



Parks &  
Open Space

## Summary of August Open House Comment Form Questions

Responses to questions 1, 2, 3, and 5 are summarized in this document. Responses to the open ended questions (4, 5, 6, and 7) are discussed in a separate document.

**Note:** While the comment form did not specifically ask about route preferences, most respondents provided their preferences, and some respondents expressed support for more than one route option. Please see the Comments and Responses document for additional information.

The comment form is on page 5.

**Q1. Which activities do you typically participate in when you visit open space or a state park?**  
*(Respondents were asked to select all activities that apply. As multiple activities were often selected the responses do not total 100%)*

Activity	Eldorado-Walker Comment forms
Hike	92%
Bike	88%
Run	51%
Walk the dog	43%
View wildlife	41%
Climb	32%
Picnic	28%
Family gathering	22%
Fish	15%
Special Event	6%
Other - describe	2%
Ride a horse	2%

**Q2. Which activity listed above is your most frequent activity?**

**(For comparison, latest overall visitor survey percentages are included as well.)**

Activity	Eldo-Walker comment forms	BCPOS 2015 5-year Visitor Study	OSMP 2016-2017 5-year Visitor Survey Report
Hike	21%	41%	42%
Bike	59%	27%	10%
Run	11%	8%	16%
Walk the dog	2%	8%	22%
View wildlife	0%	2%	2%*
Climb	5%	NA	2%
Family gathering	1%	1%	NA
Fish	1%	2%	NA

\* Primary Activity category is "Viewing scenery"

**Q3. Where do you live?**

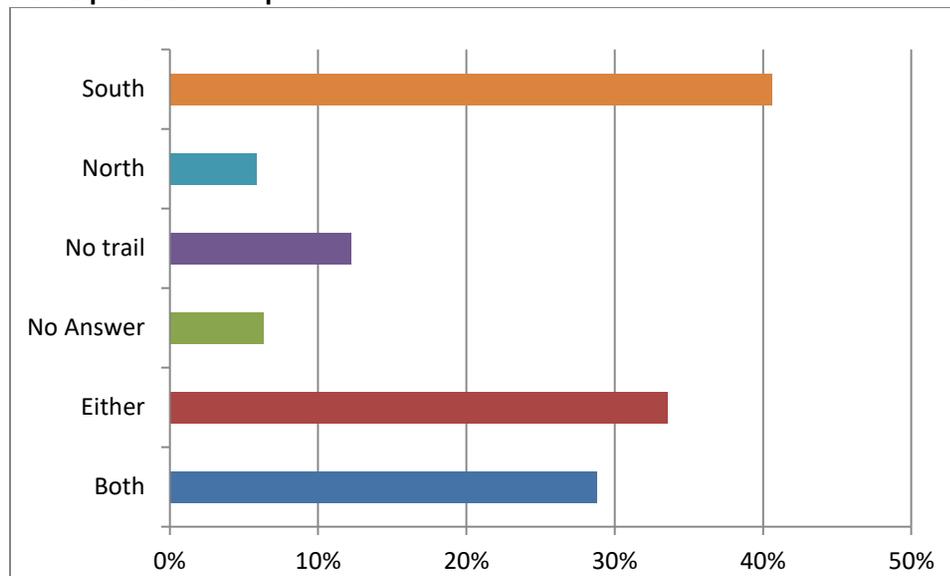
City/Town	Eldo-Walker comment forms	BCPOS 2015 5-year Visitor Study	OSMP 2016-2017 5-year Visitor Survey Report N=2,135
Boulder	54%	31%	55%
Eldorado Springs	10%	--	--
Denver	4%	6%	7%
Lafayette	4%	5%	5%
Longmont	3%	16%	3%
Louisville	6%	4%	5%
Superior	3%	3%	2%
Unincorporated Boulder County	3%	5%	10%
None of these, but in Colorado	9%	24%	5%
Outside Colorado	1%	9%	8%
NA	3%	2%	--

**Q5. Do you have any comments on the trail alignments identified for further study??**

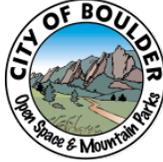
*Note: While the comment form did not specifically ask about route preferences, most respondents provided their preferences, and some respondents expressed support for more than one route option. Please see the Comments and Responses for additional responses.*

Preferences	Responses	
Both	29%	127
Either	34%	148
No Answer	6%	28
No trail	12%	54
North	6%	26
South	41%	179
Total Respondents: 441		562

**Route preference responses**



**Respondents=441      Responses = 562**



**Parks &  
Open Space**

# Eldorado-Walker Connection Feasibility study

## Aug. 28, 2018 Open House

### Comment Form

**1. Which activities do you typically participate in when you visit open space or a state park?**

(check all that apply)

- |      |                  |                 |               |
|------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Hike | Walk the dog     | Ride a horse    | Special event |
| Bike | Climb            | Picnic          | View wildlife |
| Run  | Family gathering | Photography/Art | Fish          |

Other – describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Which activity listed above is your most frequent activity?**

(write only one activity) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Where do you live? (check only one)**

- |            |                  |           |   |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---|
| Boulder    | Eldorado Springs | Lyons     | A town in Boulder County not listed                   |
| Broomfield | Lafayette        | Nederland | Unincorporated Boulder County                         |
| Denver     | Longmont         | Niwot     | None of these, but in Colorado<br>please detail _____ |
| Erie       | Louisville       | Superior  | Outside Colorado                                      |

**4. Do you have any comments on the analysis topics, criteria, or variables to be included in the feasibility study?**

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5. Do you have any comments on the trail alignments identified for further study?

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6. Do you have comments on the project process and timeline?

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7. Do you have any other comments you'd like to share?

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or share your email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Responses were not developed for all comments. Responses were developed for comments relating to the analysis topics, process, timeline, those which made suggestions for additional analysis or lands to be included in the feasibility study, and those that would benefit from additional clarifying information. Many comments relating to the routes were expressing preferences or were statements or opinions and for which responses were not applicable (N/A). All comments, regardless of whether a response was applicable or not, were considered in developing the preliminary recommendation.*

## Comments on the analysis topics, criteria, or variables to be included in the feasibility study

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
<b>Environmental and Cultural Resources</b>	
Impacts to wildlife, wildlife movement and connectivity are important.	Wildlife and Undisturbed Habitat and other environmental considerations are included as analysis topics.
Consider impacts to soil.	This was not included as an analysis topic. Soils will be considered if a preferred alignment is identified and during subsequent design phases.
Consider impacts to water.	Wetland and Riparian Habitat is included as an analysis topic.
Habitat of imperiled species and other species of special concern should be given special/higher consideration.	Wildlife Habitat including species of special concern, is an analysis topic. The analysis topics are not weighted. A recommendation will not be derived by simply adding up the ratings.
Cultural and environmental considerations should not be analysis topics because the area is already altered.	An objective of the project is to minimize environmental and cultural impacts; these will be retained as analysis topics.
<b>Visitor Experience and Trail System Contiguity</b>	
Vistas/views are important	Vistas, views are included in the Trail Aesthetic analysis topic.
Shade/sun exposure are an important to consider as it will influence seasonal use.	Seasonality was added as an analysis topic.
The visitor experience should be given special/higher consideration.	Visitor Experience is an analysis category with 7 analysis topics. The analysis categories and topics are not weighted. A recommendation will not be derived by simply adding up the ratings.
Consider multi-directionality - the connection should be a good visitor experience for traveling in both directions.	The project assumes multi-directional travel. Elevation profiles will be presented to assess the experience in either direction.
Include elevation profiles of the routes.	Elevation profiles will be presented.
<b>Trail Construction</b>	
Cost should not be an analysis topic; whatever cost is necessary to create a high-quality visitor experience is worth it.	The partner agencies are committed to fiscal responsibility; understanding the estimated costs helps plan for implementation if a

	preferred alignment is identified. Cost was retained as an analysis topic.
Trail design should be a consideration because it impacts other analysis topics: construction cost, user experience, safety, long-term maintenance	Trail design, whether the routes could meet desired bike trail standards is included in the Trail Aesthetic and Character analysis in the Visitor Experience analysis category and in the Trail Sustainability and Maintenance analysis category.
<b>Trail Management and Maintenance</b>	
Trail sustainability is an important analysis topic.	Trail sustainability will be retained as an analysis topic.
What are the visitation estimates for new visitors?	Visitation estimates will be presented in the feasibility study and considered as part of the analysis.
Consider rotating days of use for bikes/hikers.	This management strategy may be considered in future phases of the project, if a preferred alignment is identified and approved for further planning and design.
Who will be responsible for maintenance?	<p>The primary ownership and management designations would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Route – CPW and OSMP</li> <li>• South Route – CPW and BCPOS</li> </ul> <p>A short section of the South Route (about ½ mile) is located within Jefferson County. As such, agreements would need to be formalized to ensure consistent medical response and law enforcement capability. The agencies are committed to ongoing cooperation to manage resources and address issues across jurisdictional boundaries.</p>
<b>Other</b>	
The analysis topics are comprehensive, correct, and reasonable	N/A
Will you look at the increase of traffic on nearby roads?	A visitation estimate for new visitors and the identification of the access points/trailheads will be included. A transportation impact study was not included in the scope of this project and will not be included in this feasibility study. Mitigation measures for congestion, parking, access and additional transportation analyses may be included in future implementation phases if a preferred alignment is identified.
Is there an evaluation of how visitors/bikers will use and access the trail?	The feasibility study will include the identification of the potential access points and trailheads.

Impacts to the town of Eldorado Springs should be an analysis topic.	The feasibility study includes analysis topics specific to the management of and access to the Eldorado Canyon State Park including parking, access, park capacity and visitation, and emergency response.
The criteria reflect the expertise and experience of BCPOS, OSMP, and CPW.	N/A

## Comments on the Eldorado State Park Interface

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
<b>Access and Parking</b>	
Will you look at the increase of demand for parking? How and/or where will additional parking needs be accommodated?	No additional parking is proposed at this time. If a preferred alignment is identified and approved for further planning and study, strategies to address parking, access, and congestion will be evaluated and considered.
Consider parking outside of the park. e.g. closer to 93, off road parking to accommodate increased visitation	
Parking should be increased proportionally to the increase in visits.	
The additional visitors/bikers are not going to ride their bike to Eldorado Springs/leave the car at home, but park in or near the state park, worsening existing traffic, parking and capacity problems.	
Will you look at the potential visitor increase to nearby trailheads?	A visitation estimate for new visitors and the identification of the access points/trailheads will be included.
Continue to explore options for a shuttle between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Boulder.	Mitigation measures for congestion, parking, access and additional transportation analyses may be included in future implementation phases if a preferred alignment is identified.
The road through the park/Kneale Road should be widened to accommodate the increased use.	
Concern about additional traffic through the town of Eldorado Springs - visitors speeding, increase in dust. The parking and road in town is private.	The feasibility study includes analysis topics related to access management at Eldorado Canyon State Park including parking and access, park capacity and visitation, and emergency response.
Consider imposing time limits on parking spots, perhaps 3 or 4 hours in duration.	CPW is actively managing a variety of resources, projects and ideas that influence visitor safety, user experience and site capacity.
Consider streamlining the entrance to the park.	CPW is currently planning to upgrade and improve the entry station, which would allow for more efficient processing of visitors as they enter the park and would also provide a vehicle turn-around for times when the park is full or closed.
Visitors already often cannot enter the park due to capacity; they are turned around at the gate.	

<p>How will parking regulations and speed limits be enforced?</p>	<p>Existing OSMP ranger resources will continue to monitor and enforce parking regulations in the vicinity of South Mesa, Doudy Draw and East Fowler trailheads. BCPOS ranger resources will continue to monitor and enforce parking regulations in the vicinity of Walker Ranch Loop, Ethel Harold and Myers Gulch trailheads.</p>
<p><b>Park Capacity and Visitation</b></p>	
<p>Congestion is already at unmanageable levels, adding bikes will increase issues</p>	<p>The feasibility study includes analysis topics related park capacity and visitation, and emergency response.</p>
<p>Capacity and increased visitation is a problem everywhere in Boulder County/not unique to Eldorado Springs area; it shouldn't prohibit making trail improvements.</p>	
<p>Given the existing capacity issues in the state park, this connection should be made on the south side and through the Doudy Draw trail network and using Fowler so that visitors are not directed through the town of Eldorado Springs and the main park entrance.</p>	<p>The scope of this feasibility study is limited to the Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch connection. This feasibility study is not considering a change in existing uses on the Fowler Trail.</p> <p>Biking is prohibited on the Fowler Trail With the exception of a short section that connects with the Rattlesnake Gulch trail.</p> <p>Connecting the Doudy Draw/Marshall Mesa trail network to the Fowler Trail was evaluated during a previous City of Boulder planning process- the OSMP Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan. The Fowler Trail is the only accessible recreation opportunity within the state park. In coordination, the OSMP sections of the Fowler Trail were correspondingly designated as hiking only.</p> <p>The state park maintains an interest in maintaining a quality accessible opportunity.</p>
<p><b>Revenue and Fee Collection</b></p>	
<p>The state park should not charge an entrance fee for bikers/peds.</p>	<p>Currently, walk-in visitors who access the park from external trails (e.g., hikers or runners coming from Fowler Trail or Eldorado Canyon Trail) are expected to purchase a day pass at the Visitor Center and carry the receipt as they pass through the park. There is currently no fee collection at Crescent Meadows Trailhead.</p>
<p>The state park should offer a discounted entry fee for mountain bikers since only a small portion of the trail is within the state park.</p>	

How will the park ensure visitors coming from the west pay fees?	CPW is considering alternative fee collection approaches, including an annual walk-in pass or remote fee stations, but no new approaches are in place.
If the state is concerned about collecting entry fees consider entry fee boxes along the trail.	
The state park shouldn't be concerned with collecting fees from mountain bikers; bikers will not be using park amenities.	
Fees collected from mountain bikers should go toward enhancing the cyclist experience.	
<b>Trail and Facility Sustainability</b>	
The park is already understaffed, who will manage the increased visitation?	If a trail route is chosen, the state park will need to address this issue.
<b>Visitor Conflict and Enjoyment</b>	
The state park has very limited hiking opportunities; providing this multi-use connection will greatly impact the existing hiking opportunities/experiences.	The feasibility study includes an analysis topic of Visitor conflict and enjoyment within Eldorado Canyon State Park Interface section of the report.
Consider the impact on other state park visitors.	
This connection would cause visitor displacement and negatively impact to current state park visitors and the current recreational opportunities	
Eldorado Canyon offers a unique and high value opportunity for climbing.	
Do not consider allowing bikes on the Fowler Trail; it is an ADA trail and adding bikes would be dangerous.	This feasibility study is not considering a change in existing uses on the Fowler Trail. With the exception of a short section of the Fowler Trail accessed within Eldorado Canyon State Park to connect with the Rattlesnake Gulch trail, mountain bike use is prohibited on the Fowler Trail.

## Comments on the project process and timeline

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
Thank you for considering this connection/working on this project; excited to see progress.	N/A
The process and timeline seem reasonable and transparent; good to see it clearly defined.	N/A

<p>The timeline is limited to selecting an alternative; incorporate the process through implementation into timeline; How long until trail completion/construction?</p>	<p>Clarification of how this process/feasibility study fits into the overall project timeline through construction will be included in future materials. If a preferred option is identified and approved, additional funding would need to be secured to support future phases of the project, including additional planning efforts, preliminary/final design and trail construction.</p>
<p>Consider creating a deadline for a final decision from the governing bodies.</p>	<p>The schedule outlines a timeline of advisory board review and action by the City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee and Commissioners. Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not have a similar requirement for advisory board review and action; CPW staff/leadership will be included in the final decision during the advisory board timeframe.</p>
<p>The mountain biking community well organized. The contemplative hikers, wildlife viewers, and other quiet visitors are not organized. Please listen to all perspectives and reach out to all visitors who enjoy Eldorado Canyon State Park.</p>	<p>Outreach efforts have been made and will continue to be made to reach all visitor types. All interests/stakeholders will be considered.</p>
<p>Mountain bikers are predominantly involved in this process.</p>	
<p>Have hunters been adequately represented in the public process?</p>	
<p>Desire for fast implementation; this connection is overdue; complete this process as soon as possible; it's time to move onto the next steps, potential alignments have been identified for a long time.</p>	<p>The timeline reflects an effort to complete the feasibility study in a timely way and incorporate and the necessary and desired public and governing bodies processes.</p>
<p>Take whatever time is necessary to support the process.</p>	
<p>Consider more public input over a longer period.</p>	
<p>Impression that the rationale behind decision-making isn't clear.</p>	<p>No decisions other than the routes for analysis/routes to be included in the feasibility study were made at the time of the August public engagement period. The analysis topics presented at the open house will be used to evaluate the routes and provide a foundation for a recommendation.</p>
<p>Why have you not come to the town of Eldorado Springs to speak to residents?</p>	<p>Targeted outreach to the residents of the town of Eldorado Springs was made informing residents of the opportunity to come to the open house and discuss this project with representatives from the partner agencies.</p>
<p>No decision should be made until more research is done to determine</p>	<p>The feasibility study includes analysis topic to identify and describe</p>

<p>how this multi-use connection would impact the residents of Eldorado Springs and a parking study is completed.</p>	<p>specific issues and opportunities related to access management at Eldorado Canyon State Park including parking and access, park capacity and visitation, and emergency response. . If a preferred option is identified and approved, additional funding would need to be secured to support future phases of the project, including planning, preliminary/final design and trail construction. Public engagement will be an important component of each phase.</p>
<p>Clarify why routes were dismissed.</p>	<p>Clarifications of why the routes were dismissed are included in the open house materials.</p>
<p>Take a long-term, strategic view to trail development considering potential future connections.</p>	<p>The scope of this phase/feasibility study is limited to the Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch connection. A more encompassing scope would need to be accompanied with an expanded timeline and budget. The partner agencies agree that considering regional trail connections and taking a long-term strategic view is a best practice and will continue to work together to do so.</p>
<p>Offer alternatives to web based information/tools. e.g. provide handouts, clicker surveys</p>	<p>Alternatives will be considered for future public engagement periods.</p>
<p>Advertise opportunities for public input at a variety of locations e.g. at bathrooms, park benches,</p>	<p>Posters, advertising the open house and public input opportunities, were posted at multiple locations and will be done so again for future opportunities.</p>

## Comments on the Trail Alignments Identified for Further Study

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
<b>Comments supporting the connection and not specific to an alternative</b>	
<p>Support for whichever route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a longer more gradual climb</li> <li>• has the lowest cost</li> <li>• is supported by the land managers</li> <li>• as long as the multi-use connection is made</li> <li>• is safest</li> <li>• is easiest to complete</li> <li>• accommodates all visitors</li> <li>• is determined to have the greatest benefit</li> <li>• has the least amount of environmental impacts.</li> <li>• has the potential to disperse use from other nearby trails.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Consider providing both (as multi-use) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expand the recreational opportunities – both creates a large loop.</li> <li>• create a loop with additional visitor management tools such as directional travel to reduce visitor conflict.</li> <li>• create a loop with additional visitor management tools such as directional travel to reduce visitor conflict.</li> <li>• disperse visitors out over more mileage, thereby reducing the potential for visitor conflict</li> <li>• allow people to select a route that corresponds with their desired experience and/or ability level. The experiences and terrain on the north and south routes are very different from each other.</li> <li>• help address some of the current analysis topics such as: regional trail connectivity, trail sustainability, and visitor management.</li> </ul>	<p>The purpose and scope of the feasibility study is to evaluate a connection. While considered, “both” was not added as an alternative to the feasibility study. A “both” alternative was not within the original scope and would need to be accompanied with an expanded analysis, timeline, and budget. While the Cultural and Trail Management and Maintenance analysis topic ratings for a “both” alternative would for the most part be cumulative it is not as simple for the other Analysis categories and topics. The analysis to determine the benefits and impacts for the Visitor Experience and the Eldorado Canyon State Park Interface are more complex. Analyzing the benefits and impacts to adding bikes to the majority of hiking-only trails within the Park (which a “both” alternative would do) is better addressed in a park master plan. The Visitor Experience analysis would also need to be expanded as new visitor use estimates and analyses would need to be completed.</p>

<p>Consider connecting the Doudy Draw/Marshall Mesa trail network via the Fowler Trail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create greater connectivity and expand the recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• avoid directing additional visitors through Eldorado Springs and the main park entrance.</li> <li>• Disperse use and parking to other existing trails and trailheads.</li> </ul>	<p>The scope of this feasibility study is limited to the Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch connection. This feasibility study is not considering a change in existing uses on the Fowler Trail.</p> <p>Biking is prohibited on the Fowler Trail With the exception of a short section that connects with the Rattlesnake Gulch trail.</p>
<p>The Fowler trail could be dismount and walk to reduce visitor conflict.</p>	<p>Connecting the Doudy Draw/Marshall Mesa trail network to the Fowler Trail was evaluated during a previous City of Boulder planning process- the OSMP Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan. The Fowler Trail is the only accessible recreation opportunity within the state park. In coordination, the OSMP sections of the Fowler Trail were correspondingly designated as hiking only.</p> <p>The state park maintains an interest in maintaining a quality accessible opportunity.</p>
<p>This connection provides a much-desired off-road connection from the plains to the mountains (or vice versa)/between the two places.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Support for creating access to trails that reduce the need to drive to ride; being able to ride without first getting in a car creates an enjoyable recreation experience, has the potential to help reduce emissions and the effects of global warming, and helps congestion (in general and particularly on Flagstaff).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Boulder would greatly benefit from more biking trails as the current ratio of riders to opportunities are relatively limited; currently too few trails for the active biking population. Mountain biking is increasing in popularity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Boulder would benefit from better/more technical mountain bike trails; the current inventory of mountain bike trails is not interesting or complex and do not provide a quality mountain biking experience.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>The population growth of Boulder and the Front Range should be accompanied with an increase of trail development/expansion of</p>	<p>N/A</p>

recreational opportunities for all types of visitors.	
Support for more front-country routes such as this to minimize trail development in the backcountry.	N/A
Creating this multi-use connection will stop the poaching of other available connectors.	N/A
Consider other alternatives such as from Chapman Drive to Meyers.	The purpose of the feasibility study is to specifically evaluate the connection between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch. The purpose is not a more general evaluation of a plains to mountains connection.
Attracting mountain bikers and tourists could bolster the local economy, raising tax revenues and spurring economic growth.	N/A
<b>Comments supporting the no action alternative and/or expressing concerns or lack of support for the connection and not particular to a specific route.</b>	
This connection would increase visitation; there is no room for additional visitors; adding visitors will greatly impact existing uses.	Visitation estimates, Visitor Density, Visitor Conflict Management and the Eldorado Canyon State Park interface are analysis topics and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.
Multi-use trails are really mountain bike trails; other visitors are displaced	N/A
This trail connection will likely be used for downhill/descent only.	N/A
Either route proposes safety issues due to high downhill speeds on the proposed trail and through the state park/Kneale Road.	N/A
Concern about trail widening over time resulting in greater impacts to vegetation.	Trail Sustainability is an analysis topic and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.
This trail connection will appeal only to an "extreme" advanced mountain biker.	N/A
This connection will cost too much. The cost of this project is disproportional to the potential benefits.	Cost is an analysis topic and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.
Concerns regarding impacts to habitat connectivity.	Habitat Connectivity is an analysis topic and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.
Opposed to adding cyclists on trails; it is dangerous and degrades the hiking experience to share trails with cyclists; these trails should be retained for hiking only.	N/A
There are plenty of other mountain biking opportunities. How much is enough?	N/A

<p>This is a poor location for a trail connection; efforts should focus on Forest Service lands west of Boulder.</p>	<p>This connection is documented in multiple plans (approved by governing bodies) and studies including:          State of Colorado – Colorado the Beautiful Initiative (2016)          Walker Ranch Management Plan – Boulder County Parks and Open Space (2013)          West Trail Study Area – City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (2011)          Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw Trail Study Area – City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (2006)          OSMP Visitor Master Plan (2005)          Eldorado Canyon State Park Management Plan – Colorado State Parks (2000)          Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (2001, 2005, 2010, 2015)          Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (1999)</p>
<p>This connection has been studied in the past; there is no feasible connection; neither is suitable.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Concern about trail sustainability - Mountain Biking causes erosion and increases costs for trail maintenance.</p>	<p>Trail Sustainability is an analysis topic and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.</p>
<p>There is currently illegal mountain biking in the area; bikers do not obey regulations</p>	<p>Interagency Management is an analysis topic. Ranger resources will continue to monitor and enforce regulations.</p>
<p>Concern about the impact adding bikes would have to the quiet contemplative visitors and elderly.</p>	<p>The Visitor Experience and the Eldorado Canyon State Park interface are analysis categories and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.</p>
<p>Agencies should focus on maintain what we have.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Comments specific to South route	
Comments expressing support specific to South route	
<p>The south route is preferable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It provides a better visitor experience for mountain biking</li> <li>• It is longer</li> <li>• It goes through more interesting and variable terrain</li> <li>• it “opens up new territory”</li> <li>• it would reduce visitor conflict – the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail would remain a hiking trail.</li> <li>• It will provide views of the historic Moffat Route train tracks</li> <li>• It is more gradual/less steep which is more enjoyable and minimizes visitor conflict by encouraging slower descent speeds.</li> <li>• there is greater ability to deal with the steep slopes</li> <li>• using the Rattlesnake Gulch trail minimizes visitor conflict</li> <li>• it connects to Gross Reservoir</li> <li>• it would better accommodate intermediate riders.</li> <li>• Rattlesnake Gulch is already open to bikes.</li> <li>• of the challenging terrain.</li> <li>• It seems to be better for hiking and cycling.</li> <li>• Snow/ice will melt more quickly; it will accommodate more year-round use than the north route.</li> <li>• The S3 variation would provide a good visitor experience.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

<b>Comments expressing concerns specific to South route</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The south alignment goes through important wildlife habitats</li> <li>• There would be disturbance and weeds associated with putting a trail in a currently undisturbed/pristine area.</li> <li>• Rattlesnake Trail is a popular high-quality visitor experience hiking trail, one of few in the park; adding bikes to this popular and steep trail is problematic.</li> <li>• The Rattlesnake Gulch trail is not well suited for biking, it is steep and loose. It is difficult to climb. It will be difficult to control/decrease downhill speeds without re-designing.</li> <li>• The south alignment goes through an undisturbed pristine wild area.</li> <li>• The south side seems less interesting since it uses existing two-track roads</li> <li>• The Rattlesnake Gulch Trail has less usable days in winter; there tends to be ice on it when there is none on Walker.</li> <li>• Concerns about the impacts the south route would have on emergency access.</li> <li>• Concern regarding compliance of the wildlife (eagle) closure</li> <li>• The canyon and adjacent slopes are steep; if there is an accident on a steep slope how far will they fall? Seems to be a potential for serious injury.</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Other Comments/Questions specific to the South Route</b>	
Increasing the trail distance from the railroad will improve the visitor experience.	N/A
Consider a parallel trail alongside the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail specific for biking to reduce visitor conflicts.	No improvements to the Rattlesnake Gulch trail are proposed or envisioned at this time.
If the southern route is selected will there be any improvements to the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail?	
Would the southern route have wildlife closures?	“Seasonality” was added as analysis topic. The feasibility study findings will include information on potential wildlife closures.
If the south side is selected, design a route as close to the railroad tracks as possible to minimize environmental impacts.	N/A

<p>If the south route is selected it should not be accessible to equestrians. Horseback riding should be limited to the current Eldorado Canyon Trail due to visitor conflict concerns between the two activities.</p>	<p>Horseback riding will be allowed. The trail will not be designed to meet horse design standards.</p>
<p>The south side is not pristine—it has been impacted by the railroad, logging roads, and a water pipeline.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Comments specific to North Route</b></p>	
<p><b>Comments expressing support specific to the North Route</b></p>	
<p>The north route is preferable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• of the shorter distance</li> <li>• it has less environmental impact</li> <li>• it requires less new trail construction</li> <li>• it will likely be easier to complete/construct</li> <li>• with realignment to reduce grades it could provide a quality mountain biking experience; steep and rocky terrain can provide an enjoyable experience</li> <li>• it is more direct</li> <li>• it does not use two-track roads</li> <li>• it would be easy to accommodate intermediate-advanced riders on the north route</li> <li>• re-routing the north trail will improve the visitor experience for everyone; it is currently unsustainable with erosion.</li> <li>• of the southern exposure, it will be rideable for more of the year.</li> <li>• It would cost less</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Comments expressing concern specific to the North route</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The steep grades allowing for faster descent speeds may lead to more visitor conflict</li> <li>• The existing Eldorado Canyon Trail is a high-quality hiking experience; adding bikes will impact the current peaceful visitor experience and sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Trail sustainability on the North route may be difficult with the anticipated additional use and steepness.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beginning of the Eldorado Canyon Trail (portion in state park) is heavily used by visitors in large groups and with children who may not regularly hiking or be used to being on a multi-use trail. Visitor conflict is likely and a safety issue.</li> <li>• The beginning section of the Eldorado Canyon Trail is too steep; it would require too many switchbacks.</li> <li>• Concern this route could lead to increased trespassing on private property.</li> <li>• Adding bikes to this route may lead existing uses/hikers to feel that they are losing something.</li> <li>• The north trail alignment is near a Habitat Conservation Area; increasing use will contribute to fragmentation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Comments/Questions specific to the North route</b>	
Re-routing the north trail could be designed to decrease descent speeds and reduce visitor conflict.	N/A
Retain the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail for hikers and create a multi-use trail in the south. This would reduce visitor conflict.	N/A
The current Eldorado Canyon Trail does not need to be modified and is well suited for the existing activities.	N/A
Consider create a separate, parallel trail on the north for biking to reduce visitor conflict and limit environmental impacts to the south.	The north route includes a separate trail for the first section within the state park, the section with the most visitation.
N4 could reduce steep grades and lengthen the route.	N/A
The proposed alignments require an unnecessary elevation gain and loss that could be prevented by extending the proposed alignments to Ethel Harrold TH.	A connection into the Ethel Harold trailhead was one of the routes dismissed. It was not included in the analysis due to impacts to undisturbed habitat in a designated City of Boulder Habitat and Conservation Area and Boulder County Hawkin Gulch Environmental Conservation Area.
<b>Other Comments/Questions not specific to a route</b>	
Do not allow e-bikes	CPW allows Class I and II e-bike use on trails which allow bikes. OSMP does not allow e-bikes. BCPOS is implementing a one-year pilot to allow e-bikes on plains trails but not on mountain trails. The Walker Ranch loop and this proposed connection are mountain trails and would continue to prohibit e-bikes. Based on these regulations, either the North or South routes would prohibit e-bike use on
Allow e-bikes	

	portions of the trails on OSMP or BCPOS lands. This potential inconsistency would need to be resolved by the managing agencies or could result in confusion or lack of compliance among e-bike users.
Allow dogs under voice and sight control	Both CPW and BCPOS require dogs to be on-leash at all times. OSMP allows voice and sight control (off leash) in some areas, though the Eldorado Canyon Trail is currently a leash-required trail. Therefore, dog access regulations are consistent across the three agencies. If the South Route were implemented, a prohibition of dogs may be considered to mitigate wildlife impacts, but such a regulation has not been determined.
Make the connection dog-free	
The Indian Peaks traverse has the potential to be great/iconic long-distance trail; providing a great visitor experience.	N/A
Support for continuing to Winter Park; this connector is an important component of the proposed Indian Peaks Traverse.	N/A
Concern about the Indian Peaks Traverse because it goes through remote and sensitive habitat and through an area with archeological significance.	N/A
The city and county are pushing the mountain bike community agenda. This study is meant to appease a small and aggressive segment of the population.	This connection is documented in multiple plans (approved by governing bodies) and studies including: State of Colorado – Colorado the Beautiful Initiative (2016) Walker Ranch Management Plan – Boulder County Parks and Open Space (2013) West Trail Study Area – City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (2011) Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw Trail Study Area – City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (2006) OSMP Visitor Master Plan (2005) Eldorado Canyon State Park Management Plan – Colorado State Parks (2000) Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (2001, 2005, 2010, 2015) Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (1999)

There are currently trespass issues onto private lands adjacent/nearby Walker Ranch; there is no way to stop the trespassing.	Interagency management is an analysis topic. Ranger resources will continue to monitor and enforce boundary regulations.
This connection will be used by motorized bikes, regardless of regulations.	Ranger resources will continue to monitor and enforce regulations.
Mountain bikers are excited to volunteer time for construction and/or maintenance.	N/A
The concerns of Eldorado Springs residents since should be weighted more since it would impact residents more than visitors.	All stakeholder and community interests will be considered.
Neither route is suitable for equestrian use. The terrain is too steep. Horseback riding does not currently occur.	Horseback riding will be allowed. The trail will not be designed to meet horse design standards.
Regardless of the outcome the repairs/re-routing of the beginning section of the Eldorado Canyon trail should still occur to address the current erosion and trail sustainability issues.	CPW is committed to continuing its ongoing routine and capital maintenance activities to improve the Eldorado Canyon Trail within the Park, as funding is available. The park also is in the early planning stages to extend the Streamside Trail along the north bank of South Boulder Creek to reach the Rincon parking area near the Visitor Center. This trail, once designed and completed, would provide better trail connectivity and circulation through the Inner Canyon for all visitors, and would reduce pedestrian traffic on the road. This planning is anticipated to commence in late 2018.
Regulations and signs break the immersion the scenery provides.	N/A
Communicate the nature/difficulty of the trail. This may help to avoid an increase in the incidents of emergencies following the opening of a new trail.	This will be considered during future implementation phases if a route is selected.
Mountain biking regulations are too restrictive.	N/A
Multi-use trails appear to have longer closures to accommodate stricter condition standards, affecting access for hikers.	N/A
Will the trail be open to night riding?	Consistent with current regulations, the proposed trail would be open from sunrise to sunset.
Consider creating a junior ranger-type program specific to cycling, trail maintenance and etiquette.	N/A
How will this project impact hunting?	Visitor conflict and enjoyment within ECSP and wildlife habitat impacts are analysis topics in the feasibility study.
It is acceptable to not meet trail standards in some sections; it is	N/A

acceptable if sections require dismounting.	
Consider impacts to wildlife viewing.	Wildlife Habitat and Undisturbed Habitat Impacts and Visitor Conflict and Enjoyment are analysis topics and will be evaluated in the feasibility study.
There are lots of bikers who would be eager to volunteer for trail construction and maintenance.	N/A
Do not connect routes to Rocky Flats until the site has been evaluated for contamination and visitor safety.	The purpose of the feasibility study is to specifically evaluate the connection between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch.
Work with the Indian Peaks Trail coalition to develop the trails and establish connections with the Indian Peaks Trail.	