain

Staff Presenter: Therese Glowacki, Resource Management Manager

Action Requested: Information Only

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: Information Only

Director's Update

- The Resource Management Division began relocating prairie dogs from Monarch Park to the South County Grasslands. 52 prairie dogs have been moved so far.
- The South St. Vrain Creek restoration project is under way.
- The Bielins-Hock stream restoration project (off the LoBo Trail) began a few weeks ago and it should be completed in the next couple weeks.
- The Preble's Jumping Mice tagging is complete and we will continue to monitor the trap and recapture data to get a sense of the populations.
- POS has received two bids for the Sustainable Agriculture Research Innovation Initiative (SARII), one from CSU and one from the Western Sugar Cooperative.
- The Mayhoffer Farm purchase has been approved by the BOCC and the Cities of Louisville and Lafayette. We hope to close the deal soon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The full audio, available staff memos, and related materials for this meeting can be found on our website: www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/POSAC



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Thursday, August 24, 2017
TIME: 6:30 pm
PLACE: Commissioners' Hearing Room, 3rd Floor, Boulder County Courthouse,
1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA

Suggested Timetable

- 6:30 1. **Approval of the July 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes**
- 6:35 2. **Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda**
- 6:40 3. **Trail and Property Management at Heil Valley Ranch 2**
Staff Presenters: Jesse Rounds, Planner
Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC
- 6:55 4. **Regional Trail Map Application Project Update**
Staff Presenters: Kristi VanDenBosch, GIS Manager
Action Requested: Information Only
- 7:10 5. **Update on Elk and Vegetation Management Plan for Rabbit Mountain**
Staff Presenters: Therese Glowacki, Resource Management Manager
Action Requested: Information Only
- 7:40 6. **Director's Update**
- 7:45 7. **Adjourn**

Available staff memos & related materials for this meeting may be viewed on our website:
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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
TIME/DATE:	Thursday, August 24, 2017 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 rd floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
AGENDA ITEM:	Trail and Property Management at Heil Valley Ranch 2
PRESENTER:	Jesse Rounds, Resource Planner
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation to the BOCC

In the Heil Valley Ranch 2 Small Area Plan the Boulder County Commissioners approved two trail corridors on the property: A multi-use trail on the west side of Geer Canyon Drive and pedestrian/equestrian trail proposed for the east side of the road. Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) must balance use of these trails with protecting natural and cultural resources. Therefore, BCPOS staff proposes closing areas of the park to protect cultural and natural resources as well as temporary closures to minimize conflicts between users and site development.

Overland Loop Trail

The Overland Loop Trail opened on August 9. The trail currently connects the Heil Valley Ranch corral area with the Heil Valley Ranch trailhead (Figure 1). In the future, this trail will connect to a trailhead on the Heil Valley Ranch 2 property as well as to Left Hand Canyon Drive. In order to minimize conflicts, BCPOS proposes a temporary closure of the west side of the property. This closure will be lifted upon the completion of west side trails, the Heil 2 trailhead, the corral improvements, and the schoolhouse restoration.

The west side of the Overland Loop is located on the Heil Valley Ranch property in an area that was heavily impacted by the Overland Fire (2003). While we generally prefer to allow off-trail access to open properties, this portion of the burn area is on steep slopes, has significant weed pressure, is surrounded by closed property, and has become an important area of natural resources at Heil Valley Ranch. This use limitation will be reassessed when the management of Heil Valley Ranch is reviewed as part of the North Foothills Open Space Management Plan is revisited and revised.

East Side Trail

The proposed Pedestrian/Equestrian trail corridor on the east side of the property is situated in a narrow valley close to both cultural and natural resources (Figure 1). The planning team proposed designating this trail "On Trail Use Only" in order to protect these resources. Unfortunately, while the plan references a desire to make this decision, it does not specifically request that designation in the text. The staff team proposes making this change in this amendment to the existing Small Area Plan.

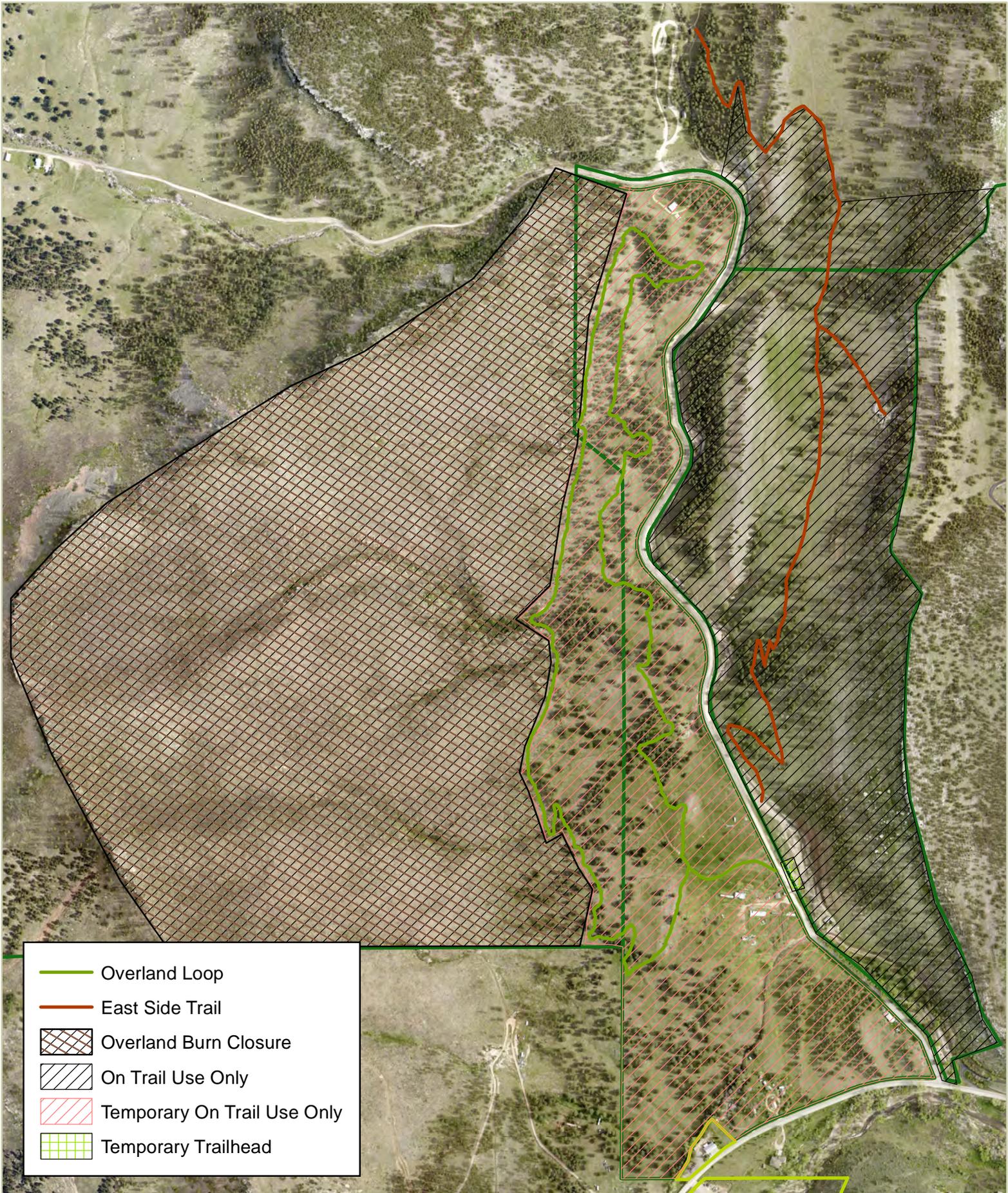
Parks & Open Space staff intends to interpret the resources located on the east side of the property; however there is a danger of negatively impacting them with unmanaged access. In the management plan section on “Plant Alliances”, the plan references a need to discourage off trail use (Heil 2 Small Area Management Plan, p.16). During the two public hearings before the county commissioners, the presenter references the need to make the trail “On Trail Use Only.” Furthermore, during both hearings no members of the public referenced a need to allow off-trail use on the east side trail. Therefore, the staff team believes that the intention of the plan was made clear, even if the text did not reflect this intention. Protecting these resources for the long-term is part of the mission of Parks & Open Space.

This amendment will be attached to the Heil 2 Small Area Plan, to create a record of the decision to manage the Overland Trail and to the East Side Trail at Heil 2 as “On Trail Use Only”. This decision must be revisited upon the inclusion of Heil 2 in the North Foothills Open Space Management Plan.

Staff Recommendation

Parks & Open Space is requesting that POSAC recommend these amendments to commissioners.

Figure 1: Heil 2 Property Management Closures





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TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
TIME/DATE:	Thursday, August 24, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 rd floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
AGENDA ITEM:	Regional Trail Map Application Project Update
PRESENTER:	Kristi VanDenBosch, GIS Manager
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information only

Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS), in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies and other county departments, has been working on the creation of a regional trail map application for the past two years. The regional trail map app would include trails from all of the participating agencies (a complete list of the participating agencies is below). The goal of the Regional Trail Map Application Project is to:

Create a multi-agency, county-wide, interactive Boulder County mobile trail map application for the public (Regional Trail Map Application Team, 11/10/2015)

This presentation will provide an update on the status of the Regional Trail Map Application Project and our next steps in making it a reality.

Background

Existing County Applications

Providing the public with an option for a mobile offline solution for trails and other services is essentially a requirement in today's world. BCPOS currently has two existing mobile trail map applications. The iOS version was published in 2013. The Android version was published in 2012. However, neither application can be updated, due to technical and personnel reasons, meaning the data in the applications are 4 and 5 years out of date, respectively. Since 2012, BCPOS has added or updated 78 (out of the current 356) trail line segments, but these cannot be included in the existing trail apps. Also, it is important to note that these applications only include BCPOS trails.

Non-County Applications

Outside of our own branded mobile apps, there are a number of commercial trail applications available, but BCPOS is not the authoritative data source for any of these applications. That means that we may not have supplied the data, we cannot update the application if there are errors in their data, we cannot update the data as we make changes to our trail systems, and we cannot add or remove functionality, such as notifications regarding closures.

In addition, several other trail mapping projects are currently underway. Although BCPOS is actively involved with these projects, they don't meet BCPOS's needs or requirements for a regional trail application. These projects include:

Colorado Trails System Project

In 2015 Governor Hickenlooper issued an initiative called Colorado the Beautiful. One of the goals of the project was to create a state wide trail map. They rolled [Colorado Trail Explorer](#) (COTREX) out in June 2017. We have been actively involved in development of the project and one of BCPOS's GIS specialists (Meredith Dutlinger) has been an alpha tester throughout the process. This map is a web based map with mobile responsiveness, but it is not a mobile app with offline capability. BCPOS will stay active in the project and make sure our data is included and up-to-date, but we don't feel that it will meet our long term needs.

Open Trails Specifications

The [Open Trails System Specification](#) (Open Trails) "defines a simple, common format for public trails and associated geographic information." BCPOS has been active in testing and providing feedback to the Open Trails project and has provided data to the public in both our own native schema, as well as in the Open Trails specification. However, for future functionality, the Open Trails specifications may not be sufficient to address our needs.

Code for Boulder

Code for Boulder, which is a brigade of [Code for America](#), had initiated a mobile trails application project in 2014. We got involved in the project some time into the process. However, we felt this project lacked clear direction and leadership, and we were not yet in a position to provide that direction. As well, some of their volunteers could no longer devote the time necessary to move the project forward. The project has fizzled out, but we maintain a dialogue with the group and consider them a potential partner for future projects.

Regional Trail Map Application Project

As we were working through these projects and discussing potential solutions for updating BCPOS's mobile trail applications, we began to explore expanding the geographic scope of a new app. One of the most consistent comments that we hear from the public regarding trail maps (whether it is paper or digital) is that people don't want to have to navigate multiple agency websites and maps to figure out how to understand and use the trail systems throughout Boulder County. Having multiple sources of data with varying completeness and accuracy and lacking information about trail connections amongst various jurisdictions can cause user frustration.

After considering all of the above factors, BCPOS decided to approach the other public agencies in the county with the idea of creating a single multi-agency, regional mobile trails application. We received very positive feedback from all the agencies we contacted and decided to move forward with a stakeholder meeting.

The kickoff meeting for the Regional Trail Map Application Project was held November 10, 2015, with 21 representatives from the majority of the participating agencies attending. The agency representatives expressed interest in developing a joint trail map application. However, some were concerned with resource availability and technical expertise within their agency.

Since the initial kickoff meeting, the group has met several more times to discuss some of the big picture questions that need to be addressed, such as narrowing down the purpose of the application, which helps us determine which trails to include or exclude. In addition, a smaller Technical Team was created to design and test the technical aspects of the project and bring back the results to the larger group.

Over the past year, a comprehensive, multi-agency data effort was launched to begin bringing all of the participating agencies' data together. This data was converted to a common structure, cleaned up and missing information added, and consolidated into a single source. This task required significant effort on the part of each agency, with BCPOS leading and lending expertise and staff hours. In addition, a test [ArcGIS Online map](#) was created in July 2017, and all existing data is now in the web map.

Knowing that the partnering agencies and staff have limited resources, time, and knowledge to create the desired application, the group recently solicited information on technical recommendations and the estimated cost of developing the regional trail map app via a Request for Information. We received responses from 21 interested parties and are currently reviewing those responses. The goal is to have an application developer on board in 2018 to complete the app and make the Regional Trail Map Application a reality.

This of course will require funding. We are planning to submit multi-agency grant applications to Great Outdoors Colorado and the State Trails Program for assistance to develop the mobile application. Whether through one of these or another funding source, the goal would be to divide the cost equitably amongst each of the participating agencies, including the cost of long-term maintenance.

Partnering Agencies

Boulder County
City of Boulder
City and County of Broomfield
City of Erie
City Lafayette
City of Louisville
Town of Superior
Town of Nederland
Town of Lyons
Rocky Mountain National Park
US Forest Service
City of Longmont

Web Links

Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX)
<https://cts.state.co.us/cotrex/desktop/>

Open Trails Data
<http://www.opentraildata.org/>

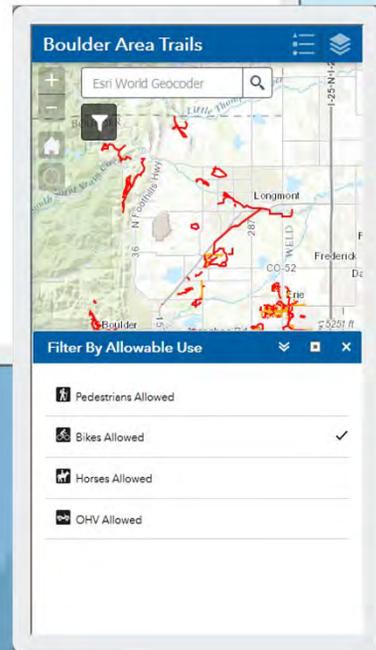
Code For Boulder

<https://www.codeforamerica.org/>

Regional Trails Test Web Map

<http://bouldercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1e85900d44464952a3d00cfe290f4ad>

Boulder County Area Trails App



Why Collaborate on a Single Mobile App?

- Connect local communities
- Provide access to all trail information in and around Boulder County
- Provide “one-stop shopping” for users
- Enable users to find trails by use or type
- Allow users to plan routes
- Link users to agency websites for more info
- Allow for offline mobile use





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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE AND LOCATION: Thursday, August 24, 2017, 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Rabbit Mountain Elk and Vegetation Management Plan Update

PRESENTER: Therese Glowacki, Resource Management Manager

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

In order to protect the significant natural biodiversity of Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain, Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) recommended limited public hunting, fencing, and hazing to encourage this herd to migrate and reduce overall elk numbers on Rabbit Mountain. We propose using an adaptive management approach including continued elk and vegetation monitoring to determine the effects of this management throughout plan implementation.

BCPOS presented the Rabbit Mountain Elk and Vegetation Management Plan to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 20, 2017. The hearing was attended by many members of the public and testimony was taken.

After deliberation among the commissioners, they passed a motion that gave approval to staff to move forward in working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to develop a plan for Rabbit Mountain Open Space for the purpose of wildlife and vegetation management that includes limited elk hunting for this fall season (and up to two additional years), with a request to staff to come back to the board by mid-August of this year (prior to the hunting season) with more details and clarifications of additional pieces of the management plan, to include:

- Hazing plan
- Public communications coordination plan
- Data collection plan
- Fencing plan
- Annual review process and periodic updates to understand adaptations being made to the management plan

While the board will allow limited hunting to take place this fall based on the immediate need to address elk-related damage to the sensitive surrounding ecosystem and the size of the herd, the commissioners' approval of hunting cows in the Rabbit Mountain herd does not amount to creation of a new policy of allowing recreational hunting on Boulder County open space properties.

In the on-line revised Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk and Vegetation Management Plan, we have updated the text and updated appendices with more information on the plan. Some of the changes in the plan include the addition of the following sections:

- 1) Fencing
- 2) Hazing
- 3) Data Collection
- 4) Adaptive Management
- 5) Communications
- 6) Plan Duration

This updated plan will be taken to the BOCC on Tuesday, August 22 at 11am. There will be no public testimony at this meeting. The staff will request the BOCC to approve the plan at this meeting.

We will present more information during the POSAC meeting on the details of these updated sections, the outcome of the BOCC meeting, and the most recent plans for implementation.

Action Requested: Information only