

Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Feasibility Study
UPDATED • Combined Compendium of Public Input received through March 31, 2019

Bryan Rowe•

3/31/2019• 522

Hi There,

I'm sure it's been thought of to offer Mtn bike parking (if people are looping) at the trailhead parking at Doudy Draw Trailhead and that would keep people out of Eldo.

Thanks,

Bryan Rowe

Scott Woodruff•Boulder

3/29/2019• 521

What's the rush?—let's do this right, or not at all

Jules Verne, Metamorphosis, Outer Space, Xanadu, Over the Hill—these are the names of just a handful of the legendary and world-renowned rock climbs in Eldorado Canyon, among approximately 1500 climbing routes and variations developed recreationally in the State Park (plus adjacent rock formations outlying the Park), since the 1920s (Levin, 2013).

Around 1970 when I first started climbing in Eldorado, there were few established trails, and few human visitors. Since then, rock climbing, together with hiking and picnicking, has exploded in popularity both within and outside the Park. Consequently, Park visitation capacity (e.g. for entry and parking) is exceeded with increasing frequency, thus displacing prospective visitors out both into the small town of Eldorado Springs, and into equally overcrowded trailheads on CO 170.

In light of these already difficult circumstances, the rush to approve and construct a new mountain bike trail to connect Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch (“Eldo-Walker”) seems to me like a premature development, and the current North Route recommendation in particular a very unsound idea.

Without addressing existing overcapacity problems first, establishment of any new bike trail route through the Park—and thus effectively prioritizing this new mechanized activity over other uses—seems guaranteed to lead to undesirable conflicts, and serious diminishment of recreational opportunities for climbers, hikers, and other longstanding users.

While some may consider it unfair to prioritize one recreational use over another, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians have numerous other excellent options throughout the Front Range in which to pursue their sports—but rock climbers visiting from around the world have only one Eldorado to experience.

Also, the North Route connector currently being fast-tracked represents a highly undesirable environmental intrusion into a precious Habitat Conservation Area—with numerous new switchbacks to be sliced into what is now a beautiful peaceful hillside, and then populated by mechanized mountain bike traffic.

So my message is simple: please slow down with this process, and put all route options back on the table, until plans for adequately addressing the additional overcrowding and parking issues are implemented, and also until the views of all stakeholders (e.g. town of Eldorado Springs; and rock climbing organizations) have been taken more adequately into account. These options should include exploring in more detail for full public discussion any potential options following existing public/private

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roads, such as were described by Steve Muehlhauser (retired Eldorado S.P. ranger) in his remarks at February's Open Space Board of Trustees meeting.

Scott Woodruff (a Boulder resident) has been climbing in Eldorado for nearly 50 years, and participated at a meeting in the State Capitol considering the establishment of the State Park. Those years just prior to establishment of the Park in 1978 were worrisome times for outdoor enthusiasts, because the Canyon was privately owned, and the owner threatened to sell the area for a rock quarry.

References:

Levin, S, 2013: Eldorado Canyon, A Climbing Guide (2nd Ed.). Sharp End Publishing.

Muehlhauser, S., 2018: Comments at 13 February 2019 meeting of the City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees, starting at 2:59:22 in the video available at: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/boards-commissions/board-and-commission-meeting-video> (Unfortunately, Steve's three slides are not available for viewing on the video.)

Contact information:

Scott Woodruff

Mason Fricchette•Sequim

3/29/2019• 520

I write as someone who spent many of the best days of his life climbing in Eldorado Canyon (from the mid-70s to the mid-90s). I also mountain biked extensively in the early 80s and later all along the Front Range as well as in other Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah locations.

I moved to Boulder primarily because of Eldorado Canyon, with Boulder's other nearby climbing areas of real, but lesser importance. I've read the proposals for a new mountain biking trail connecting Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch (Eldo-Walker) and my reaction is quite simple: Don't do it!

I loved mountain biking, but I was never impressed with the trail manners of most other bikers. They were rude, pushy, and forced hikers to give way when it was the bikers who should have yielded. And that is to be expected on the proposed Eldo-Walker connector. If bikers are on the trail they will almost certainly come to dominate it and force others to be constantly stepping aside to allow bikers to come through. That is wrong.

I still have good friends in Boulder and I have been kept up to date on the crowding and overuse conditions that prevail in Eldorado Canyon. It is worth looking at the site and judging its relative value to different user groups.

First, climbing. Eldorado is the crown jewel of a unique geological formation that includes the Flatirons and Mickey Mouse Wall. Eldorado Canyon State Park attracts climbers from across the United States and even from other countries because it is so special. My own climbing skills were better suited to the cracks of Utah or Yosemite Valley, but Eldorado was always my favorite place to climb. It is important for those considering altering the usage of the Canyon to understand that Eldorado is far more important as a climbing venue than it is as a place to picnic, hike, horseback ride, or mountain bike. Alternatives for all the other activities can be found in abundance in and around the Boulder area that are as good and in most cases better than what Eldorado has to offer. As someone who no longer uses the Canyon, but

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who cares deeply about its “health” and suitability for climbing, the increased usage load caused by the Eldo-Walker connector would have a potentially huge negative impact on access for climbers.

I can't stress strongly enough how important Eldorado Canyon is for climbing. But what of the other user groups? It seems unwise to detract from the experiences of hikers, horseback riders, and picnickers in order to open access to a group that already has an impressive supply of first-rate mountain biking sites. As I said, in the eighties, I mountain biked extensively along the Front Range including west of Green and Bear Mountains and on the Walker Ranch. Frankly, there was nothing special about the area for biking. It was nice to be able to bike so close to home, but adding the Eldo-Walker connector will, in my opinion, do very little to improve the mountain biking experience near Boulder. However, it is almost certain to detract from the experiences of countless users in all the other groups, all of whom should, again, in my opinion, have precedence.

I may never again visit Eldorado Canyon, so you may ignore my comments as someone who should have no say. However, Eldorado Canyon remains a special place in my mind and heart and I am speaking for today's climbers and those yet to come. Please, scrap the plans for the Eldo-Walker mountain biking trail. Instead, work to manage access to the canyon in ways that will ensure its health for the indefinite future. Suddenly attracting an entirely new set of users, who will in all likelihood diminish the quality of experience for those who already use the canyon, is a terrible idea. There is no

obligation to make all things available to all people. Different areas have different uses and the priority should be given according to how important a particular use is in the larger scheme.

Eldorado Canyon is one of the country's premier climbing destinations. People don't visit the canyon from far away just to hike, picnic, or horseback ride. There are countless other sites that are at least as good for those activities and usually better—often much better. For example, the hiking in the Flatirons is far superior to that in Eldorado Canyon. I've enjoyed picnicking during my life, but the idea of denying a climber access to the canyon, because of parking limitations or usage quotas so that someone can picnic strikes me as a poor use of a limited facility. That doesn't mean I think picnickers should not be allowed in the canyon, but it is a way of setting up a hierarchy that leaves mountain bikers with no reasonable claim at all.

I've never been a fan of horses on trails, but they have historical precedence that I won't contest. How good Eldorado Canyon is for horseback riding I can't say, but I would hate to have those who do ride there have their experiences diminished or ruined by mountain bikes greedily competing for trail space. As hard as I've tried, I simply can't find a reasonable argument for introducing mountain bikers to an already overstressed and overcrowded resource. Eldorado Canyon should, in my opinion, be managed for the benefit of those who already use it, with precedence going to climbing because of the specialness of the canyon for that activity above all others. However, the addition of mountain bikers would seem to threaten climbers most by decreasing the availability of access to the canyon. Hikers and horseback riders will also suffer directly from having to share trails with a group of users who, in my experience, have shown little concern for others. No, mountain bikers aren't monsters, I was one, but I practiced very different manners than I saw the vast majority of other bikers practicing. In a way, that is understandable—one of the great beauties and challenges of mountain biking is surmounting difficulties without putting a foot down. But that means riding through groups of hikers who always have to step

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aside for bikes. That is unpleasant for hikers. The conflict with horses could be even worse and might, at times, create dangerous interactions.

The Front Range is a wonderful place to live to recreate outside. There are much better places to mountain bike than between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch. I hope, when the final decision is made, that the people who decide will realize that adding new mountain biking access to the Eldorado Canyon mix is a bad idea for everyone except mountain bikers. And that seems inherently unfair since they have many other places to engage in their sport.

Contact information: Mason Frichette

Dave Kuhny•Boulder County

3/17/2019• 519

I am writing the Boulder County Commissioners to show my support for the Eldorado-Walker trail connection, and ask that efforts to build this trail move forward in parallel with the Eldorado Springs transportation study. Working on these projects in series is only likely to diffuse the momentum of the project entirely.

As a Boulder Co mountain biker I am strongly in favor of connections to mountain trails from lower trailheads. Our current trail network encourages bikers to get into their cars to access the trail experiences they seek. The Eldo-Walker trail is a key connection that would allow more riders to access mountain trails without their cars.

I look forward to hearing about further progress on this trail project.

Best Regards,

Dave Kuhny

Philip Schreiber•Boulder

3/13/2019• 518

Dear Boulder County Commissioners and City Council,

I am very disappointed to hear that the plan to connect Walker Ranch to Eldorado Canyon has been put on hold. While I recognize that there are traffic and congestion issues caused by those passing through the town of Eldorado Canyon, the users of this trail system would have minimal impact on increased congestion and park visitation. Most mountain bikers are seeking a connection from Boulder or Marshall Mesa to Walker Ranch. I would hope that this proposed connection could move forward despite the growing demand from other user groups (climbers, picnicians) to access the park. Please consider not placing this plan on hold. So much time and energy has already been devoted towards making this happen, and a larger majority of Boulder citizens are in favor of the plan.

Regards,

Philip Schreiber

(Father, husband, bike patroller, climber, kayaker)

Will Edgington•

3/12/2019• 517

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Really?! You're postponing this important trail again? The CAVE (Citizens Against Virtually Everything) people will always gripe about change. You are supposed to be leaders – you should lead. This connector makes sense, will reduce car traffic in Eldo and at Walker Ranch, and gets more people outside. Isn't this what you preach? Getting people out of their cars?
Enough stalling – just make a decision to approve or do a re-route.

Sincerely,
Will Edgington

Rob Bruder•Boulder County
3/12/2019• 516

Conflating the issue of vehicle traffic and mountain bikers on trails moves us backward and once again gives the appearance that mountain bikers are the cause of all issues on front range trails. The truth is unbridled growth is the problem and that includes all trail users. The only way to alleviate this is to responsibly build more trails.

Pushing this issue down the road by doing more studies is not a solution. The only solution is to move forward with the connector while implementing a bus service into the canyon to restrict car congestion. What are the alternatives?

Regards
Rob Bruder
Mountain biker
Hiker
Trail user
Resident of boulder county
Tax payer
Voter

Evan Ravits•
3/10/2019• 515

Years ago people discussed a trail on top of the Barker Reservoir to Kossler Lake aqueduct (I don't know if this is the proper name) to get people on foot and possibly bikes (which would require widening) to the High Country.

Hikers could start at Gregory Canyon, go up Gregory and Long Canyons to the top of Flagstaff and then on to the aqueduct trail.

Bikers would start from atop Flagstaff. There are far less parking problems up there than in Eldorado Springs.

An additional access would be from Magnolia Road, about 4 miles up as I recall.

Being atop an aqueduct, the grade is gentle and there aren't any sharp curves or difficult parts where cyclists would endanger pedestrians. It's very meditative coming down on a bike.

There are regular ports every quarter mile or so allowing access to water. Last I was up there 18 years ago, about every 5th port was unlocked. Not having to carry water on a long-distance trail is a real plus for many people.

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There are other trails that can be connected up to make this the Boulder spur of the Continental Divide Trail.

Have people investigated doing this with the aqueduct company?

Evan

Evan Ravitz, guide, photographer, writer, editor. Ex-not-so-tight-rope artist. Working for direct democracy since 1988. The unlikely takes longer

Jonathan Sackheim•Boulder

3/9/2019• 514

After years of work, I'm so disappointed to hear that that Eldorado to Walker trail connector is being delayed. The trail makes sense, period. You know that. That's why it was recommended by staff. But instead we have a tyranny of the NIMBY minority going on here. 76% of feedback supported the trail, but when a whole micro-community of people show up at a meeting to speak, your legs got wobbly. You guys are better than that. Please do the right thing and get the stinken' trail put in. 😊

Regards,

Jonathan Sackheim

Janet Robinson•Eldorado Springs

3/8/2019• 513

Thank you CPW for stepping back and looking at the big picture and asking for more research. This is a hiking trail, it not a place for downhill mountain biking. A hiker is not equipped to be hit by a mountain bike. Please watch the You Tube videos of Mountain Biking at Walker ranch and Dowdy draw, why else do they need a "patrol".? Hikers don't need a " patrol" please leave this trail alone, the ECSP is severely understaffed and cannot handle the inevitable trail conflicts. This trail is used by many users from all over the Front Range, at the POSAC and BCOS meetings it was more than just the Eldorado Springs residents voicing their concerns. I hike in the park often, I have never seen any public information informing the users there is a proposed user change to the trail, this is not ok. Any proposed changes should be displayed for ALL users to see and at the State Park, not in a library in Boulder. The lack of public information in the State Park regarding this is concerning.

Marcus Popetz•

3/8/2019• 512

Hello Council and Commissioners,

At the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance President, I'd like to share my thoughts on the recent break down of progress on the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connector and eventual Indian Peaks Traverse connecting us to Winter Park.

We've asked our constituents to email you if they're concerned as we are, so my apologies if you receive more email than you wish but this rational public process has now devolved into caving to the vocal minority which makes us sad and frustrated.

Thank you for your service and below is what I wrote.

Marcus

<https://bouldermountainbike.org/content/staff-puts-eldo-walker-trail-connector-public-process-hold>

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After 25 years of delays, multiple public processes over the years and substantial studying of feasibility, the trail connection between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch has been put on hold yet again while the government works on solving unrelated problems caused by automobiles.

This action will cause a delay of, optimistically, at least 18 months as the Visitor Use Management Study is predicted to run through the end of 2020 and adds uncertainty to a final outcome. This is, obviously, very disappointing. While we recognize that the Eldorado Springs residents face problems with automobile traffic congestion and that they need the government to help address these problems, this is a preexisting condition and one that mountain bikes have very little impact on, as pointed out in the recent three agency study. The whole reason mountain bikers want this trail is so we can ride our bikes from town into the mountains, so why would we drive?

The data from the three agencies supports our stance. If we assume EVERY mountain biker drove to the trailhead, there would be a 7% increase in traffic. That's the equivalent of where the town is going to be in 3 months anyway if traffic continues to grow as predicted. But as we've said, why would we drive when we have bikes? Additionally, the agencies collected overwhelming support for this trail project, with 76% respondents in favor and the remaining negative votes almost entirely coming from Eldorado Springs residents.

The decision to delay comes because a small but vocal minority of citizens showed up in force at public forums to express their frustration with an automobile-based problem that has existed for years and has been getting worse. After sitting through literally hours of that outpouring of emotional pain, the two citizen boards (Boulder City OSBT and Boulder County POSAC) chose not to green light the new trail before considerable plans were made to address automobile congestion. We understand that the town has problems, but emotion and fear is leading to their issue with cars being conflated with our desire to ride our bikes and stay out of our cars. This is not how governance should work nor was that staff's recommendation prior to the emotional hearings.

We see no reason that our governmental agencies can't do more than one thing at a time. Please focus on the trail planning and construction over the next several years while CPW works on visitor use management. A loss of momentum on the Eldo-to-Walker trail could shut down this trail option, and even the ability to resolve the state park and town's existing issues entirely. We've already delayed this decision almost 25 years, let's not delay it more. It is both reasonable and important to send a positive signal that this trail is an important community amenity and all efforts should be made to make it a reality, in parallel with efforts to resolve the town's and state park's issues.

After having ALL other possible plains to mountains connectors shut down, the frustration is high in the mountain biking community. We ask that the County Commissioners and City Council take some substantive action to provide strong political leadership so staff from CPW, the city and the county can ensure this trail stays on track.

If forward progress is not possible, let's put the south side alignment fully back on the table as it bypasses the state park's congested area.

Do something for the 37,000 mountain bikers living in Boulder County while also doing something for the 585 residents of Eldorado Springs.

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3/8/2019• 511

Please please please

If forward progress is not possible, let's put the south side alignment fully back on the table as it bypasses the state park's congested area.

Public land should be public for all people. Hikers discriminate against bikers everywhere. Why can't we have progressive thinking on this matter?

Jonathan Wirth

Boulder county citizen

Jared Crockett•Boulder County

3/8/2019• 510

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Jared Crockett

Suzanne Webel • Unincorporated Boulder County

3/8/2019 • 509

Greetings, Commissioners

As you know, I'm a lifelong multi-use trail advocate -- but not for this trail. I am one of the few people still around who actually BUILT the existing Eldo to Walker trail, with a bunch of other equestrians, in the mid-1980s. In fact, it was my first trailbuilding experience and it is what led to my long experience with trails and public land management. I will be the first to admit that the current trail is worn out and needs to be repaired. But the entire process to try to squeeze mountain bikes into this steep, rocky, and narrow slot canyon on the same basic footprint as the current trail has been a travesty. I have never experienced such a biased -- in the words of another member of the public with whom I do not often see eye-to-eye -- "fake feasibility study." It needs to be scrapped entirely. It has managed to offend and outrage every constituency but one. I have long maintained that there are other, better ways to accomplish the objective of an improved non-motorized trail connection from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch but they have not been given fair consideration.

Therefore, I was delighted to learn that CPW has recommended postponing the decision until after the Park's Visitor Use Management Plan has been completed.

I urge the BOCC to direct the staffs of all three agencies to gather adequate public input for both projects (the ECSP management plan and the trail feasibility study), as well as the potential for, and issues involving, regional trail connections for ALL trail users, this time around.

Please do this right or don't do it at all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Webel

Unincorporated Boulder County

Janet Robinson • Eldorado Springs

3/4/2019 • 508

Dear Boulder County Commissioners,

Please read this letter from Colorado Parks and Wildlife regarding the Feasibility study for the Eldo-Walker mountain bike trail.

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As an avid hiker, resident of Eldorado Springs and citizen who highly respects our wild outdoor areas I hope you can understand why this hiking and equestrian trail as a mountain bike trail is not the right choice for this area which serves many varied user groups which are not compatible with downhill mountain biking. If you have any doubts please check out You Tube "Mountain Biking Walker Ranch." Thank you for taking the time to read this.

sincerely,

Janet Robinson

Jean Aschenbrenner•Boulder

2/19/2019• 507

I am opposed to the multi-use trail from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch.

I am amazed at the poor quality of the Feasibility Study.

1. Three options: N, S, no action. The first thing that happens is No Action is dismissed because it would not complete a multi-use connection that accommodates biking so it would not achieve the desired objectives of the project. Either the requirements presented to the Study Company were poorly explained, or somebody did a great job of making citizens think that No Action was a possibility. It seems that 'desire', 'examine the feasibility' and 'conceptual plans' have morphed into something specific – 'there MUST be a trail that goes through Eldo'. Is this really true? It seems like all the TSA plans say you can't put the multi-use trail here and push it off on someone else – like Eldo.
2. Meeting desired bike trail requirements seems to take precedence over Habitat Conservation requirements that have been in place for a long time.
3. A survey was done with over 670 responses. I think this was done by staff. They clearly state that it is not a statistically valid study but present the findings as if they are useful. 55% of the responses were from people who are primarily bikers, yet other stats show that 8%-10% of OSMP users are bikers. Now if a reputable company were doing a study and realized that it was significantly skewed, I would hope that they would abort and figure out how to reach all constituents equally. Or not use the results to determine the final decision. Of course, judging from comments at the POSAC hearing, bikers are very proud that they are well organized and they can collect a lot of input. So it would be difficult to not have skewed results. When the skewed results are submitted in a way to influence decisions, the readers need to be particularly careful to not be influenced by the information.
4. Quality Experience is a goal. But it is not clear if this is quality experience of the many bikers who responded to surveys or of people in general. I, and many of my friends, find that it is a POOR experience to hike on a multi-use trail. We avoid it. The study clearly states that experience shows that hikers stop using multi-use trails. There is concern about conflict. I am a hiker and I do not have a conflict with bikers because I get out of the way. The quality of my experience is diminished. But I am not counted as experiencing conflict because I am docile.
5. The study states that the 'No Action' option would not address current issues or achieve desired improvements. It implies that the only way to improve the condition of the trail is to create a multi-use trail and allow biking. Has Open Space decided not to improve hiking trails for themselves? If bikes are not allowed, does that mean that future plans would never improve the trail? If the multi-use trail is not put in, does that mean that CPW will stop working to improve congestion and parking?

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I am also concerned about how the trail would be used. One young man is excited that he and his friends will be able to park at the bottom, shuttle up to Walker Ranch and then ride down. 'Why ride up when you can drive.' Further, this would make it easy to avoid paying State Park fees if you park outside the park. (Unless CPW supplies a ranger to collect fees a mile up the trail.) I do not think the goal of Open Space is to provide adrenaline rushing trips for people.

I do not think that converting the current hiking trail into a multi-use trail improves the overall quality of visitor experience. If it becomes a multi-use trail, the quiet, peaceful experience of the trail will be lost forever. The world is becoming more crowded and we need such experiences. A trail for bikers can be put elsewhere.

Jean Aschenbrenner (avid hiker and 35-year resident of Boulder)

Dave Thompson•

2/18/2019• 506

I'm a mountain bike rider who frequents Walker Ranch Open Space. I live in Louisville and work in Boulder. I currently have to drive my vehicle up Flagstaff road in order to visit Walker Ranch. I support the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connector trail primarily because it would allow me to ride my bike from my office to reach Walker Ranch without driving. It also enables connection with the Marshall Mesa open space for longer ride options from my house.

thanks

-Dave Thompson

Jean Aschenbrenner•Boulder

2/14/2019• 505

Near the end of the OSBT meeting about eldo-walker last night, there was discussion about the quality of experience for hikers if there are lots of switchbacks. I would like to share my thoughts.

I hike TONS. Now I am 70 and I can gain a lot of elevation but it is not good for me to take giant up/DOWN steps. So I avoid the east side of Sanitas, where erosion and much use has created a difficult trail.

Yes, as you mentioned, I love the Lion's Lair Trail. But there are TWO starting points. I like the trail that starts farther up Sunshine Canyon at the sharp curve.

I would prefer something longer and with more elevation gain. Once I hiked down the other trail that ends closer to the Centennial TH. It was very tedious and I do not want to ever hike it again. I was frequently tempted to cut the tight switchbacks. I am sure that if I hiked it more often, I would short-cut. Perhaps it is good for runners who just want distance and find it better than going around in circles.

Thank you for all your efforts working on Open Space!

Jean Aschenbrenner

2695 Kalmia Ave.

Lee McCormack•

2/14/2019• 504

Hi,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I was not able to attend the OSBT meeting.

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I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the north side of the canyon.

Please approve the trail and fix existing problems at Eldorado Springs at the same time.

Thank you,

Lee

Tom Burke•

2/14/2019• 503

Dear Board members and all those concerned_

I am an avid hiker and recreational biker and have lived in Boulder for decades. I have always supported the outdoor community here and it's tender affiliations with each interest group. For this reason, I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

There are so many areas in Boulder that allow hiking only and we are blessed to have the option to limit bikes on a majority of these trails. But we need to support the biking community as well. It responsibly uses the Walker Ranch trail network as one of it prime areas for serious biking. To have the option of connecting this trail without driving our cars to the trailhead would be fantastic. We live in a community that prides itself on finding non fossil fuel burning access to the outdoors. This is a prime example. Any chance I have to start a hike without driving too far is a victory.

Trails like this are important to my children as well. They ride on the mountain bike team at Fairview High School and to have a real challenging trail they can access after school would be a huge benefit to their scholastic team success. Sure beats riding up and down NCAR road.

We want to show our kids that we as a community support mixed use of space and one interest group can work with another to create a diverse use community. This project is the perfect example.

Thank you for engaging on this project and I fully support its continuation to completion.

Sincerely,

Tom Burke

Robert Ellwood-Digel•Louisville

2/14/2019• 502

Hello Open Space folks,

I am writing to encourage you to vote YES for approving Eldo to Walker. Since 1989, I have lived in Boulder County. Although Boulder has world class beauty and rock climbing the flat irons, it is woefully inadequate and shockingly limited in any mountain biking. That's why all of our tourist dollars and meet ups with out of state friends has gone to Crested B, Salida, Moab over the last 20 years.

As a geologist, I have a deep appreciation for the outdoors and preserving/playing in it responsibly.

Also, I actively work in the renewables & "carbon footprint impact" market sector, so I know a bit about the carbon emissions space etc. Frankly, driving up to Walker is far more carbon pollution/noise generating/DANGEROUS/negative eco-system wildlife impacting, than having folks park out at Hwy 93/Eldo road trailhead (don't let them park in Eldo, I agree, make them warm up the few miles rolling into Eldo). It makes perfect sense to have Eldo and Walker connect as this is a perfect loop and beauty of the area.

Thanks for your time, commitment and consideration

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Rob & Faun Ellwood-Digel
275 West Walnut Street
Louisville, CO

Peter Webber•Boulder
2/13/2019• 501

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

And our community is ready and willing to ride our bikes to the trail from Boulder!

Thanks, Pete

—

Pete Webber
Executive Director
Boulder Junior Cycling
303-562-7510
<http://boulderjuniorcycling.org/>

Corinna Robbins•Boulder
2/13/2019• 500

Hello,

I can not attend the OSBT meeting tonight so please accept my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

My husband and I are recreational cyclists and our son is a member of the Boulder Junior Cycling cyclocross and mountain biking teams. We value time spent together on Boulder County's trails building strong bonds with each other and strong bodies and minds. Trails like the proposed Eldo to Walker connector are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

We live in south Boulder and would be happy to ride from our house to Eldorado Springs. I understand that residents are concerned about issues of crowding and parking, but surely there is a solution to those concerns that doesn't cut off access and use to the larger community. Please move forward with this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Thanks,

Corinna Robbins
1388 Glen Ct
Boulder, CO 80305

John Carron•Boulder

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2/13/2019 • 499

Dear OSB Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Eldo-Walker connector trail. My kids are avid bike riders, having participated on the Boulder HS mountain bike team over the past six seasons. They and hundreds of other bike-racing students at Fairview, Boulder, Monarch, and beyond need additional ways to access trails and pursue their passion.

Please do not let the question of parking concerns become comingled with this trail. Of all the current and future use types in Eldorado Springs, bikers are the LEAST likely to add to that problem, because unlike other users, they will more often than not ride their bikes to the trail. If there is a parking problem, by all means deal with it, but please do not let that red-herring get in the way of a trail connector that is long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Carron, Ph.D.
Hydros Consulting Inc.
1628 Walnut Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
P:303-284-1841
C:720-384-6310

Nonie Rand •

2/13/2019 • 498

I very much support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail! Trails like this are important to my family because we use them all the time for our enjoyment and great pleasure.

My kids are avid bike riders and their time outside is vital for mind and body and spirit!

Lets think of creative ways to fix the Parking and crowding concerns without blocking this trail project.

- Our community is excited to ride our bikes to the trail from Boulder!

- Thank you

Nonie Rand

Sent from my iPhone

Megan Elphingstone •

2/13/2019 • 497

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight because I am at school conferences.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

My children participate in the Fairview Mtb team and Boulder Junior Cycling. A trail like this is important to our community because it allows car-free recreation and links existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

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My kids can't drive and it would be way safer for them to get to Walker Ranch via trail than by riding on the road and they won't be parking a car at a trail head in Eldorado Springs -- because they can ride there from our house.

Please consider these kids and their safety, and their access to trails. They are learning to be respectful riders who donate their time and energy toward trail maintenance.

Thanks,
Megan

Chris Munro•

2/13/2019• 496

Dear OSBT and Planning Commission,

I am writing to address my support of the Eldo-Walker Connector Trail

As a part of BJC riders, also Boulder HS Team riders, SMBA and an avid outdoor enthusiast this is an important trail and planning improvement for our community and the greater Boulder family.

I understand there are parking and residential concerns. Those are valid and need to be addressed.

However, please do not block this initiative.

On the mountain bike front we are very limited in the Boulder County/City area. For a town that prides itself on the support of an outdoor lifestyle and removing cars, congestion, etc - preventing this trail would be a miss and short sighted view of our community and our future.

I urge you to listen to both sides and then provide the leadership necessary to make this happen.

Kind regards,

Chris Munro

303-949-4632

Pam Stone•

2/13/2019• 495

To Whom It May Concern

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail!

Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

The link opens the door for better access further adding value to our community.

Thank you

Pam Stone

Pamela Stone

Gynecologic Oncology

pam@stonegynonc.com

Peter Holck•Boulder

2/13/2019• 494

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Hi, I have heard there is a meeting this evening on the very important (to me) subject of the Eldo to Walker connector. I'm not going to be able to make it to the meeting, but I strong support getting this trail approved and built.

Our family very much enjoys getting out and biking and hiking. I have hiked the trail several times from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch, and find it a wonderful route. Sharing it or a similar trail with bikers would make for a great experience and loop. It's a beautiful canyon that sees little use. I suspect most bikers that chose to ride this trail would ride from Boulder, or would park at one of the big trail head parking areas prior to reaching El Dorado - I've done that in the past just to hike the trail.

I think this under-used canyon and a corresponding connector trail would greatly enhance the outdoor activities and options of the greater Boulder area. I strongly urge you to let this project move forward.

Peter Holck

Boulder

Joseph Saperstein•

2/13/2019• 493

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community."

Thanks,

Joe

David Elphingstone•

2/13/2019• 492

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. As a South Boulder resident with a family that rides I look forward to the opportunity to expand our trail riding options without driving to a trail head! I have 2 kids in the Boulder Junior Cycling program and both enjoy riding Walker Ranch. The oldest, a sophomore at Fairview High School, would use this connector trail with his friends to access Walker as an alternative to driving there or riding up Flagstaff road.

I'm excited about the potential of a route from Boulder to Winter Park as are many of my peers. Does it seem like the type of person who would be interested in riding their bike to Winter Park from Boulder would drive to an Eldorado Springs trail head to start that ride? Our community is ready and willing to ride our bikes to the trail from Boulder.

Thank you for the time and effort put in to this. It has been a long road but the end is in sight. Please approve a connector trail from Eldo to Walker!

David Elphingstone

720-938-1130

John Reichert•Boulder

2/13/2019• 491

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Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

With respect to the Eldo-to-Walker Trail:

Trails like this are important to my family because we like to spend time together riding in the open space in and around Boulder - it is a primary reason we are here. My son, who is 12, is a passionate bike rider and the time he spends outside is healthy for his mind and body. As an example, we have ridden the Dirty Bismark together many times and every time I realize how great it is to be in a community that supports an active, outdoor lifestyle. The Dirty is possible only because of link trails that lead to other trails. By linking the Eldo trail to the Walker trail, another exceptional opportunity to get out on two wheels with my family would be possible - that would be epic, to say the least.

As a member of Boulder Junior Cycling, which is a community of more than 150 young cyclists, trails like this are important because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network. The more time our young kids can be in the outdoors and not on the couch, the better. This community would absolutely benefit from this trail along with other like minded communities, and I can guarantee you that the Boulder Junior Cycling community would utilize this trail a lot.

Parking and crowding concerns can be addressed without blocking this trail project, which has been more than 20 years in the making. There were similar concerns with other trails in the area, but those concerns did not materialize to the extent anticipated.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. Please see this project to completion and continue the unsurpassed access to healthy, outdoor activities that make Boulder and the surrounding areas such a great place to live.

Sincerely,

John T. Reichert
3795 Armer Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305

Lisa Swift •
2/13/2019 • 490

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

Mohi MTB kids would greatly benefit from the implementation of this connector trail. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Best,

Lisa Swift

Paul Watkins •
2/13/2019 • 489

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Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

My son and I belong to the Boulder Junior Cycling club and it is important for us to have safe places to ride.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Thanks

Paul Watkins

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jason Neff•Boulder

2/13/2019• 488

I cannot attend the city council meeting tonight but am writing to say that I strongly support the proposed eldo to walker trail and hope that concerns regarding parking and be worked out without stopping this very exciting project.

Jason neff

1380 Edinboro Dr

Boulder co 80305

Kirk Cunningham•Boulder

2/13/2019• 487

OSBOT members;

As the present Conservation Chair of the Indian Peaks Group, Sierra Club, I wanted to dispell any impressions you might have that the Sierra Club supports the presently proposed Eldo-Walker Trail. It is true that in 2011, we indicated general support for this connection for bicyclists, but at that time, the perceived route in play was over the private residential access road in the canyon bottom. At that time, that access was under negotiation between the head of the Open Space and Mountain Parks and the private parties, but it eventually came to nought. It never occurred to us that any other route over such rugged terrain along the stream corridor would be practical and not overly injurious to the landscape and the natural values protected by the HCA. Unfortunately, that is what is at issue here this evening (which unfortunately I cannot attend). For this reason and also because of traffic and crowding issues currently unresolved, the IPG leadership formally asks you to reject the proposed trail corridor. Thanks for your consideration of this opinion. This message should confirm the remarks on our behalf of a Club member (Christian Griffith) attending the hearing this evening.

Kirk Cunningham

977 7th St

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Boulder CO 80302
303-939-8519 / kmcunnin@juno.com

Omar Postigo-Martell •

2/13/2019 • 486

Hello City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight due to a work commitment, so so I'm sending my input via email.

I STRONGLY support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. This will be one of the best trails in all of Colorado!

My son and I ride with the Boulder Junior Cycling and trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

We hope the Board will move forward with the cycling communities' (BJC and BMA, among others) recommendations and make this trail a reality.

Thanks and regards,

Omar Postigo-Martell • 720.308.1179

Kathleen Reichert • Boulder

2/13/2019 • 485

To whom it may concern

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

With respect to the Eldo-to-Walker Trail. Trails like this are important to my family because we like to spend time together riding in the open space in and around Boulder - it is a primary reason we are here. My son, who is 12, is a passionate bike rider and the time he spends outside is healthy for his mind and body. As an example, we have ridden the Dirty Bismark together many times and every time I realize how great it is to be in a community that supports an active, outdoor lifestyle. The Dirty is possible only because of link trails that lead to other trails. By linking the Eldo trail to the Walker trail, another exceptional opportunity to get out on two wheels with my family would be possible - that would be epic, to say the least.

As a member of Boulder Junior Cycling, which is a community of more than 150 young cyclists, trails like this are important because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network. The more time our young kids can be in the outdoors and not on the couch, the better. This community would absolutely benefit from this trail along with other like minded communities, and I can guarantee you that the Boulder Junior Cycling community would utilize this trail a lot.

Parking and crowding concerns can be addressed without blocking this trail project, which has been more than 20 years in the making. There were similar concerns with other trails in the area, but those concerns did not materialize to the extent anticipated.

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I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. Please see this project to completion and continue the unsurpassed access to healthy, outdoor activities that make Boulder and the surrounding areas such a great place to live.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Reichert
3795 Armer Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305
Sent from my iPhone

Shelli Meyer•
2/13/2019• 484
Hi!

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.
I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.
Our family uses this trail often and get much enjoyment from it!
Thanks for listening!
Shelli

Joseph Lewis•Boulder
2/13/2019• 483
Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.
I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.
Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.
The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.
Thanks,
Joe Lewis
First Wheel Coaching Solutions LLC.
864 553 3403
@joelewis1989

Joni Severson•
2/13/2019• 482
Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.
I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.
Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.
The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

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Cheers-
Joni Severson
Sent from my iPhone

Tor Holck•
2/13/2019• 481

To whom it may concern;

I was unfortunately not able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

My family and I are passionate about riding our bikes; it gets us outside, it's super fun, it's healthy, and it builds a community. We very strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail

Trails like this are important because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger, better, interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block and so easily dismiss this trail project that has been more than twenty years in the making.

Kind Regards,

Tor Holck

Teresa Girotto•
2/13/2019• 480

Hello,

I wasn't able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

My 10 year old is an enthusiastic member of Boulder Junior Cycling, a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Getting out and enjoying the outdoors is why we live in the Front Range and biking is a passion in our family. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making. Boulder Junior Cycling teaches kids to ride safely, respect the rules of the trail, and to get outside. Our community is ready and willing to ride our bikes to the trail from Boulder.

Thanks for your consideration,

Teresa Girotto

mom to cyclists and lover of nature

Hunter Smith•
2/13/2019• 479

Dear OSBT members:

I am unable to attend the February 13th meeting.

My comments are as follows:

1. I am in strong support of the mountain bike trail between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch.
2. I feel I am one of the more knowledgeable individuals in support of the trail. I lived in Eldorado Canyon for approximately 30 years, from the late 60s to the late 90s, both in the lower Canyon in the

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town of Eldorado Springs and then in the upper Canyon, above the park. I explored all the roads, trails, and off trail back country as a hiker, mountain biker, runner, and climber over many years.

3. The current residents of Eldorado Springs and some individuals associated with the Park point to many issues related to over crowding, over utilization, traffic and parking problems, trespassing and privacy problems, pedestrian and pet safety, etc. These are all valid concerns, however these problems have existed for many years largely unchanged. I am sure they are somewhat worse now but any impact from the proposed mountain bike trail would be minimal (see below).

4. Not mentioned by the resident speakers of Eldorado Springs at the last meeting was the impact of the ES Pool on the problems they attribute to Park visitors. The Pool is open June, July and August and pool visitors may actually contribute more to traffic, parking and privacy problems during these three months than do Park visitors.

5. I do think that a comprehensive plan as part of the mountain bike trail project is important. The concerns of the residents of Eldorado Springs and of the Park do need to be addressed and there needs to be creative solutions to mitigate the above problems and concerns. However, I do not recommend delaying the trail construction until a comprehensive plan is fully addressed and implemented.

6. A new MTB trail would have minimal impact on the current problems....let's look at some numbers:

A. If 40 MTB riders DRIVE into the Park through Eldorado Springs, 2 riders per car, for the 8 months that the trail could potentially be ridden, that is 9920 riders: say 10,000. That would be 1.8% of the current reported approx 550,000 visitors. A pretty minimal impact!

B. MTB cars: With 2 riders per car, 20 cars per day = 5000 cars over 8 month. With 450,000 estimated drive in visitors to the Park per year (I subtracted 100,000 as walk or bike in) and assuming there are 2.5 passengers per car (between 4 and 1), that would be 180,000 cars. MTB cars would be 2.8% of all cars - again a minimal impact!

7. Statements regarding mountain bikers "racing down hill at 30 mph" on the proposed trail and "running children, dogs and families off the trail" are over blown and simply not true. We ride mixed used trails all the time in Boulder County and most of us are well aware of the etiquette involved with hikers, runners, dogs and horses.

8. As part of this proposed trail I would seriously recommend looking at options for mountain bikers to access the Canyon and the new trail without going through Eldorado Springs or through the bottom part of the Park. A network of mountain bike trails obviously exists just east of Eldorado Canyon. Connecting the Spring Brook trail via the Conda Mine road to the old rail road grade that enters the Park behind the Bastille and becomes the Fowler Trail is obvious. I realize that the Fowler trail is handicap access. Make it a mandatory walk zone for cyclists. As far as park access is concerned and gait bypass, have a slogan/signage like "Don't be an Ass, get a Pass" and ticket riders that don't.

9. Finally, in reality, although this will be a great trail and a great addition to mountain biking in Boulder County I do not think it is going to be a destination mountain bike draw. Destination trails generally are quite extensive, such as in Winter Park, Breckenridge or the South Platte. This would be a single trail which would link to Walker Ranch. I can see it used as a loop from Boulder, going up over Flagstaff, to Walker and then out Eldorado Springs and back to Boulder, or vice versa. I think it will get a fair amount of riders initially out of curiosity but then the number of riders will likely taper off. It will also be used occasionally for riders linking the Front Range to the Winter Park area , a very big ride for sure.

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I truly appreciate all your work on this project and hope that it is supported by the Board!

Sincerely Yours,

Hunter Smith MD

Medical Director, Intensive Care Unit

Boulder Community Hospital.

Jack Swift•

2/13/2019• 478

I strongly support the connection of the two areas.

My kids love to ride their bikes and be outdoors. This connection will allow us greater access to a wide number of trails.

We will not use parking space we will ride to the trails to use them.

Please support this connection for bikers and hikers (we are both).

JS

Cameron Sprenger•

2/13/2019• 477

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Your help is much appreciated,

Cameron Sprenger

Tim Stelzer•

2/13/2019• 476

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail

Trails like this are important to my family because my kids are passionate bike riders and their time outside is healthy for mind and body

Best regards,

Tim Stelzer

Zach McCarthy•

2/13/2019• 475

Dear Boulder City Council members,

I am a member of the Fairview mountain bike team and I support allowing bikes from Eldorado to Walker Ranch.

This trail is exciting to me because it's a connection and will allow for bigger loops from town. Many mountain bikers now drive to areas in order to avoid riding on busy roads. This connection will be an

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option that makes riding from town to Chapman to Walker Ranch and down into Eldorado one of the best rides possible in Boulder County. The appeal of this trail is not to drive to Eldorado and do an out and back, it's for the serious cyclist that will include it in a big ride. I have done trail work, etc. and I would be ok with an alternating schedule like they do in Jefferson County. I am on the Fairview Highschool Mountain Bike Team and for many of us driving is simply not an option and it would be nice to have riding oppurtunities closer to home. It would be nicer to not compete for parking in Eldorado State Park and simply ride their instead. My team and I would come out to the trail every so often to do trail work and make sure the trail is running smoothly. We would be polite to any hikers, as well as be courteous and follow trail rules. It would be so cool if this trail was built and it would open up so many new possibilities for mountain biking in Boulder.

Thanks,
Zach McCarthy

Ada Urist•
2/13/2019• 474

Dear City of Boulder,

I was unable to attend the meeting about the Eldorado to Walker Ranch connector trail but I would like to voice my opinion. I am greatly in favor of the construction of this trail. As an avid mountain biker on the Fairview High School mountain bike team, I am always looking for more places to ride and train. I greatly enjoy the Walker Ranch trail but I can't ride it very often because I do not have a car and it's quite a long way to ride over Flagstaff, which also involves a lot of time on the road. I would really enjoy a trail that made Walker Ranch more easily accessible without so much distance on pavement. This trail would encourage more people to go mountain biking because it would make Walker Ranch easier to get to, and this is a fun and healthy hobby, especially for the younger trail users who would be riding this trail. It would also reduce the number of cars on the road because people would not have to drive over Flagstaff to get to Walker Ranch; they could ride there instead.

The concerns of crowding and parking should not be used to block this project. In terms of crowding, the mountain biking community is not any bigger than the climbing and hiking/running communities that are already using trails in Eldorado. As far as parking, it would be possible to not allow parking for mountain bikers where the trail would start, and instead have alternative parking closer to Boulder or at Marshall Mesa. It isn't that far to bike into Eldorado Canyon and people are riding anyway, so having to ride a bit farther would not deter people from trail use.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ada Urist

Leo Sundstrom•
2/13/2019• 473

I am writing to you because I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted to be sure to register important opinions on the proposed Eldo to Walker Ranch trail.

I write as a member of the Fairview High School mountain bike team. We are a group of 80+ students, boys, and girls, who are passionate about mountain biking. We are among 1,300+ student statewide

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who are part of the Colorado High School Cycling League, among the fastest growing sports both here in Colorado as well as around the country. We are proud of the fact that our Fairview team won the State Championships in 2017. Boulder High also has a team, with 100+ riders.

Allowing this trail to proceed is a good idea for several key reasons. We need more trails to accommodate the growing number of mountain bikers in our immediate area. Just for Fairview, it is not smart to put our team of 80+ riders onto Boulder's bike paths and roads, especially during after school hours. And although we would not ride the Eldo to Walker Ranch link in its entirety during an after-school training session, even having part of it available would make a big difference.

We would use the trail on weekends and in the summer, rather than either riding or driving up Flagstaff in order to reach Walker Ranch, neither of which are great options from the standpoint of both safety and traffic. And in terms of any parking issues at the Eldorado Springs end, we are accustomed to starting and ending our rides at Fairview and could continue this practice, rather than starting at Eldorado Springs. The Fairview parking lot is always open on weekends and in the summer, and we could make it a point to use it, rather than starting the ride in Eldo.

In addition, the Fairview coaches and the Colorado Mountain Bike League have demanded that we learn to be safe riders. We have been taught how to be courteous to those around us, including walkers, hikers, and other bikers, whom we encounter on Marshall Mesa, Betasso, Chapman, and when out on the roads and bike paths in Boulder. We would extend the same courtesy while on the Eldo to Walker Ranch trail. This means announcing ourselves in advance; keeping our speed in check, especially when approaching others; staying on the trail; not leaving trash or anything else on the trail, and using common sense practices when out in the open space.

Finally, our Fairview team prides itself on volunteering to help build and maintain bike trails. We would be honored to help create and maintain the Eldo to Walker Ranch trail and would even recruit our rivals from Boulder High to help.

Having the Eldo to Walker Ranch trail available to mountain bikers just makes sense for our town. Mountain biking is a great sport that we love, and this trail would be a great asset to all of us. Thank you for considering it.

Sincerely,
Leo

Steven Frank•
2/13/2019• 472

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

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Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Thanks, Steven Frank

Karl Beshore•
2/13/2019• 471

Hello,

I was not able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight so I'm sending my input via email.

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

Boulder Junior Cycling is a community of more than 150 young cyclists. Trails like this are important to our community because they allow car-free recreation and link existing trail systems into a larger interconnected network.

The issues of crowding and parking in Eldorado Springs are recognized, but they should not be used to block this trail project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Thanks,

Karl Beshore

Sent from my iPhone

Craig Eicher•Coal Creek Canyon
2/13/2019• 470

I live in Wondervu in Coal Creek Canyon and am an avid mountain biker who frequents all of Boulder's bike-friendly trails, including Walker Ranch. I eagerly look forward to the opportunity to enjoy the proposed connector trail to Eldorado Canyon.

While I appreciate the concerns local residents have for increased visits to the canyon, they have nonetheless chosen to live at the gateway to a highly popular state park, which also includes a public pool and spring water dispensary. I feel strongly that a primary purpose of the proper management of publicly owned lands is to look for ways to increase access, which this certainly will.

I urge you to approve this project according to staff recommendations.

Craig Eicher

Coal Creek Canyon

Steven Truesdale•Greenwood Village
2/13/2019• 469

Hello

I cannot attend tonight's OSBT meeting regarding the Eldo to Walker Connector Trail, however I want to send my support rationale via email. My family has been involved in the cycling community in Colorado, and in Boulder County for many years. My son and I are passionate and conscientious users of the trails in Boulder for health and fitness reasons, as well as simple pure enjoyment of our outdoors. The opportunities we have to enjoy our open spaces should be expanded for the obvious benefits they provide; not the least of which is that they provide the exact experiences we want our children to grow

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up with here. As a parent, I teach my son about the importance of environmental consciousness and integrity daily, and having real opportunities to exercise those behaviors is the capstone in the building of a healthy generation.

Regarding potential crowding at trailheads; the Boulder cycling community is willing to ride to the trailhead, reducing any parking concerns. There are also other ways to mitigate, or eliminate potential parking problems the trailhead such as active communication within the community about conditions; a dedicated ride-to-the-ride program, and volunteer trail workers monitoring use. The community is willing to engage at a high level so that solvable problems do not stop this project.

The value of the existing trail network is well documented. Additional interconnected trails provide an large degree of additive reward.

These types of projects should be approved and then promoted as a highlight of our lifestyle here. Health and fitness and caring enjoyment of our outdoors is who we are and I believe we all should strive to promote those same ideals, including support of these projects. I urge you to enthusiastically approve the project going forward.

Steven Truesdale, PG
Senior Geologist

Jessie Vogt•
2/13/2019• 468

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Jessica Bronson

Jason Vogel•
2/13/2019• 467

Hello Trustees!

This email is just for the public record since I already sent you the text:

http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_32449972/jason-vogel-and-eric-budd-eldo-walker-decision

Sincerely,

Jason Vogel
303-525-0832

Michael Cody•
2/13/2019• 466

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

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I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail.

If you are more interested you can read the remainder of this email to quant yourself with the process and where things currently stand.

Thank you,
Michael Cody

Tim Shea•
2/13/2019• 465

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. We can approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, but please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community."

Best regards,

Tim Goodacre•
2/13/2019• 464

"Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community."

Let's all enjoy our open space.

Thanks,

Tim

Chad Melis•
2/13/2019• 463

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Thanks,

Chad Melis

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720-273-8888

Hans Joachim Preiss•

2/13/2019• 462

Greetings,

During the month-long public process after the release of the Eldo-to-Walker trail feasibility study, we have heard from several people that mountainbikes are incompatible with a Habitat Conservation Area. I respectfully disagree, and open space staff can actually confirm, that mountainbikers are very good at sticking to a trail. Among all trail users they are least likely to take shortcuts or wander off trail, other than for instance off-leash dogs that often times roam in larger or smaller circles around their owners. More than every second dog I encountered on the Eldorado Canyon trail on a recent hike was off leash, despite more than enough signs informing of the leash requirement. That's where rangers are needed, not for directing traffic and overseeing parking.

The current alignment and construction of the Eldorado Canyon trail in large parts is not sustainable, which is why it is so heavily eroded. The proposed alignment including N4 and the new design following modern standards will be addressing these concerns, and the old trail section on the west side will be renaturalized. Although N4 will be longer than the current segment, its impact on the HCA will be less simply because of the better alignment and construction that is less likely to erode.

The switchbacks needed for the change in elevation this trail requires do not allow for high speed. In fact, it requires great skill to inch around these tight corners on a bicycle. Just like speed bumps in neighborhoods there are other features that can be installed on straight sections of trail to prevent excessive speeds there also. At the same time, these features make for a more interesting and fun trail experience for all users.

If one looks at the materials and construction of a bicycle wheel and tire, it is obvious that plant seeds are unlikely to stick to them compared to shoes, socks, and fabric in general. The concern that has been raised for invasive weeds being introduced is therefore much greater from foot traffic than bike traffic. Most importantly however, I would like to point out that the three-agency working group that was tasked with the Eldo-to-Walker trail feasibility study was able to issue a joint recommendation, which is nothing short of amazing. This collaboration of staff from Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Boulder City Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, was a complete novelty in Boulder County history. It is no secret that during this study staff had to cope with some really difficult questions, one of them being the effects on the Habitat Conservation Area.

It would have been easy to cancel the study altogether because no agreement could be reached or to simply recommending the "no trail" option. Instead, the three agencies concluded that the North Alignment is indeed feasible.

This study was researched and written by a team consisting of independent consultants that operate nationwide as well as highly qualified staff from all three agencies. I cannot overemphasize that it was a team of subject matter experts that came up with this joint recommendation. If this team from three agencies said it's feasible, we ought to trust them.

This trail has allowed the lid to blow off the village of Eldorado Springs. It's important now to not ease the pressure on the different stakeholders with the goal of managing the traffic and parking problem. But I believe it would be misguided if this board voted to put trail planning and design on hold until the

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crowding problem is solved, because it would be giving OSMP staff a task they can contribute to as one of the many stakeholders, but they can't control, effectively resulting in a "no trail" situation. Voting for a trail without contingencies allows the process to continue, and the trail working as a catalyst for finding a broader solution to the crowding situation.

Thank you

Hans

Bryan Ganzel•Lyons

2/13/2019• 461

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Thank you,

Bryan Ganzel

Lyons CO

Jeremy Gebben•Boulder

2/13/2019• 460

Please allow this project to proceed. There are legitimate concerns about parking in the Eldorado Springs area, which would need to be addressed even without the new trail. There is plenty of time to work on these concerns before the trail is actually open, and the trail is focusing more attention on improving the state park experience for all users.

Mountain bikers, such as myself, are willing to be flexible about routing and to volunteer to help build this trail and any other improvements need. Also, I think we are very unlikely to drive into Eldorado Springs to ride this trail. Instead, most bikers will either ride in from Boulder, or down from Walker Ranch or even Nederland.

Thanks,

Jeremy Gebben

3600 Dartmouth Ave

Boulder, CO, 80305

Tait Rees•

2/13/2019• 459

Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado

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Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Sincerely,
Tait Rees

Botsy Phillips•
2/13/2019• 458
Hello,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the north side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Best,
Botsy Phillips

Patricia Butler•Boulder
2/13/2019• 457

Unable to attend tonight's Open Space Trustees Board meeting, I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed mountain bike trail connecting Eldorado Spring and Walker Ranch. In addition to the objections of Eldorado Springs residents concerned about traffic and parking problems and hikers who will be seriously impeded by mountain bikers, I am concerned that the trail cuts through a Habitat Conservation Area, designed to protect native plants and animals. The current trails in that area already encroach on the HCA but re-routing the trail in the HCA will only further affect flora and fauna and very likely contribute to invasion by non-native plants, among other adverse impacts. Because it doesn't appear that any connector trail route can avoid the HCA, I'm sorry that a 'no trail' option was not seriously considered by staff, and I urge you to oppose any trails in Habitat Conservation Areas.

Peter Burhop•Boulder
2/13/2019• 456

Hello OSBT,

Thank you you for taking the time to read my email as I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting tonight.

I am writing in strong support that you follow the unanimous three partner agency recommendation of a multi-use trail on the North side of the canyon. Approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Thank you,
Pete Burhop

Kim Hedberg•Boulder

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2/12/2019 • 455

Greetings, I'd like to invite you to listen to a podcast of an interview of Danny Kahneman--the psychologist who won the Nobel Prize in Economics some years back.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/daniel-kahneman-why-we-contradict-ourselves-and-confound-each-other-jan2019/> His work focuses on the error of our human brains in using heuristics instead of rational thought. In fact, his findings challenge that we as humans rationally make decisions. Rather, we come to conclusions and then rationalize these conclusions. If you don't have time to listen--check out this paragraph: It is not, because you do not appear rational to them. And the fact that arguments that feel irrefutable come to our mind so easily doesn't mean that those arguments are the real cause of our beliefs and doesn't mean much of anything about the validity of the argument. The way that the mind works, very frequently, is that we start from a decision, or we start from a belief, and then the stories that explain it come to our mind. And the sequence that we have when we think about thinking, that arguments come first and conclusions come later, that sequence is often reversed. Conclusions come first, and rationalizations come later. In the case of the Eldorado to Walker Ranch Trail, I ask that you empty your mind of your internal conclusions concerning this trail and consider these facts first: 1. The carrying capacity of Eldorado State Park has been exceeded for several years. Is it rational to add more people to this box canyon which cannot be expanded? 2. The Habitat Conservation Area of Open Space is defined as the following on the OSMP webpage: "The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) department designated nine Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) as a way to protect areas that provide habitat to some of Boulder's rare plants and animals." The area being considered for creating a new trail is in one of the Habitat Conservation areas. 3. If you examine the "Feasibility Study"--in fact the feasibility study simply compared the north vs the south route and did not take into consideration the "no action" option. There was no environmental examination of the north route--only that since there is already a trail, there will be no further impact. Creating a trail with many more switchbacks will disrupt vegetation as well as the animals who use the area. This impact must be examined before moving ahead with this proposed trail. 4. Emergency Services--downhill mountain bike riding is inherently dangerous and there will be accidents. How will emergency services get in to assist someone who crashes 2 miles from a road? 5. Conflict between user groups--there is conflict between those traveling at 2 mph (walkers) and those traveling at 5-20 mph (bicyclists). There was no discussion in the feasibility study on the impact of this to current users. How will this be mitigated? Thank you for considering these issues without conclusions in mind. You serve your county open space as objective stewards. I appreciate your time. Best regards, Kim Hedberg 4578 Prado Dr Boulder, CO 80303 boulderkim@gmail.com

Scott Lehman • Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019 • 454

To: City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) RE: Proposed Eldorado Springs-Walker Ranch Mountain Back Connector Trail I am a resident of Eldorado Springs and a long time climber and trail runner. My wife is an avid mountain biker and naturalist. We both appreciate and travel long, through-going wilderness trails near home and throughout the world and we both **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the connector trail as currently proposed and therefore urge OSBT and The City of Boulder (along with their State and County agency partners) to **TABLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION** of the project. Rather, The City

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and its agency partners should assist in promoting and executing of a MANAGEMENT PLAN that addresses present and growing “carrying capacity” issues within the Park, in the gateway community of Eldorado Springs, and at nearby City of Boulder Open Space trailheads. Key deficiencies of the current proposal are: 1) Near-unanimous opposition to the proposal within the project gateway community of Eldorado Springs, as evidenced by a recent community petition and County Staffs own survey showing >90% opposition. The City SHOULD NOT HAVE AN INTEREST in any project that adds to existing, unmitigated problems of crowding and safety in Eldorado Springs or the State Park, even if the township and Park lay outside Boulder city limits. Rather, the City should aim to be a partner in addressing (not aggravating) those problems. 2) The project Feasibility Study, prepared by County Staff for inter-agency guidance, is seriously flawed. Firstly, THE STUDY DOES NOT EVALUATE THE “NO ACTION” OPTION, stating a) “With no new trail connection, the No Action option would not achieve the desired objectives of the project” while also noting b) that “BOTH [the proposed N & S trail alignments] adversely impact the park, which is already beyond capacity during busy periods [and would] [i)] increase traffic and congestion, [ii] increase visitor density and potential conflict along existing trails, [iii] increase visitation, estimated up to 60 more daily visitors” (~22,000 over the year if this is an authentic daily average). In rejecting the No Action option the stance in a) assumes there MUST be a trail, indicating the study is NOT A BALANCED FEASIBILITY STUDY BUT A TRAIL PLAN, IN CONTRADICTION TO ITS STATED AIM, TITLE AND PRESUMED MANDATE while b) concedes that EITHER OF THE TWO CONSIDERED TRAIL ROUTES WILL AGGRAVATE EXISTING PROBLEMS. Furthermore, it is noted that the addition of a trail will help to create a mandate for a Management Plan sometime down the road. Had the No Action option been considered in the Feasibility Study, the study conclusion might logically have been that a Management Plan was needed BEFORE consideration of any proposal to add new uses to an already overburdened Park system. This view has since been adopted by BOCO’s POSAC, as per their recommendation last month. 3) The City’s own Open Space Long-Range Management Policies include the statement: “OSMP long term planning guidance states where there are real or potential conflicts between nature and human use in the boulder mountain parks, preference will be given to sustaining nature; both for its intrinsic values and its value as a component of human experience”, while the Feasibility Study notes “This area [owned by the City] includes most of the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail. It is designated as a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA), which is managed to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems with lower levels of visitor use”. THE CITY MUST CONSIDER AND, IDEALLY, FOLLOW ITS OWN GUIDANCE. Parts of the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail are remote (by near-City standards), leading to low levels of use more commensurate with HCA protections. ADDING A NEW, MECHANIZED USE WILL DEFACTO INCREASE OVERALL USE AND DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CITY HCA (in comparison to otherwise sparse foot traffic). The City must endeavor to follow its own guidance and maintain the “intrinsic value” of the remote portions of the Eldorado Canyon Trail and its riparian crossings. 4) In that the proposed trail alignment will increase overall use (including a mechanized use) in a City HCA, one would expect the City to require a thorough analysis of environmental impacts. No such analysis is evident from the Feasibility Study. In closing, it must be noted that a bike connector trail proposed many years ago for EVALUATION has since morphed into a perceived COMMITMENT and PLAN through persistent mis-representation of the facts (including mis-representations of a 2011 City Council vote in favor of a different routing in 2011). Not all proposals that may have been viable a

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decade ago are equally viable now. Conditions have since changed markedly due to regional population growth and attendant increases in State Park visitation and crowding of nearby City trailheads. The City's own West TSA studies note these issues (already evident in 2011), including documentation of degraded user experience on multi-use trails when mountain biking is permitted. PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR OWN GUIDANCE AND TABLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF ANY PLAN THAT DELIBERATELY ADDS NEW USES AND USERS TO THE STATE PARK AND NEARBY TRAILHEADS THAT ARE ALREADY AT OR OVER CAPACITY AND WHICH WILL DEGRADE THE EXPERIENCE OF EXISTING USERS. Instead the City may wish to assist in promoting a long-needed Management Plan while considering alternative Boulder-to-Walker connector routes outside the State Park. Thank you for your service and for this opportunity to provide this input. SCOTT LEHMAN AND BAY ROBERTS 79 BARBER LANE ELDORADO SPRINGS CO

Charles Corfield•Boulder

2/12/2019• 453

Buzz Burrell said it all in a well written letter about the connector. Add my "signature" to his letter.

Kelly Gerard•Boulder

2/12/2019• 452

Hello.

Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) appreciates all the work and professionalism OSMP, BCPOS and CPW have put into the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection Feasibility Study, including an effective website and public participation program. BCNA also thanks you for the opportunity to participate in the review process and submit comments. Like you, BCNA believes a process that addresses all stakeholder comments and concerns results in a more acceptable and defensible decision. Below are the BCNA comments on the study as it stands now, recognizing that it is still a work in progress and your analysis is not yet completed.

Consideration of Other Alternatives

The Feasibility Study should have been a broader study to assess all alternatives, not only the North and South Routes. It should have considered other routes and the no-action alternative in depth. It also should have studied projected ridership in depth. Projected ridership is critical to the validity of this study. If projected demand is high, all costs may be justified. However, if projected ridership is low, costs may not be justified, and the no-action alternative may become the preferred alternative. Therefore, BCNA requests that the feasibility study demonstrates that the methodology used to project demand is valid for this specific study, and the parameters and data used are representative of the study area.

In addition, BCNA requests the agencies to determine the cost-benefit of all alternatives in a comprehensive manner that addresses all costs, including construction, operations and maintenance, environmental and social. Stakeholders need to understand how each alternative ranks in terms of costs and benefits.

Preferred Route

If the projected ridership and benefits are great enough to justify costs, BCNA supports the North Route over the South Route. It also believes the N3 segment should be closed. In addition, we ask that the final design lays out a route that minimizes ecological impacts, including those related to habitat fragmentation and the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). Also, impacts to the HCA that can not be

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mitigated need to be listed and justified. We prefer as direct a route as possible that ensures rider safety and minimizes trail erosion, while minimizing switchbacks.

However, several BCNA members also are concerned about impacts on trail hikers. Some see mountain biking and hiking as incompatible uses, and risks to hikers as unacceptable. Dodging speeding bicycles can result in injury, especially if bicycles are not detected by hikers until the bicycles are upon them. Therefore, BCNA requests that the study address impacts on hikers and various potential mitigation measures to avoid or, at least, minimize impacts. In addition, we request the agencies to track the various uses, including determining whether hiking declines due to bicycle traffic. Furthermore, the agencies should make it easy for users to submit complaints, as well as accident and near-miss reports.

Mitigation Measures for Eldorado State Park and Eldorado Springs

Some BCNA members are fearful that riders will have a significant impact on the State Park and the community – that riders will drive through the community to the park, increase local traffic congestion, overwhelm the parking area(s), and create overcrowded conditions. Therefore, BCNA requests that the study clearly states ridership assumptions about all trail access points associated with the preferred alternative (i.e., how riders will access the trail) and what the related impacts will be. If a significant percentage of riders are expected to access the trail via the State Park or other sensitive areas, BCNA requests that the study lists cost-effective mitigation measures that will be used to address each impact. If mitigation measures can not sufficiently reduce impacts on the Park, the community, the HCA and other sensitive areas to the satisfaction of impacted stakeholders, BCNA would support the no-action alternative, especially if projected ridership is low and adverse impacts outweigh benefits.

BCNA looks forward to seeing your responses to public comments and refinements to the feasibility study and its recommendation.

Sincerely,

Gerry Kelly

Chair, Issues and Conservation Committee

Boulder County Nature Association

Brady Robinson•

2/12/2019• 451

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,

Shelley Dunbar, Stefan Griebel and I wrote the following Guest Opinion piece which was printed in the Daily Camera last Saturday. We feel this is very relevant to tomorrow's OSBT meeting agenda item on the multi-use trail connection between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch.

You may also read this on the Daily Camera website [here](#).

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes on a good meeting tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Brady Robinson

Why climbers should support the Eldo-Walker trail

By Shelley Dunbar, Stefan Griebel and Brady Robinson

Eldorado Canyon State Park is one of the most revered climbing destinations in the United States. As the popularity of our sport has surged in recent years, and hikers and picnickers have discovered its beauty, we've seen capacity issues at the state park in the form of parking congestion. Being one of the

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dominant user groups in the park, our increased visitation has contributed to the problem. We tend to drive to the park early, occupy many of the parking spaces, and we usually remain for several hours. Naturally, hearing the proposal that another user group may gain access through the park via the proposed Eldorado to Walker Ranch trail, some climbers have opposed it due to concerns about their own access. The crux of the argument comes down to parking. Instead of opposing this trail, we see this as a catalyst for finding a broader solution to the parking situation — one created in part by climbers. With the motivation of the mountain bikers who have a vested interest in making sure this works, together with committed land managers and other groups, it is time to address the access and parking issues at Eldo to improve the situation for all visitors, residents and the park itself.

Additionally, saying yes to this regional trail provides a way to connect from more distant areas into the park without using a car. Ultimately, access by bike or shuttle is an inevitable evolution of this very popular public amenity. Hopefully, more and more users will stop waiting in their cars at the entry gate and choose to simply ride in. We are optimistic about the possibility of developing a park shuttle akin to the Hessie and Chautauqua trailhead shuttles and reconfiguring the state park entrance to reduce neighborhood impacts.

Presuming a commitment to resolving the parking issues, we find little about the proposed trail connection to worry the climbing community or anyone else. The three-agency recommendation would separate a new multi-use trail from the existing hiker-only trail for the first mile or so — including the approach for the Rincon Wall. Climbers taking a direct route would cross paths only once with trail runners, equestrians or cyclists using this new trail. This eliminates any reasonable concern about user conflict and actually provides an amazing opportunity for non-motorized access to climbing in the state park.

This trail proposal didn't come out of thin air. The Eldorado-Walker Ranch trail connection has been part of a very transparent public process for more than a decade, involving the city's Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder City Council, Boulder County Open Space and Colorado Parks & Wildlife. While most climbers didn't feel the need to be involved in the West TSA planning process (which governed the popular open space lands just west of town, including the Flatirons), the mountain biking community really showed up. In every instance that biking access was proposed, the agencies declined to add trails that would allow bikes to the front side of the mountain backdrop but promised that "regional trail connections" for bikes were a priority, with the Eldo-to-Walker trail being named specifically as the prime example of that intent. As members of the public, we trust that our current elected and appointed public servants will honor the public's time and input over all these years, as well as their own stated commitments, and approve this trail.

As participants in land management planning in Boulder County for many years, we have seen first-hand how difficult it is to create an open and welcoming recreational experience for all. The idea of a 60-plus mile trail connecting Boulder to Winter Park — the Indian Peaks Traverse — is inspiring and worthy of our collective support. Climbers should link arms with other users who are just as passionate about our public lands and support this visionary concept, using our collective momentum to solve long-standing issues faced by the state park and the town of Eldorado Springs.

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Shelley Dunbar is a former Boulder Open Space trustee and co-owner of Neptune Mountaineering; Stefan Griebel served for nine years on the board of the Action Committee for Eldorado; Brady Robinson is former executive director of Access Fund.

Rick Marshall•

2/12/2019• 450

When I was young I liked to cross-country ski from Vail Pass to Redcliffe on Shrine Pass Road. This was a delightful 13 or so miles of skiing. It was about 90% downhill. In all the times I skied this road I never once saw anyone ski uphill from Redcliffe to Vail Pass. Everyone would shuttle a car to Redcliffe and then also park a car at Vail Pass.

A lot of bikers say that they will ride to the proposed new trailheads and leave their cars at home. This rings hollow to me. Only the elite bikers would pedal ride from Boulder, Louisville, Denver, etc. and pedal up Flagstaff to Walker Ranch and then rip down through the State Park and then peddle the 10 miles back from the State Park to Boulder or even further to Denver or elsewhere. Either way the trip would be a grueling ride, especially for kids. I would wager that for 99% of the bikers this will be a shuttle trip. Two cars...one at Walker Ranch and one at Eldorado Springs. Bikers will not want to wait patiently in line at the mouth of the Canyon with all the cars. This will be a downhill ride from Walker Ranch (very fast in places) and then a stop in the park by South Boulder Creek to have a picnic. Why not? You would not have to pay a State Park entrance fee as there is no toll both on the west side of the park. Also, the State Park does not have enough staff to enforce a non-stop provision of any kind. Another specious argument, in my opinion, is to state that climbers currently tend to leave their cars behind and ride into the Eldorado Canyon State Park. I have been up and down the canyon's road thousands of times. One tends to see just the odd bike or two locked to a sign post on nice days when the climbing is good. The State Park has no bike racks in the inner canyon. Climbers tend to sort out their gear by their car, truck, or van, not by their bicycle.

I hope that the recently retired Eldorado Canyon rangers come to the meeting. They are firmly opposed to this trail. The State currently has, I think, only 4 full time rangers and they are already over worked. Please listen to them carefully, as they probably know the most about the park's struggles with the large number of visitors.

If you are inclined to approve this trail, I urge you to delay the vote until you can experience the traffic and overcrowding the State Park is already experiencing. Please try driving into the park on any nice weekend in the summer at 10 AM or so when the pool is open. Please experience this situation first hand to gain a deeper understanding of the issues.

Thanks for taking time to read my email.

Respectfully, Rick Marshall

Suzanne Webel•

2/12/2019• 449

The plan you have before you is what I'm calling "PARKOPALYPSE." The three Partner Agencies' ill-conceived recommendation has managed to infuriate all stakeholder groups but one, and in spite of that they are now asking you to rubber-stamp it.

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Specifically, I submit that the current proposal is a terrible idea for both Eldorado Canyon State Park and for visitor parking -- in the Park itself, in the town, and in the OSMP trailhead parking lots at Doudy Draw and South Mesa Trail.

I'd like to address what I see as a very flawed process. As some of you know, I'm a public lands wonk and have participated in every planning project in this area for more than 40 years. I was one of several equestrians who actually built the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail back in the '80s. I have been all over this park and the adjacent City and County lands many times since then on foot and on horseback. It's fair to say I know this area like the back of my hand.

Through sales of our Trails and Recreation Map of Boulder County, BATCO funded a County "Feasibility Study" of re-routing trails at Walker Ranch, so I know something about feasibility studies as well.

This one is flawed, with a clearly-biased preference for a pre-ordained outcome favoring the North trail alignment. And surprise! The study recommends the North Alignment!

It's interesting, isn't it, that of the people who expressed a preference for one trail over the other in August 2018, responses were strongly (>41%) in favor of the South alignment with only 6% favoring the North one; staff then huddled in September and October and emerged with its recommended North alignment; and finally in November/December another poll emerged indicating that 76% of respondents were now "supportive or very supportive" of the North alignment. It sure looks like a lot of arm-twisting went on to get people to switch their vote in order to get a trail, any trail, "damn the torpedoes and full speed ahead."

There have been a lot of thoughtful comments from people who support the South alignment as offering a better visitor experience, resulting in less user conflict, minimizing impacts on the environment and on the town, and more. I am a trail advocate and I have long supported the South alignment to enable all passive recreationists, including mountain bikes, to get to Walker Ranch, and sure, I support the Indian Peaks Traverse – but I do not support the current North proposal in the State Park. Yet all of our comments have seemingly been ignored and, instead, the study found (in my view, biased) reasons to exaggerate impacts of the South alternative while (disproportionately) minimizing impacts of the North one – in an attempt to get you to support their predetermined plan. Please don't fall for it!

With regard to public comment, I am disappointed that POSAC endured almost five hours of public testimony on this matter on January 24, yet there is no written record of people's comments -- only a link to the meeting video. Have any of you actually watched that entire four-hours-and-forty-three minutes-long POSAC video as context for the OSBT meeting, or are we all expected to show up again and again and to repeat ourselves just in order to get our points across? I spent an entire day conscientiously preparing for my three minutes of fame at that POSAC meeting, but unless you were watching the video at 2:29:32 you would have missed it. I've spent another entire day preparing this written comment letter, because two minutes in front of the OSBT isn't enough time to convey more than a thumbs-up or thumbs-down on a complex topic. There has to be a better way to engage stakeholders so we don't conclude we're just wasting our time coming to multiple meetings for naught. Nobody's paying most of us to do this.

The box drawn to define the study area was too small, too arbitrary and too rigid, and any ramifications of a recommendation that would affect areas outside the box were ignored. Even consideration of

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including existing trails inside the Park, such as the Fowler and Rattlesnake Gulch trails, as part of a regional trail plan, was dismissed as “not part of the scope of this project.” Really?? Why not? Similarly, the 28% of respondents who voted for “Both” the North and South alignments in order to make a desirable loop, were told that their ideas would be “better addressed in a Park master plan.” Well, OK – but CPW plans to launch its own Visitor Use Management Plan this year (2019), so don’t you think the results of that process should be used to inform what happens with a trail or trails through the Park, not the other way around? Why are the agencies rushing this trail plan through now?

Ray Bridge has observed that the Feasibility Study is flawed because it doesn’t include enough data or layers showing environmental resources, so he supports the No Trail Alternative. Ray and I actually agree on things occasionally and this is one of those times. The study should include detailed maps of topography and pre-existing cultural features such as old roads and trails, so an informed conversation could take place about appropriate impacts and opportunities for various trail alignments. Until then, like Ray, I must support the No Trail Alternative.

POSAC reluctantly supported staff’s recommendation, with some caveats that the town’s angst be taken into consideration. Not a word about alleviating the angst of the rest of us, whose use of the Park, Walker Ranch to the west, and the OSMP trails to the east, has already been displaced by too many people.

Proposed “fixes” to the parking problem in the Park, in the town, and at the OSMP trailheads are mere band-aids. A shuttle? Are you aware that the shuttle at Hessie costs taxpayers \$25 for every man, woman, and child who gets to ride it for free? The shuttle proposed here sounds politically correct and it might help get some people into the Park, but it sure won’t help equestrians, whose hard-won designated trailer parking spaces at Doudy Draw are regularly obliterated by passenger cars, with no enforcement by the OSMP rangers. And where would you have the shuttled people park their cars – Doudy Draw? It’s already over capacity and this shuttle idea would, again, merely exacerbate the problem.

Redesign the Park entrance station? Oh, please. By the time people get there it will be too late, because they will have clogged the town, the road and the OSMP parking lots, and they will have to turn around to leave, clogging those same areas again on their way out. A better idea would be to determine the carrying capacity of the Park, erect a big flashing electronic sign at the east end of Eldorado Springs Drive telling people when the parking is full, and have a law-enforcement officer turn them away until a certain number of people have left.

If the best you can do is reconstruct the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail to Walker Ranch so that it can accommodate mountain bikes, please designate and enforce some “No-Bike Days” per week so the hikers, climbers, and equestrians can plan a more peaceful experience in the Park and adjacent areas. In any case, OSMP should be prepared to build lots and lots of additional parking to accommodate the inevitable additional use from mountain bikers looking to conquer the Indian Peaks Traverse, or just wanting to experience the thrill of getting new access to Walker Ranch.

OSMP, BCPOS, and CPW have created an imminent train wreck here and have insisted that their plan be railroaded through on a fast track. I say this entire process should be stopped in its tracks immediately. Slow down, get all the passengers on board, and then proceed with caution.

Ann Posford-Doyle•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019 • 448

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Over 25 years ago, when I bought my house in ES, there was a horse riding stables at the town entrance, which had been there for over 50 years. As horse riders, we shared the trails with hikers, homeowners and visiting families as well as mountain climbers. About 11 years ago, several trails were closed and we were told this was due to the disturbance we were causing to wildlife and overuse of trails. The truth is we never destroyed the trails, but rather felt it was our responsibility to maintain their integrity; trimming vegetation where it overgrew and replacing soil where severe water run off caused erosion. This was done quietly, with little fuss and at no cost to anyone. We had the utmost respect for nature, wildlife and all those who enjoyed sharing the natural beauty of this special canyon.

At the same time, some of the hiking trails were opened to bikers. (Dowdy Draw). On the very first day allowing bikes access, I was hiking on the trail when a cyclist coming up behind me literally screamed at me to get off the trail. He did not slow down and would have crashed into me if I had not been quick enough to move out of the way. He showed no consideration of anyone else, just indulged his personal thrill of racing along a new trail. That is the last time I hiked the trail.

Today my partner Rick and I have a cabin in the park, opposite the rangers' station. We stay there many weekends throughout the year. In the evening, when the visitors have left, we routinely take a walk to check that the BBQ grill coals have been extinguished and pick up trash that has been left by visitors. We often find paper plates smoldering in the grills and discarded cans, bottles, plastic and paper. On several occasions I have witnessed visitors using cans of fuel to light their BBQs, which I am sure is quite illegal. In summer the park can be like a tinder-box. All it would take is a thoughtless visitor, one spark, a puff of wind coming down the canyon and many homes could be lost. The park rangers do everything they can to monitor the park. They are always extremely helpful and polite trying to ensure that all visitors have a wonderful experience. But they simply do not have enough manpower, hours or financial resources to take care of everything.

Rick and I have a rather unique perspective of what happens in the park outside of visiting hours. We often see hikers coming down the Eldorado Trail at night, using headlamps. We see people wandering around in the park, when it is officially closed. But the gates at the entrance booth are broken and do not prevent visitors from using the park after hours. What will the outcome be if even more people have access to the park? At night we hear female mountain lions calling for mates. Their territory is large and so it is eerie, exciting and inspiring to hear them. We often see bears with cubs, Foxes and Bald Eagles. You must be aware that multiple human contact with certain wildlife results in their euthanization. More visitors could be devastating.

When I first came to ES, many new visitors who lived as close as Boulder had never even driven down the road from the gas station towards the mountains. Today, as this area becomes more and more attractive to new homeowners, people who love the outdoors, hikers, bikers, bird watchers, nature lovers, we have to find ways to ensure our few remaining natural resources are not destroyed. I had to give up trails that I had once loved and maintained. Before you make a decision on which trail cyclists can use, please be sure that a new biking trail is something that should even be considered. Just because we WANT something, does not always mean that we SHOULD have it. We rely on all of you whose job it is to ensure that our nature and wild areas are properly protected not only for the current

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population but for future generations. Please use your power with wisdom and an abundance of caution. I urge you not to be swayed by those who do not necessarily hold the interest of nature conservancy uppermost in their hearts. At the very least, please take the time to visit the park during times of high use. Talk to the townspeople and homeowners. Walk the trails if you are not familiar with them and see for yourself why the folk of ES are so concerned.

The idea of a biking trail to Walker Ranch has been spoken about for many years. Please vote against the construction of such a trail, which would destroy, disrupt and deface areas of the park and canyon. The decision should be an absolute no for now and the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ann Posford-Doyle

Erik Sween•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 447

I am strongly opposed to the proposed mountain bike trail into Eldorado Springs for 3 reasons.

1) The trail will go through a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). Putting new trails through HCA's contradicts the OSMP mandate to protect HCA's. Creating new trail for a new user group cutting through an HCA doesn't make sense and creates a dangerous precedent.

2) As OSBT trustees your role is obviously not to manage Eldorado Canyon State Park or the town of Eldorado Springs, but you bear a responsibility not to make known problems worse. Parking and congestion for the State Park and Eldorado Springs are known problems. Usage at the State Park has increased 88% in the last 2 years. It's irresponsible to approve this trail and then plan to mitigate problems afterwards. A full Environmental Assessment Report and a Visitor Management Plan for the State Park should be completed before you approve this.

3) This trail was never promised or mandated in previous planning meetings. Some proponents of the mountain bike trail like say that, but take a look at the actual documents. The West Trails Study in 2011 only designate the possibility of exploring feasibility in the future. This idea has already been turned down three times. Nothing has changed since then, except usage at the Park has almost doubled. The hiking and climbing in Eldorado Springs are unique in all the Front Range. This Park is gem, it is gorgeous, it is the queen of Colorado's State Parks. I live in Eldorado Springs and have owned a house here since 1993. Eldorado Canyon is a benefit to everyone in the Boulder area just the way it is now. For these reasons, I urge you to vote against the proposed trail.

Sincerely,

Erik Sween

Helen Cartwright•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 446

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I am writing to you to share my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a mountain biking trail through Eldorado Canyon State Park and City of Boulder Open Space Land.

I live in Eldorado Springs, I am raising my family here and I run my business here, managing a portfolio of Boulder Homeowner Associations (HOAs).

One aspect of my profession is working with board members to assist them in fulfilling their duties as representatives of their community. If ever there are questions about how to proceed on an issue, especially if there are conflicts of interest, my guidance is always to refer back to the governing documents.

I urge you as the stewards of the City of Boulder Open Space to do the same, and refer back to the guiding principles of the City Charter which defines the purpose of the Open Space lands. This purpose includes the preservation and management of, among other things:

- Natural areas and features or species of special value
- Water, landscapes and eco-systems
- Passive recreation

The goals and objectives laid out to achieve these purposes all speak to 'preserving', 'restoring', 'maintaining', 'conserving' and 'enhancing' the natural resources of the open space lands, with emphasis also on passive recreation activities that enrich, inspire and provide aesthetic and spiritual value to the community. The Eldorado Canyon hiking trail that passes through City of Boulder Open Space lands achieves these purposes, it truly is an outstanding experience to contemplate the beauty of the wilderness so close to all of our homes.

I believe that constructing a mountain bike trail through this area goes against the fundamental principles that the Open Space and Mountain Parks system is founded on. It would irreparably damage a pretty much pristine area that is designated as a Habitat Conservation Area. There are signs along the existing route telling users to stay on the trail to protect the surrounding habitat. There is currently a small foot trail that links the main trail to a nearby bouldering area, which has been recently moved to a different location to allow the habitat to recover. This is recovery needed just from foot traffic damage! The construction of a mountain biking trail would require excavators to come onto this sensitive area to dig out a load of new switchbacks - this is not consistent with your guidance to preserve natural areas of special value.

It would also take something away from the experience of existing users, not only of the Eldorado Canyon Trail, but of other trail users in the State Park by spoiling views and changing the atmosphere from one of quiet enjoyment on foot to an entirely different kind of experience.

I appreciate that making a trail link is strongly desired by the mountain bike community, who have been working towards this goal for many years. I also recognize that biking this trail could be a lot of fun, if that's your preferred form of recreation. Mountain bikers may also feel that they are not being allowed the same access as other (less impactful, and I would argue more diverse) users but it is clear that the proposed location through protected habitat is not the right place for a trail like this.

Some may believe that we residents of Eldorado Springs are acting as NIMBY types in opposing the construction of this mountain biking trail, but I believe that we, like you as Trustees on this Board, are acting as stewards and protectors of the natural resources and values that we all share. Thank you for taking the time to consider our opinions.

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Sincerely, Helen Cartwright

David Kahn•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 445

Thank you for considering the preservation of the Eldorado Canyon Trail in recognition of the serious impacts that constructing a mountain bike trail will entail. It is currently a lovely, steep, rocky, remote trail through Habitat Conservation Area. It is a trail highly used by large multi-generational family groups exploring the Eldorado Canyon from the State Park Visitors Center and picnic areas. The idea of altering this trail and constructing 30-40 switch backs for a small number of elite mountain bikers is absurd. It will not be an easy trail to ride. The number of bikers capable of riding it will be limited. Is it really worth it?

Habitat Conservation Areas are special and protected because of their value to plants, animals, and their habitats. How ironic that mountain bikes are being considered for this area? How does major construction in an isolated canyon comport with this designation?

Anyone who has hiked the Eldorado Canyon Trail on nice weekend days has seen large families poking along the trail, with grandmothers encouraging grandchildren, and parents carrying small kids on their backs or shoulders. They tend to be international in nature and are visiting from all over the Denver metro area. What a tragedy it will be when some of them are mowed down by mountain bikers careening downhill at breakneck speeds. Rocky Mountain Rescue will have their hands full.

I am an avid mountain bike enthusiast, and use the trails around Dowdy Draw, the Springbrook Loop, Marshall Mesa, Flatirons Overlook, and the High Plains trail to Superior. When I actually walk these trails I realize that they have pretty much been given over to mountain biking. As a pedestrian I feel threatened by aggressive bikers, and it has made me conscious of my behavior when biking.

Furthermore, when it rains or snows heavily these trails are closed to all because of the impacts mountain bikes leave. Currently the Eldorado Canyon Trail is a well drained, south facing trail that is never closed to hikers because it recovers quickly after rain or snow. Would it be closed also after rain or snow because of mountain bikes?

I beseech you to take this mountain bike boondoggle off the back of the Eldorado Canyon Trail. Any other decision would be a serious defilement to a highly protected landscape, and betrayal to the people, plants, and animals who enjoy it.

Thank you very much,

David Kahn

Alan Brown•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 444

ESCA COMMUNITY is an informal Boulder County registered neighborhood group, facilitating ELDO Original Townsite village discourse and common-interest initiatives. All voices and views are welcome and respected. The ESCA group formed a decade ago after successful completion of the Eldo Sewer LID project. Seven years ago ESCA facilitated a community Eldorado Springs Drive road design process with

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neighbors, EASI Inc, Boulder County Transportation, RMFD and Eldo Canyon State Park. Regular ESCA activities include twice-yearly neighborhood cleanups and a bear-proof trash can program. ESCA COMMUNITY supports Eldorado Canyon State Park, a magnificent wild and natural place that is already heavily used by Boulder and Metro-Denver rock climbers, hikers, runners, disabled community, and large family picnics. We also support unique and historic Eldo Pool-Ballroom recreation amenities. In our non-nimby way, we have for many years embraced the "gateway community" role for this pristine natural open space landscape and cooperated with all comers.

But in 2019 the Village and Park both lack the basic infrastructure improvements and visitor management practices to incorporate increasing visitation numbers including a new bike user group. ESCA COMMUNITY opposes the proposed (NOT-multi-use) Bike Trail. For details please note the Eldorado Springs Petition, provided separately, with over 170 neighbor signatures in opposition. Our authentic Original Boulder County Townsite neighborhood and the State Park have lived long enough with constant congestion, parking conflicts, compromised private property rights, and daily health and safety problems.

Eldo is a tiny place. Sorry but there's no more room at the Inn!

Eldorado Springs Community Association

Sonja Sabels•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 443

Thank you for taking the time to gather public opinion about the impending trail connecting Walker Ranch to Eldorado Springs. As a life long cyclist I am not in favor of this trail.

Please consider that the high speed and excessive traffic in Eldorado Canyon has already been stretched to the maximum capacity of reasonableness. There is no plan and there has been zero effort to mitigate the high speed of driving and high volume of blockaded roads filled with park visitors. The trailheads farther out near Dowdy Draw and the Mesa trailheads are equally overloaded.

Secondly, as an avid mountain biker myself, I know that most mountain bikers are drawn to the ability to ride at high speed through trails, which I consider a lethal mix on the Eldorado Springs trail. It is routinely filled with large groups, families of all ages, and visitors who will be very surprised to be met with speeding cyclists who mostly refuse to even give way, never mind slow down.

Additionally, I believe that opening that trail to mountain bikes will next open it to E-Bikes and other motorized vehicles, which is not the intent of our trails altogether. For safety reasons and in the spirit of keeping nature natural, I think that is a door we should not open.

Colorado has an ample supply of mountain bike trails, off road biking and atv access, please leave this access to pedestrians.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Sonja Sabels

Eldorado Springs

Gareth Jones•Eldorado Springs

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I am writing to oppose the proposed mountain bike connection between Eldorado SP and Walker Ranch. While I am unhappy about many aspects of this proposal my primary concerns are twofold: the environmental impact of the trail and the effects of increased park use on the community of Eldorado Springs.

The proposed trail will require significant amounts of heavy engineering to accommodate mountain bikes and cut through a Habitat Conservation Area. Once finished it will be little more than a road through some of the most magical scenery in the front range. This new trail will not just impact the south of the park but will be a visible eyesore from the view at the hotel ruins at the top of the Rattlesnake Gulch trail on the north side of the park.

The community of Eldorado Springs, of which I am a member, is in no position to absorb the inevitable increase in park visitors, which already have more than doubled to half a million since 2011. On busy weekends the dirt road creates a dust hazard, visitors poach my private parking spots and I worry for the safety of my daughter and cat. Eldorado Springs is not policed and people drive way too fast on the main dirt road which has no sidewalks or speed control.

I'm not unsympathetic to mountain bikers. Indeed, I'm an avid cyclist and appreciate the Doudy Draw trails. However, given all the land resources of OSMP to pick an already crowded area of natural beauty does not seem the best way forward.

Sincerely,
Gareth Jones

Jeff Mason •

2/12/2019 • 441

My name is Jeff Mason and I live at 140 Artesian Drive in Eldorado Springs. I am writing this email to express my opinion that the current trail proposal is not sound and needs to have a number of issues addressed before adaptation. The only point I want to make here is that this trail does not provide a full non-road connector from the front range to Walker. If the trail is built as proposed, it will still not be possible to have an all-off road ride as is talked about and desired. Even the trail up Chapman drive has a much more off-road experience --- if one plans to obey the laws.

The trails of Boulder City can County connect up to the Springbrook trail system that is south-west of the town of Eldorado Springs.

The only legal connection from there to the proposed trail will be to ride down Eldorado Mountain city of Boulder trail head at County Road 67. From there one would ride down the road, then up State Highway 170 into Eldorado Springs state park. The road into the park is narrow and heavily used by cars, children, pedestrians. There is no proposal for any sort of bicycle fee to enter the park as they come into this entrance. Having bicycles ride past cars lined up to enter the park will only exacerbate and already tense bicycle-car interaction scenario. I worry about road-rage as some driver waiting their turn is passed by group of bicyclists.

The non-legal connection, which is assumed in much of the communication I have seen, is to use the Fowler trail. This trail is closed to mountain bikes as it connects from City of Boulder open space into the Eldorado State park. It is also closed to mountain bikes once inside of the park. As I understand, this

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means that one cannot push or carry their mountain bike on this trail. This trail is very flat and well maintained, since it designated as handicap accessible. There are no plans to open up this trail to mountain bikes yet building the proposed trail will put immense pressure on the Fowler trail to be used for mountain bikes. This trail is heavily used from both Eldorado Canyon state park, Dowdy draw trail head and the very small 4 car parking lot on County road 67. Over the years I have hiked and run the Fowler trail and often see multiple parties of families, birders, hikers, climbers, children, handicap folks and others on this trail, not to mention wildlife such as foxes, turkeys, bobcats. A recent video shows a couple of mountain bike riders casually riding past the 'No Bikes' sign in the park and on through the trail. They pass 5 different parties during this short video, two with children. Though the riders in the video are polite and friendly it is easy to see from the surprised expressions on the parties that they pass that their presence is not expected.

Such unplanned portions of this proposal are going to lead to expected and potentially dangerous confrontations. How many injuries to non-bicyclists and bicyclists have to occur before this short sighted plan will need to be addressed.

Thank you

Jeff Mason

Rebecca Caldwell•

2/12/2019• 440

To construct the Eldorado- Walker Ranch Connector Trail, a heavy impact trail in terms of both construction and usage, is in direct violation of OSMP stated mission to "protect and preserve the natural environment" of a Habitat Conservation Area. The increased activity brought on by mountain biking will eventually drive the animals away and the trail-side environment will be degraded as mountain bikers dutifully drag their machines off the trail to yield to pedestrians and equestrians on the same path. Ha!!! Look no further than Dowdy Draw to see where mountain bikers play — the rest stay away. And if a hiker, such as myself, dares to walk on those trails, I know that it will be me diving for the brush to feel safe from the bikes lurching by. I have yet to encounter bikers that actually stop and yield the trail to pedestrians — as the rules dictate they should.

Do not turn the Eldorado Canyon into another Dowdy Draw! The Eldorado Canyon trail, through sensitive HCA habitat, should be preserved for non-mechanized travel. Allowing mountain bikes on the trail will forever change the character of this area from a peaceful, pristine environment into a high speed racetrack where bikers threaten the safety of all other users.

The City of Boulder OSMP should not be spending its time and money to participate in building and promoting a trail that will turn a prized Habitat Conservation area into a playground for one heavy impact special interest group.

Thank you.

Jonathan Lantz•Boulder

2/12/2019• 439

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I am a local business owner and a resident. I live in Nederland and I work in Boulder. I am a mountain biker, a climber, a trail runner, a hiker, a skier, a business owner and a father. I am voicing my support for the proposed Eldo to Walker Ranch Trail. For me, this is a connection that is long overdue and will help to expand the amazing network of trails in the Boulder area..

My family and I will use this connector trail as a commuter route to work, it will add more available access to many young riders that do not have the option to drive to trailheads and improve the availability of Walker Ranch to the Boulder Community. My family and I currently participate in several volunteer trail work days within Boulder and I also donate about 400 hours of volunteer time through my local outdoor company by having employee trail work days.

The future vision of the Boulder to Walker trail is an obvious connection to the high country that Boulder needs. Enriching the experience of the locals and visitors to Boulder through the addition of this connector trail is a great opportunity for our community and I am excited to help build and maintain this trail moving forward.

Thanks

Jonathan Lantz

President

La Sportiva N.A., Inc.

Rick Cables•Boulder

2/12/2019• 438

My name is Rick Cables and I have lived in Boulder since 2004. We have three grown children, two who live in Boulder and one who lives on Eldorado Springs drive. I am writing you in hopes that you will join our family, the residents of Eldorado Springs, and many Coloradans to protect Eldorado Canyon State Park (ECSP). We understand that your primary responsibility is to protect open space lands owned by the City of Boulder — however, in the case of the regional trail connection proposal — your role is much larger. Each “partner” in the concept of an Eldo-Walker trail must look beyond their parochial interests — and see the big picture in pursuing a trail that ultimately connects Indian Peaks to the front range. The existing entities, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Boulder County and the City of Boulder, that have participated in the “Eldo-Walker Feasibility Study”, must look beyond their borders to ensure an outcome that protects the amazing public lands you are responsible to preserve. In this specific case, every single alternative considered in the Feasibility Study proposes the mountain bike trail right through the heart of ECSP and the gateway community of Eldorado Springs. We believe, and both the Feasibility Study and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) acknowledge, that the impacts of this proposal into a State Park, and a community, that have already exceeded their capacity to deal with the throngs of Park users that exist now, is premature and inappropriate. In fact, in terms of the cumulative impacts on both the environment and community issues such as parking, traffic, safety, air quality — Eldorado Canyon is likely one of the most challenging possible alternatives for a regional trail promoting mountain biking in the vicinity of Boulder.

I have had a lifelong passion for protecting natural resources and balancing that protection with careful use. My professional career as a land manager spans 40 years — and I have held senior leadership positions at both the Federal and State level. I was the first Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife —

and was recruited by Governor Hickenlooper to lead the merger of Colorado State Parks and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. We merged the agency in 2011 and one of our primary emphasis areas was the protection of our Colorado State Parks through proper planning with robust public and community engagement. Since I have become aware of the proposed trail connection, and have reviewed the various reports associated with this proposal — I must say that I do not believe the values of ECSP or the gateway community of Eldorado Springs — have been adequately considered in this process to date. I have learned many lessons in planning and making decisions regarding recreation on public lands. One of the most important lessons that I have learned is that not every recreation use is appropriate for every setting. That is certainly true in this instance — El Dorado State Park is famous for climbing, hiking and picnicking. We are not opposed to a Regional Trail connection, nor do we oppose opportunities for mountain biking, we simply believe there are better alternatives and do not see any contemporary analysis that considers alternative locations outside of the state park.

Impacts to Eldorado Canyon State Park

ECSP has experienced a dramatic increase in visitation over the last decade. Since 2008, annual visitation has increased two and half times! Visitation, and the attendant degradation of both the natural resources and the visitors experience, has grown from 200,000/year in 2008 to over 500,000/year in 2017. (It is worth noting that this data was not presented in any of the public meetings concerning this project — it only appeared in the final feasibility study buried on page 87) This all occurring in the very narrow canyon with one road to provide ingress and egress for all visitors. The Park and the community infrastructure have simply exceeded their carrying capacity and the infrastructure is inadequate to address reality. The current ECSP management plan is from 2000 and is almost 20 years old. That plan did not contemplate this level of use and must be updated to address the current management challenges — before a new, large scale use (a regional mountain biking trail) is added and contributes to the existing management challenges. Nor does the current 2000 plan contemplate any regional connection trail on the preferred so called “North route”. In fact, CPW has acknowledged this situation in their “Eldorado Canyon State Park 2017 Fact Sheet”. Each Colorado State Park produces a “Fact Sheet” to describe top attractions and challenges. The 2017 ECSP fact sheet, under the heading “Challenges we face”, states:

- The park is continually seeing record high visitation. El Dorado Canyon reaches capacity on weekends and holidays year-round, especially between March and November. Such intensive use in the “Inner Canyon” affects the natural resources and visitor experiences”.
- Insufficient staffing levels, due to budget cuts, are leading to undue strain on personnel tasked with managing the high volume of visitation.
- Wildfire mitigation work in the Inner Canyon and Crescent Meadow areas continues with help from Colorado State Forest Service and other agencies.

This State Park has only four permanent employees, and 8 seasonal employees to deal with a half a million visitors! The park manager worries in his message as part of the fact sheet that the park is in danger of being “loved to death”.

In the Feasibility Study for the trail connection here are a few excerpts:

Page 9: "The Eldorado Springs area has experienced transportation, parking and access issues for decades. There is only one road extending several miles from Highway 93. The road serves entrances for

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trailheads for city public lands, the state park, Eldorado Springs, Artesian Springs pool, and residences to the west of the state park.

Eldorado Canyon State Park's parking spots are filled during peak times, particularly on weekends and holidays during the summer months. On many days, visitors cannot enter the park due to capacity issues. Illegal parking on the road's shoulder in the community of Eldorado Springs and along the road back to Highway 93 is a common challenge for the public land managers and the community."

Page 23: This is an excerpt that shows the analysis of both the North and South routes — both of which go through Eldorado Springs and the Inner Canyon.

Park Capacity and Visitation

- Both:
 - o adversely impact ECSP, which is already beyond capacity during busy periods and currently experiencing significant increases in visitation.
 - o result in an increase in visitation of approximately 60 more daily visitors exacerbating existing issues with park capacity.

Access and Parking

- Both negatively impact park access and parking availability, which is already beyond capacity during busy periods. No public parking is available in the town of Eldorado Springs or along Highway 170. Illegal parking in the town is a recurrent problem.

Visitor Conflict and Enjoyment

- Both increase visitor density and conflict along existing trails.
- South The anticipated increase in the numbers of mountain bikers on the existing Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, which is steep, would likely contribute to increased visitor conflict along that trail. I share the above (emphasis added) from the feasibility study and CPW to illustrate that these issues are well known — and I hope the OSMP board will consider these in their deliberations to protect the park and the community going forward.

Impacts to Eldorado Springs

The community of Eldorado Springs has submitted a petition that shows over 90% of its residents are opposed to the proposed Eldo-Walker trail connection. The community bears the brunt, and has for decades, of the over use of ECSP. The community has done so willingly, for the most part, but simply feels they have not been heard in this latest process. As stated in multiple planning documents over the years, Eldorado Springs has experienced the impacts of the exponential increases in visitation to ECSP. Traffic, illegal parking, violation of private property rights, safety issues, are increasing every year — and until ECSP and CPW are able to complete a new comprehensive park management plan there is no light at the end of the tunnel for residents. In addition, there are significant air quality issues due to the number of vehicles going through the community. No where in any of the studies are these human health issues addressed — and they should be.

Please Join us to Protect Eldorado Canyon State Park

We have three simple requests of the Board of Trustees:

1. Put the current Eldo-Walker connection trail on hold: It is very clear that the proverbial cart is before the horse with this project. What needs to happen first is that ECSP must complete a Comprehensive State Park Management Plan to address the intense environmental and social issues the confront given

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over 500,000 visitors/year. This new plan can address whether mountain biking is an appropriate use of the park, and if so, at what scale. The last plan was completed in 2000 and is woefully out of date. In fact, even the OSMP plans are 2005-2006 vintage (almost 15 years old) and preceded the incredible population boom in Colorado. We ask the Board of Trustees to please join us in advocating for a new park management plan to be completed before any more movement supporting the current trail connection proposal.

2. Broaden the Study, and alternatives, beyond ECSP: As stated above, the Feasibility Study only considered alternatives through the Inner Canyon — with immense impacts to both the Park and the community. We are aware of other alternative ways to access the front range from Walker Ranch — specifically the Chapman Drive trail is a viable scenario that should be analyzed in depth. As stated above, the cumulative impacts in Eldorado Canyon, the community and valley below may be some of the greatest of any potential site in Boulder County for a regional mountain biking trail connection.

3. Add the community of Eldorado Springs as a formal, and co-equal partner in future planning: The community wants a voice in this matter. We are the ones directly in the line of fire and will be impacted most directly with any additional recreation use at ECSP. Governor Polis has indicated, even as a Congressman representing Boulder on issues such as oil and gas development, that he wants local communities to have a say in development which impacts their quality of life. Eldorado Springs asks for the same consideration in any decision regarding ECSP. We would prefer to begin, as a partner with CPW, in developing the ECSP Management Plan right away — while tabling this proposal until that process is complete.

Thank you for considering my letter and suggestions. Again, I hope the OSMP and the City of Boulder look broadly at this issue — as a regional trail should not be approved if it degrades the public lands that the citizens of Boulder love and enjoy — whether they are city lands or state park lands. The City of Boulder has a long history of advocating for the protection of our incredible public lands and open spaces. In truth one of the greatest assets to Boulder is ECSP — it is probably the most remarkable, and strikingly beautiful area in Boulder County. As a Boulder resident I want our leaders to protect this special place, and places like it. That is Boulder's heritage and why many of us choose to call this home. Please exercise your discretion as a Board of Trustees to set this proposal aside until we can address the overwhelming issues at ECSP and the community of Eldorado Springs — we want you to join us and we are counting on you.

Respectfully,
Rick Cables

Alexy Davies • Boulder
2/12/2019 • 437

I'm writing in support of the proposed Eldorado to Walker Connector Trail as both a hiker and biker. The trail has been on the books since the West TSA (or perhaps since it was closed years ago?), several public meetings were held, now some vocal people are speaking in opposition. All three public agencies recommended a trail after public input. Issues raised can be worked as we move forward.

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Traffic appears to be the biggest issue raised, however it is already so bad that many of us don't go there on the weekend now. The issue exists now. Shuttles, charging more, etc are a few potential ways to lessen the issue.

I plan to ride from Boulder, or to Boulder if coming from Nederland which will be much safer than coming down Flagstaff.

Boulder needs more trails in the mountains accessible by bike from town.

Thank you!

alexey davies - boulder

Scott Lehman & Bay Roberts•Eldorado Springs

2/12/2019• 436

I am a resident of Eldorado Springs and a long time climber and trail runner. My wife is an avid mountain biker and naturalist. We both appreciate and travel long, through-going wilderness trails near home and throughout the world and we both STRONGLY OPPOSE the connector trail as currently proposed and therefore urge OSBT and The City of Boulder (along with their State and County agency partners) to TABLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION of the project. Rather, The City and its agency partners should assist in promoting and executing of a MANAGEMENT PLAN that addresses present and growing ³carrying capacity² issues within the Park, in the gateway community of Eldorado Springs, and at nearby City of Boulder Open Space trailheads.

Key deficiencies of the current proposal are:

1) Near-unanimous opposition to the proposal within the project gateway community of Eldorado Springs, as evidenced by a recent community petition and County Staffs own survey showing >90% opposition. The City SHOULD NOT HAVE AN INTEREST in any project that adds to existing, un-mitigated problems of crowding and safety in Eldorado Springs or the State Park, even if the township and Park lay outside Boulder city limits. Rather, the City should aim to be a partner in addressing (not aggravating) those problems.

2) The project Feasibility Study, prepared by County Staff for inter-agency guidance, is seriously flawed. Firstly, THE STUDY DOES NOT EVALUATE THE ³NO ACTION² OPTION, stating a) ³With no new trail connection, the No Action option would not achieve the desired objectives of the project² while also noting b) that ³BOTH [the proposed N & S trail alignments] adversely impact the park, which is already beyond capacity during busy periods [and would] [i)] increase traffic and congestion, [ii] increase visitor density and potential conflict along existing trails, [iii] increase visitation, estimated up to 60 more daily visitors² (~22,000 over the year if this is an authentic daily average). In rejecting the No Action option the stance in a) assumes there MUST be a trail, indicating the study is NOT A BALANCED FEASIBILITY STUDY BUT A TRAIL PLAN, IN CONTRADICTION TO ITS STATED AIM, TITLE AND PRESUMED MANDATE while b) concedes that EITHER OF THE TWO CONSIDERED TRAIL ROUTES WILL AGGRAVATE EXISTING PROBLEMS. Furthermore, it is noted that the addition of a trail will help to create a mandate for a Management Plan

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sometime down the road. Had the No Action option been considered in the Feasibility Study, the study conclusion might logically have been that a Management Plan was needed BEFORE consideration of any proposal to add new uses to an already overburdened Park system. This view has since been adopted by BOCO's POSAC, as per their recommendation last month.

3) The City's own Open Space Long-Range Management Policies include the statement: ³OSMP long term planning guidance states where there are real or potential conflicts between nature and human use in the boulder mountain parks, preference will be given to sustaining nature; both for its intrinsic values and its value as a component of human experience², while the Feasibility Study notes ³This area [owned by the City] includes most of the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail. It is designated as a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA), which is managed to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems with lower levels of visitor use². THE CITY MUST CONSIDER AND, IDEALLY, FOLLOW ITS OWN GUIDANCE. Parts of the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail are remote (by near-City standards), leading to low levels of use more commensurate with HCA protections. ADDING A NEW, MECHANIZED USE WILL DEFACTO INCREASE OVERALL USE AND DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CITY HCA (in comparison to otherwise sparse foot traffic). The City must endeavor to follow its own guidance and maintain the ³intrinsic value² of the remote portions of the Eldorado Canyon Trail and its riparian crossings.

4) In that the proposed trail alignment will increase overall use (including a mechanized use) in a City HCA, one would expect the City to require a thorough analysis of environmental impacts. No such analysis is evident from the Feasibility Study.

In closing, it must be noted that a bike connector trail proposed many years ago for EVALUATION has since morphed into a perceived COMMITMENT and PLAN through persistent mis-representation of the facts (including mis-representations of a 2011 City Council vote in favor of a different routing in 2011). Not all proposals that may have been viable a decade ago are equally viable now. Conditions have since changed markedly due to regional population growth and attendant increases in State Park visitation and crowding of nearby City trailheads. The City's own West TSA studies note these issues (already evident in 2011), including documentation of degraded user experience on multi-use trails when mountain biking is permitted. PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR OWN GUIDANCE AND TABLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF ANY PLAN THAT DELIBERATELY ADDS NEW USES AND USERS TO THE STATE PARK AND NEARBY TRAILHEADS THAT ARE ALREADY AT OR OVER CAPACITY AND WHICH WILL DEGRADE THE EXPERIENCE OF EXISTING USERS. Instead the City may wish to assist in promoting a long-needed Management Plan while considering alternative Boulder-to-Walker connector routes outside the State Park.

Thank you for your service and for this opportunity to provide this input.

SCOTT LEHMAN AND BAY ROBERTS

Jorge Rufat-Latre • Boulder

2/11/2019 • 435

There is already a connector between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch. It is one of the few trails that has not been transformed into a fire road or de-rocked (which turns trails into mud pits when it rains). Technical trails are excellent to exercise balance and strengthen ankles. Simple health care advice: keep

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natural means for people to stay in shape. Leave Eldorado Canyon-Walker Ranch the way it is. Mountain bikers need the connector? They're welcome to use the existing one. Aren't there parts of Walker Ranch where mountain bikers have to dismount? It would be the same here. Please don't modify the existing connector.

vanessa witte•Boulder

2/11/2019• 434

I fully support the Eldo to Walker connection! I have been in Boulder ~6 years and an active member of BTR (boulder trail runners). I think it would be a fantastic way to provide biker, hiker, and runner access to a long route for training or day biking/hiking. Many runners in the BTR group have expressed their support and have been looking for legal ways of creating a route through to Winter Park. I encourage you to allow this initiative to keep moving forward! Thank you!

James and Silvia Newcomb•Eldorado Springs & Boulder

2/11/2019• 433

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of a mountain bike trail through a relatively pristine protected area between Walker Ranch and Eldorado Springs. Our use of protected lands should be minimally invasive, not involving heavy construction of dozens of switchbacks and trail infrastructure in a sensitive area.

Please don't allow this to happen on protected lands!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James and Silvia Newcomb

David Schafer•Boulder

2/11/2019• 432

I am writing tonight in support of the proposed trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch. As a parent of two mountain biking boys, I can attest to the value of trails in our community. There is a saying that "great trails build great communities" which I think is applicable to Boulder. As a family, we spend a lot of time outside, riding, hiking and even building/restoring trails. This has helped our boys develop a strong conservation ethic, and good values around personal fitness and achievement. While we recognize the challenges associated with this proposed trail, especially the potential for traffic impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, I feel that these challenges are far outweighed by the benefits to the overall community. I would submit that many would ride their bicycle to the trail, rather than driving. This is something we already do when we ride Marshall Mesa, or Doudy Draw.

Our boys ride with Boulder Junior Cycling and the Boulder High Mountain Biking team, both of which are great assets to our community in terms of the inclusive environment they provide on their teams, and the way they support our children to achieve their goals, whether they be winning races, or simply enjoying the time outside on a bike with friends. These teams often ride from town, and are in desperate need of more trails to ride on. Currently there are limited trail options for the various teams to use for their after school workouts, without having to drive. Adding this trail would provide some

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relief to the teams such as Boulder High, BJC or Fairview, who are in need of additional trail options for their training.

Cycling is an important part of our community, and is an activity that brings people together. Please join me in supporting this proposed addition to our local trail system.

Sincerely,

David Schafer

Jenn Archuleta•

2/11/2019• 431

I am writing as a resident of the city of Boulder and as an individual, but I am writing to clarify my actions as a member of BCPOS. I AM IN NO WAY SPEAKING FOR POSAC OR FOR BOULDER COUNTY. The Eldo-Walker recommendation came before our board on January 24 and I abstained from voting. My reasoning is as follows:

1. I fully support a trail connector. Although the one proposed was not the best alignment, in my opinion, given what was available, it works for the purpose of providing multi-use access from the foothills to Walker Ranch and beyond. It is an important piece of regional trail connectivity. The concerns opponents expressed about high-speed descents and user conflict are conflated. Trails with short runs and numerous switchbacks control speed as a bike cannot make those switchback turns at higher speeds. The bigger concern, for me, is erosion from braking into the corners as well as corners eroding off the back side. Additionally, foot traffic will cut the switchbacks and make social trails to shorten the distance. This phenomenon is seen all over the Front Range on trails that have switchbacks where the next trail segment can be seen from the one above. So the notion that hikers are pristine trail users and that bikes ruin the trails has never sat well with me. I've built trail from grasslands plains to fourteeners and wilderness areas and the damage done to trails in areas where no bikes are allowed is extensive. Which is why trails are the best management tool to protect property. But only if the trails are well built, get people where they want to go and disperse people quickly. The BCPOS trails staff knows how to build trails that manage people. I trust that if they offered up an alignment, or signed off on one from a consultant, that that was the best alignment for the corridor in question.
2. The issues around parking are real and are difficult, but they are not necessarily for Boulder County Open Space to solve. There will be no new parking. Adding a trail is not adding parking so there won't be any more vehicles than the park management decides to let in. The additional users will either queue up with the other people waiting, will park outside of the park and Eldorado Springs and ride in, or will turn around and ride elsewhere. I suspect the last option because there are other trails nearby to ride whereas families, climbers and park hikers are there to experience the park specifically. The current use is already problematic. The argument that allowing bikes on one trail will overrun the park is specious. Eldorado Springs needs to partner with CPW, CDOT, Boulder County and the City of Boulder to manage their traffic problem. Voting to not open the trail and/or to not allow bikes until the problem is solved is, in my view, a vote to never allow bikes if we make it a problem for Open Space to fix – traffic is not their primary function. The recommendation sent by POSAC to the Commissioners is, to me, a vote for the “no action” plan, which is why I abstained.

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3. Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff did a feasibility study, reached out to the public, received input and brought forth a recommendation to build the trail. They looked at all of the things land managers look at before signing off. I trust that, if staff said it's feasible, it is. Access to public lands shouldn't get determined by the loudest, especially when the issues they are complaining about don't have to do with the actual trail but rather, getting to that trail. If land managers limit access for a particular user group, it should be legitimate - eg. The banning of dogs because of wildlife corridor disruption, disallowing large groups (12 heartbeats) in wilderness areas, seasonal closures to climbers for nesting birds. It should not be arbitrary because one group of people does not like another. To sum up – if the recommendation POSAC voted on was only for #1, building the trail, I would have voted yes. If it were only for numbers 2 and 3, I would have voted no. Having no clear way to get to the acknowledging that the trail is feasible as a multiuse trail and should allow mountain bike access as well as acknowledging that there is a traffic problem for the town of Eldorado Springs and it should be addressed, (but not by the Open Space department, per se), I had no option but to abstain.

Best regards,
Jenn Archuleta

Nancy Denison•Eldorado Springs
2/11/2019• 430

I have had the privilege to hike the West TSA and Eldorado Canyon State Park trails almost daily for the last 25 years. In March 2011 I applauded the Boulder City Council's decision to continue the ban on bicycles in the West TSA. It is my hope that you vote against the new proposed bike trail from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch for the same historic reasons.

When the decision was made in 2011 it was argued that the West TSA is a unique resource which must be preserved for future generations and that the new bike trail would degrade the natural environment and would intrude into some pristine terrain. This same argument was originally made 50+ years ago in 1967 when the Blue Line and Public Open Space was established in the beautiful lands around the City of Boulder paid for with the open space tax. No bikes allowed.

The city and OSMP have done a very good job of managing the balance between conservation and visitor use in the West TSA over the last 5 decades.

The two entities have also designated nine Habitat Conservation Areas as a way to protect areas that provide habitat to some of Boulder's rare plants and animals. HCAs protect some trees and flowers so unusual that they are found nowhere else in Colorado. Other species in HCAs are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Trail from Eldorado State Park to Walker Ranch goes through one of these HCAs. This area should be equally, if not more protected than the West TSA. Again the argument of 50+ years being that bicycles degrade the trails more than hikers and equestrians. This sensitive area must be preserved and kept as "wild" as possible.

There are two diametrically opposed arguments that are made by the mountain bike community in favor of the trail: one being there will be about 60 riders/day on the Eldo-Walker Ranch trail, the other

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being only “expert cyclists” will use it because of the difficulty. 60 bicyclists/day is 21,900 rides a year. The pristine HCA cannot sustain this use. The other premise of “only experts” makes the new trail a prohibitive investment of 500k-750k for relatively few riders unsustainable.

The trail currently in place is a wonderful hiking experience. I promote that it remain as it exists. Perhaps when the State Park gets a much needed management program in place, they can use some of the funds to improve the trail for hikers. We must protect this very special resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Nancy Denison

Joan & Robert Knecht • Eldorado Springs
2/11/2019 • 429

As 15 year residents of the Township of Eldorado Springs, we sincerely hope that this trail connection is NOT pushed through to completion.

This small box canyon that became a State Park is unable to handle the additional use by a huge mountain bike community from Boulder County and even Denver area counties. Historical use, from the early 1900's, is for the incredible artesian water swimming pool, hikers, walkers, picnickers, even horses. IT CANNOT BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE. Enough! 500,000 visitors in 2018 was the estimate as it is. Please reject the recommendations that have come forward for cyclists.

Many like minded persons have been writing to the 3 entities that have the power in this decision. They have done their due diligence and are more eloquent than I. Please listen and act .

Regards,
Joan Knecht
Robert Knecht

Shirley Hoffman • Longmont
2/11/2019 • 428

As an equestrian who has lived for 46 years in Boulder County and whose family members and European guests have ridden the trails all those years, I want to weigh in with the following concerns regarding the currently-proposed "North" trail connection from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch, and to support the "South" alignment instead. I am not opposed to a trail connecting these areas, but I am strongly opposed to the one being put forth by staff, especially since I believe there is a better alignment that will accomplish the same objective while minimizing its impacts.

The North alignment will obliterate the existing trail, which was built by equestrians(!) for our use and for pedestrians. No matter how badly they want it, I believe there is no room for mountain bikes in this dangerous, rocky slot canyon. The North alignment will necessitate more than 39 switchbacks in a very short distance because it must be forced into such a steep and narrow place. Finally, I am appalled that no consideration has been given to the need for additional parking that will be generated by this trail. The North alignment dictates that all users access the starting point of the trail by going through the town of Eldorado Springs, severely adding to that community's woes by generating traffic, illegal

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parking, dust, and general commotion. From there it will force all trail users to share the only existing road through the park, which is already dangerous and choked with vehicle and climber traffic all year long. There is no overarching reason to build the North trail.

In contrast, I believe the South alignment was not given fair consideration. The South alignment trail could be designed attractively to accommodate pedestrians, equestrians and mountain bikers alike, minimizing visitor conflict. The South alignment would use several existing trail segments and old ranch roads, minimizing disturbance of natural resources. There is no justification for dismissing the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as one of those segments -- it's a scenic old road to a former hotel site that has recently received significant upgrades including amazing bridges -- so use it! Similarly, the Fowler Trail is part of an old railroad grade and its use as part of the South alignment would enable trail users to avoid the town of Eldorado Springs completely. Unlike the North alignment, the South alignment would neatly avoid the extremely dangerous "Wall" at Walker Ranch. This entire area is not pristine wilderness, having been used for two centuries for ranching, mining, and railroads, so I urge you to disregard fear-mongering by staff and extreme environmentalists who reflexively oppose all trails everywhere. The South alignment is far better than the North one on all counts.

I am concerned that both alignments will clog the existing OSMP Doudy Draw and South Mesa Trail parking lots, which are already over capacity especially on weekends. Equestrians were effectively displaced from the South Mesa Trail years ago, but in exchange we won a few designated horse trailer parking spots in the Doudy Draw lot. However, staff never enforced the horse trailer parking designations at Doudy Draw (did you know that we also built the Doudy Draw Trail?), and has actually encouraged passenger cars to park there instead, resulting in a situation where there is no longer anyplace for equestrians to park. And you wonder why you see so few equestrians out on the trails anymore? This is our habitat too, and I urge you to consider the impacts to us of additional trail pressure on the existing parking lots.

Please reject the current proposal. Adopt the South alignment instead and build additional parking on OSMP to accommodate the additional use that will be generated by this trail. Thank you.

Shirley S. Hoffman,

Julia Hoilien•Eldorado Springs

2/11/2019• 427

I'm Julia Hoilien and have lived in Eldorado Springs for 27 years. My husband and I raised our kids here. We have watched the State Park grow beyond capacity over the years. The congestion certainly needs to be addressed but adding another user group is not the answer!

I am writing in opposition of the trail connection from Eldo to Walker Ranch. I realize at one point in time this seemed like a good idea but after seeing and living in the congestion and overuse in the community of Eldorado Springs and Eldorado Canyon State Park it is a terrible idea. I realize your concerns are not with what we in the small town of Eldo experience but if you lived here you would be in total agreement!

The area in which you plan on putting this trail is part of your own HCA. This area is designated for good reason. Adding the addition of mountain bikes will certainly counter the intention of the wisdom of past

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open space managers. Habitat needs to be protected as we continue to absorb the 500,000+ annual visitors per year. This number will only grow!

Safety is also at issue. In the summer there are daily rescues happening from climbing and hiking injuries. The rescue vehicles are often times stopped in traffic. The park is a box canyon with little wiggle room! There will certainly be more injuries on the proposed trail.

The three agency's that agreed on this plan did not think this out clearly nor did they address the community of Eldorado Springs on all issues involved. You are well aware of those issues.

As one of my neighbors commented "If you build it they will come." It is so true..Just look at the number of pro mountain bikers you have heard from! That alone will tell you that this pristine and natural area needs to be protected! Please vote for the NO ACTION plan!

Thank you,

Julia Hoilien

140 Artesian Drive

Eldorado Springs, Colorado

Kurt Aronow•Eldorado Springs

2/11/2019• 426

Introduction: Hi, I'm Kurt Aronow, and I live at 177 Artesian Drive in Eldorado Springs, CO. Once, I rode a bicycle from Texas to Alaska on a route that included a thousand miles of mud—so I can appreciate bicycle connecting routes. I've also been running, hiking, and climbing in this area since 1990. I oppose the proposed mountain bike trail from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch because of parking and congestion problems, safety concerns (on the trail and on the road through Eldorado Springs) and the loss of what is now a pristine trail which includes passing through the southern portion of the Western Mountain Parks HCA.

Requests:

1. Do not recommend this trail. The environmental, social, and actual financial costs far outweigh the benefits to the mountain biking user group.
2. At the very least, do a complete environmental assessment of the HCA before approving the trail. The City of Boulder has committed to environmental stewardship of their HCAs.
3. Require that Eldorado Canyon State Park develop a visitor management plan that addresses the existing severe overcrowding—and that this plan be approved and funded—before the trail is approved. (Right now, the park routinely completely fills up three days a week from May through October—with a queue of cars extending all the way through the township of Eldorado Springs.)

The Western Mountain Parks HCA is considered so delicate that permits are required for people to go off-trail. The Boulder HCAs some trees and flowers found nowhere else in Colorado. Other species in HCAs are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Creating what amounts to a new trail across this HCA would establish a dangerous precedent for these pristine areas near Boulder—and would contradict the purpose of the HCAs.

Issues with the recent Feasibility Study: This study obviously had a strong pro-trail bias. Essentially, it asked whether it would be better to build a wall with Mexico on the American or the Mexican side

instead of whether this was a good idea. The no-trail option was considered merely a baseline. The study included the following short-comings:

1. Although it recommends further environmental assessment, it urges that the trail be built without considering such an assessment (instead of completing the assessment and then considering a trail).
2. It does not look into the cost and benefits of the no-trail option.
3. It significantly under-represented the recent growth in the number of visitors to Eldorado Canyon State Park in the last two years (actually 88%).
4. It presented the proposed trail as an improvement for visitor experience when actually, it would ONLY improve mountain bikers' experiences—at the less-than-zero-sum detriment to all of the other trail users.

Proposed Trail was Never Mandated: Numerous previous planning documents at the state, county, and city level have suggested investigating the feasibility of the proposed mountain bike trail. However, the crowding and congestion issues in Eldorado Canyon State Park are well over twice what they were in 2011 when the West Trails Study Area Plan was done.

Natural Resources for City of Boulder Residents: Eldorado Canyon State Park and its surroundings are part of the natural areas that make the City of Boulder such a great place to live. The city has invested heavily in preserving the environmental integrity of its neighboring state park by buying surrounding lands. The township of Eldorado Springs holds a significant portion of the Boulder's history.

Many of Us Like Mountain Biking, But: We enjoy the trails around Dowdy Draw and Marshall Mesa which appear to be good places for mountain bikes—whereas a pristine HCA is not. We also recognize that mountain bikes are not conducive to single-track multi-use trails. When mountain bikes become a major user of trails, hikers, bird-watchers, and other users tend to go elsewhere. It is also a bogus assertion that most mountain bikers will ride to the proposed mountain bike trailhead from Boulder. While this might be true individually, one only has to look at the Dowdy Draw & Marshall Mesa trailheads to understand that the vast majority of mountain bikers prefer to drive to a trailhead.

30-40 Switchbacks: The feasibility study calls for 30-40 new switchbacks (i.e., scars on the land) to be cut up a pristine hillside, visible from all over the canyon—in what is mostly now untouched natural land.

What is the Eldorado Canyon Trail Like? I love this trail. It is probably the driest hill trail near Boulder in the winter because of its southern aspect. When you hike up from the trailhead in Eldorado Canyon State Park, depending on the time of day, you may pass large families with small children and dogs. Then, you might also be passed by strong hikers heading to Walker Ranch or by rock climbers headed up to the Rincon and Cadillac Crags. The trail goes uphill, but the switchbacks make it somewhat easier than the trails up Green Mountain or Shadow Canyon. One early morning run, I saw a bear just up from the trailhead. I've also seen mule deer, bull snakes, bees, butterflies, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, and heard (but not seen) peregrine falcons.

After you pass the turn-off that the climbers take to the crags (about a mile up), you'll contour around to the north and the west through the City of Boulder's Western Mountain Parks habitat conservation area. On weekends, the crowds begin to thin out after you pass a rise in the trail with an overlook of the country to the west and begin descending to a small gully—and then climb back up and around to finally get to the high point of the trail. By this time, you're in rolling, beautiful terrain with large Ponderosa

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piners. Here, it usually seems that my cares have dropped completely away. You might see only a few other hikers or runners as you now descend down all the way to a bridge at South Boulder Creek where you can join up with the Walker Ranch mountain bike loop. During this descent, you'll see more and more wildlife as you approach the riparian corridor in Boulder County open space.

Mountain bikers will completely change this experience. Instead of having cares drop away, you will continually be looking around so you don't get run down. When a mountain bike does approach, you'll simply have to duck into the brush because effectively, mountain bikes will always have the real right of way—just like horses. If an additional trail is carved up the hillside in parallel with the first mile of hiking trail, it will wreck the experience of being out in this pristine area and will feel like more of a city experience.

Once the hikers and mountain bikers are sharing the same trail, you will no longer be able to find solitude here—and this is only so the mountain bikers don't have to drive up Flagstaff to get to Walker Ranch. I suggest looking to connections through Chapman Drive for a dirt route from Boulder to the Indian Peaks—and not tearing up this existing glorious trail.

Sean Joyce • Eldorado Springs

2/11/2019 • 425

I am a long term owner of property in Eldorado Springs and I am writing to strongly oppose this bike trail under consideration. This plan is not in the best interest of the town, the environment or the animals that live in the area.

The construction required to build this path would cause a significant impact on the land and the animals.

The increased traffic and visitors would impact the residents and tax the already overcrowded road that cannot really handle more traffic.

This plan would also create more safety hazards due to all the bikers.

The canyon is already over crowded and this plan would make that worse.

The proposed design, and construction required is absurd and not something that should be approved.

I strongly urge you to vote against this proposal as this is wrong all around.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sean Joyce

Kathy Madden •

2/11/2019 • 424

I am writing in support of the proposed mountain bike trail from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. I was born in Boulder and have lived here my whole life. I have seen more and more trails closed to biking in Boulder as the years go by. I now have 4 kids, 3 of whom mountain bike (along with myself and my husband). We are frustrated by the fact that we often have to drive to trailheads. We would really use and appreciate another trail in town that we could ride our bikes to. We regularly volunteer hours to help with trail maintenance and we would continue to do so if this trail was built.

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We would greatly appreciate your serious consideration to building this trail. I think another trail in Boulder would benefit the citizens of Boulder and would help to diminish the need to drive to trailheads, often far away.

Thank you,
Kathy Madden

Nick Jancewicz•Longmont

2/11/2019• 423

Regarding the recent debate on converting Eldorado Canyon hiking trail into a mechanized traffic (bike) route:

A large segment of the public has been excluded from the debate because no notice about it was ever posted at the trailhead. As a result, many hikers, joggers, runners, tourists, wildlife viewers (I once encountered a bighorn sheep on that trail that was driven down from the higher country by bad weather) and climbers who regularly use the trail were unaware of it. I've hiked it for 30+ years and was shocked to learn of this terrible idea in a recent Boulder Weekly. To push this idea forward without so much as posting a trailhead notice for users to see for at least a year would be a slap in the public's face. This proposal is a lose-lose situation for everyone. How much fun will it be for bikes having to stop every 50 feet to avoid hitting hikers, tourists etc? The park already reaches over-capacity and visitors are denied entry on most sunny weekends. The overcrowding will only get worse as the population on the front range explodes. Throwing busloads of bikers into the mix will create absolute chaos, and there's not enough park staff to control it. A better and more direct route from Boulder to Magnolia Road and Indian Peaks is via Flagstaff Road and County Road 68J.

I like to bike but I also hike. Bikers, why not try hiking for a change? You may notice a beautiful insect, animal or flower that you could never see while trying to get airborne on a bike. You can hardly take in the beauty when you must be focused on avoiding crashes with other bikes and trail users.

This trail is one of the most strikingly beautiful hiking trails on the planet. The delicate vegetation and steep, rocky terrain of Rincon slope and West flank of Shirttail peak is not well-suited for bikes. To tear up this magnificent scenery any more than has already been done would be a desecration.

The words of Teddy Roosevelt apply to Eldorado Canyon as they did to the Grand Canyon: "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. You can only mar it. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it. What you can do is keep it for your children, your children's children and for all who come after you."

Sincerely,
Nick Jancewicz

Penina Bernstein•Eldorado Springs

2/11/2019• 422

I am writing to you about the proposed Walker Ranch Bike Trail, that I believe, will have very detrimental affects on Eldorado State Canyon and the town of Eldorado Springs.

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As a climber, I want to preserve the unique history and its distinctive beauty of Eldo. Historically, Eldo has been a world class climbing area, and a place for hikers to seek solace on quiet trails. It is becoming harder and harder to find areas where you can still find yourself alone on the trail, and Eldo is one of those few remaining places. The park is already unable to manage the constantly increasing usage of the park, so why invite a trail that is only going to increase the parks usage exponentially?

I think there is a very dangerous trend in the outdoor community where athletes feel entitled to use land for recreational purposes. Just because we can physically put a bike trail in the park, doesn't mean it is the right thing to do. We, as a community, need to be reminded of why we engage in outdoor sports in the first place. For many of us, it is to bring us close to nature, but do we want to do that at the expense of destroying the very land we seek to be close to?

We need to learn how to better mitigate our usage of lands to see that we don't lead to the erosion of the land we love.

We need to instill an ethic in our community that seeks to care for the lands we use, we need to stop loving these places to death. I think the proposed trail, will negatively affect the vegetation and wildlife in the park.

As a resident of Eldorado Springs, I am fearful that the increase in usage of the park, that the proposed trail will inevitably bring, will cause safety issue in the town. An increase in traffic, will prevent first responders from reaching calls in a timely fashion, childre playing in the street will be at risk of vehicular accidents, and parking will be taken away from residents. I am fearful that many visitors will not see Eldorado Springs as the lovely residential area that it is, they will simply see it as the road to the park. I implore you, to take a stand against this proposed trail. I believe we need to rally and organize against this proposal. Please fight to preserve Eldorado State Canyon and the town of Eldorado Springs.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this further, and to let me know if there is any way that I can be of assistance..

Warmly,
Penina Bernstein

Eileen Monyok•Boulder
2/10/2019• 421

I am writing to request, that as part of the Eldorado/Walker Ranch trail planning, there is simultaneous planning and implementation of significantly more parking and infrastructure to handle the coming additional large volume of park users. Parking at Eldorado Canyon State Park (Eldo) is already a frustrating nightmare on weekends. As a rock climber and hiker, unless I arrive at Eldo early in the morning, I am forced to retreat and go elsewhere, because parking is at capacity.

It is common knowledge that the Eldo/Walker Ranch trail will be immensely popular with the mountain biking community, attracting numerous bikers on weekends from Boulder and Jefferson Counties, as well as Denver. Once parking in Eldo is full, the bikers will then be parking and over-filling the trailhead parking lots for South Mesa, Doudy Draw, Marshall Mesa, and South Boulder Creek (West) trails. The hikers wanting to hike these trails will then be forced to drive around in search of other hiking options. This additional driving and searching is wasteful, aggravating, and greenhouse gas producing.

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The additional planning and implementation for Eldo parking and infrastructure does not need to cause any delays in the trail project, if the work is done simultaneously. Even if there is a delay of a few months, it will be time well spent to prevent the frustrating consequences of the alternative. The mountain biking community, as team players in the recreation community, would surely be understanding and supportive of a positive outcome with additional parking and infrastructure. The mountain biking community has already pledged their understanding and patience in yielding to hikers and equestrians on the trail. Certainly, they can apply these qualities of patience and understanding to any short delays that would yield a better outcome for all recreation stakeholders.

The construction timeline of the Eldo/Walker trail is not an urgent matter. It is only a trail for the recreation enjoyment of mountain bikers. The trail is not going to reduce any car travel. It will likely increase car travel as more bikers from Denver, Jefferson, and Boulder Counties drive to the Eldorado Springs Drive/Hwy 170 corridor to park and then ride the Eldo/Walker trail. No harm will befall anyone if the trail construction is delayed a few months while proper parking and infrastructure planning take place.

The mountain biking community has already had recent great successes with increased trails and access, most in HCAs no less, with the addition of Lower Chapman Drive, new access on Upper Chapman Drive, the pre-North TSA development of the Interim Joder Trail, new access on the Buckingham Trail, and ultimately the approval of the North Sky Trail. The mountain biking community can certainly still enjoy these successes, even if there are short delays with parking and infrastructure implementation that coincide with the Eldo/Walker Trail development.

The time to plan and implement the additional parking and infrastructure to support the Eldo/Walker trail is now. The time is not after the trail is built and open, and cars are lined up and circling while they search for parking in Eldo and the other popular south of Boulder trailheads. I have read through the project website. It discusses the Eldo/Walker Ranch trail options in detail, but it provides no detail on solutions to the parking and overcrowding problem. Let's not put the cart before the horse. Let's start planning and applying solutions for the parking and overcrowding now.

Warm regards,
Eileen Monyok

Deb Piranian • Boulder
2/10/2019 • 420

First I would like to thank you for your work on managing our city and land. For many, if not all of you, your work is either without pay or without truly being financially compensated for all you do. As someone who spends very little time on social media, I only found out about the proposed multi-use trail connecting Walker Ranch and Eldorado Canyon a week before Boulder City Council held its meeting in January. Thus I did not participate in the early process of getting public input.

I am very against the proposed multi-use trail. One reason has to do with the impact on both the state park and the town of Eldorado Springs, as was so well articulated by many people at the City Council meeting (I won't repeat all that here). I would also like to say "dido" to what Roger Briggs addressed in his letter to the editor in the Daily Camera.

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Because I was unable to stay for the later part of the City Council meeting, I do not know how much the issue of "multi-use" was addressed. I would like to share my thoughts on this.

1) It seems the whole process was about whether to build a multi-use trail on the north or south side of Eldorado Canyon. I am not aware of any process that asked a more basic question: Should a multi-use trail even be built, on either side, in Eldorado Canyon?

2) From my perspective the answer to that question is "no." In reality, multi-use trails become primarily bike trails. Although bikes are supposed to yield to hikers, I have never seen a biker yield to a hiker. I have seen bikes slow down (most of the time, but not always) when they approach hikers. But they never yield. They expect the hiker to get out of the way. If all bikers truly yielded to hikers, multi-use trails might be feasible.

3) Given that bikers do not yield to hikers and often behave as though they expect hikers to be aware of their presence, making a multi-use trail in Eldorado Canyon will have a significantly negative impact on other users. Hikers will need to be vigilant in order to avoid bikers.

4) There are large numbers of families who utilize the park for picnics, including hiking up the two non-climber trails on both sides of the canyon. Every time I've hiked up the trail on the north, I've seen families with kids on it. Many of these people are lower income; many are people of color. Historically, people of color have been made unwelcome, if not explicitly excluded, from public lands. If you wish to create an inclusive approach to land use, please consider these people's needs as important as bikers.

5) Given that bikers do not truly yield to hikers and behave as though they assume hikers will get out of the way, multi-use trails can increase hazards for people with disabilities such as limited sight or hearing (I am thinking of some specific people I know with these disabilities who have spoken about dealing with bikes on multi-use trails).

6) Given the steepness of the terrain, I cannot imagine that bikers coming down from Walker Ranch will actually enjoy the larger setting of such a trail. Creating a connector from Walker Ranch to the flat parts of the Front Range could just as easily happen in a different location, one that would not so significantly impact other users.

In short, I think turning any of the existing trails in Eldorado Canyon into multi-use is a bad idea. Such action would significantly negatively impact most users; it would turn such a trail into mostly a bike trail (I'm sure climbers will still use it because of limited access to the adjacent cliffs) or, at best, a stressful place to hike.

I urge you to go back to the question of whether a multi-use trail, on either side of the canyon, is a good idea. Do the research that actively seeks out the perspective of all user groups, not just well funded or well organized groups that might dominate a normal process of public input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deb Piranian

resident of Boulder and long-time user of our wonderful outdoor spaces

Keith Holub • Boulder County

2/10/2019 • 419

As a Boulder County resident and avid mountain biker, I'd like to express my support for the partner agency recommendation for the multi-use trail on the North side of Eldorado Canyon.

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I frequently work with both the City of Boulder and Boulder County on the construction and maintenance of trails as a member of the Boulder Mountain Alliance. I'll be delighted to help in construction of this project and I think it will be a great asset for Boulder County.

I believe that solutions can be found for the parking issues.

Regards,

Keith Holub

Michael Barrow•Lafayette

2/10/2019• 418

I apologize in advance for the length of my comments, but I have a lot to say about this project.

Please see the attached document.

Thank you

mike barrow

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your service and empathize for the onslaught of out-of-scope requests you will be receiving at your February 13 meeting. The scope of your deliberations is quite narrow regarding the Eldo to Walker Feasibility Study. Nonetheless, we can't avoid the elephant in the room; the traffic and parking situation in the State Park and Eldorado Springs.

Hearing the emotional comments made at January's POSAC meeting was quite troubling. There is no question that addressing the traffic and parking issues in Eldorado Springs needs to be addressed.

While I have been advocating for a regional trail that connects the plains to the mountains since 1999, I wasn't familiar with the history of parking and traffic woes our neighbors in Eldorado Springs have endured. So I started digging.

There have been traffic problems in Eldorado Springs for almost 100 years

I've attached two pictures with my email to you. The first one was taken between 1925 and 1935 and the second one is a screen shot I took using Google Earth in January 2019. If one was to make a judgement from just looking at these pictures, you might conclude that the parking and traffic situation was really bad back in the 1920s. But the truth of it is that Eldorado Springs has had a problem with cars since they were created. This resort and village was a destination best suited for trains and cars were an afterthought. Comparing the two photos will give insight as to why the road in the village is private. Why hasn't this problem been addressed already?

I really wanted to understand why, in the 21st Century, we have a ramshackle road in such a popular place? As we already know, the road through Eldorado Springs is private. When you compare the two pictures I've sent gives a clue as to how that happened. Today's road goes right through the building that stood in the 1920s.

The answers to these questions are complex, but to simplify, "Somebody wanted it that way".

Eldorado Canyon State Park was created in 1978 when the owners of the land threatened to quarry the rock, and the outcry was loud enough to have the State of Colorado buy the land. I'm guessing that the residents of Eldorado Springs were quite relieved that the threat of quarry trucks and the sounds of demolition never happened. But in hindsight, the issues of access to the park weren't addressed and probably should have been at that time.

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I've spoken with George Gerstle, Director of Boulder County's Transportation Department. Boulder County doesn't control any of the roads in the area, but the Boulder County Commissioners acknowledged that "business as usual" wasn't acceptable to our neighbors. BCDOT then went through an inclusive, thorough transportation study that, when it was done in 2012, had overwhelming support of the Eldorado Springs community.

But that private road...

The plan, as it was explained to me, had Boulder County putting up \$100,000 and taking on the project management of road improvements. The balance of work was to be split between the State Park and the Artisan Water Company. I commend the BOCC and BCDOT for stepping up; as a Boulder County taxpayer, I am happy that our tax dollars were going toward helping neighbors in Eldorado Springs. But the deal fell apart. Boulder County wanted commitment from the Artisan Water Company to continue to maintain the road in the future. As a Boulder County taxpayer, I concur with this stance, as I don't want my tax dollars going toward ongoing maintenance of a private road. Just think about how that would set a precedent. The Water Company was unwilling to commit to ongoing maintenance and wanted "somebody else" to take on that liability.

Another obvious question is, why not sell the road to the state and relinquish the responsibility of maintaining the road? In my conversation with George Gerstle, he was hesitant to speak for the Water Company, but it's pretty clear the reason why; it's all about parking control. The Water Company and their resort have a parking problem and were unwilling to put the control in government's hands. I would suggest that you query the Water Company's owner or representative about this if they show up at the February 13 OSBT meeting. I would like to hear it directly from them. I think the residents of Eldorado Springs need to hear it as well.

Solving these problems are WAY out of scope for this feasibility study you are considering February 13. But we know that the solutions will require agency cooperation, coordination and resources.

Here's an "out of the box" solution I dreamt up.

- Move the entrance gate to Eldorado Springs State Park to the east, closer to CO 93.
- Utilize an online reservation system for the 220 parking spots within the park.
- Perform a land swap with the State Park. Designate the OSMP land south of Eldorado Springs Drive near CO 93 and north of the Davidson ditch for use as a parking lot. There is OSMP land adjacent to the State Park, swap it for the good of the community and probably get a higher environmental value piece of land in exchange.
- Run a shuttle service from that parking lot to the resort and State Park.

Yes, this idea isn't even half-baked, but it illustrates that solutions can be found if we are willing to think "out of the box". It's going to take a fairly crazy idea to solve this problem.

It pains me to note that I've spent almost a thousand words writing about the complex issues that are beyond your Board's scope, but I felt that sharing my research and perspective on this is relevant to your deliberations. You are going to be asked to put caveats on approval of this multi-use trail until the almost 100 year traffic and parking problems are completely fixed. That is an unreasonable demand in my opinion.

As stated at the beginning of this letter, I've been working on this regional trail for 20 years. We have State, County and City planning documents that call out this corridor.

Why is that? Over the last 20 years I've advocated for a plains to mountains trail experience and whenever a corridor is shot down, elected officials and planners have pointed me to this corridor. Ten years ago we were working with the USFS and Boulder County to see if the aqueduct between Barker Reservoir and Kossler Lake was a viable option. Boulder's Water Department and the BOCC convinced us abandon this effort to focus on the Eldo to Walker connection. During the West TSA process, we looked hard at using Chapman Drive as a viable corridor. But after you climb 1000 feet to get to Flagstaff Road, you get to climb another 1000 feet on the ROAD. Private property make this option unfeasible and dangerous. We looked at a possible corridor from Betasso Preserve during the Benjamin property planning process; private property and the climb over Arkansas Mountain made that unfeasible. Two thirds of Boulder County is public lands but we can't get to the mountains without a car. Even the West TSA, which completely shut mountain bikes out of trails north of Eldorado Springs Drive, west of Broadway and south of Canyon pointed cyclists to the Eldorado Canyon Trail with City Council unanimously approving this corridor.

I have some retorts to emotional testimony that you'll be hearing February 13:

- "This trail will be a destination for mountain bikers." No it will not. Regional trails disperse use and connects islands of recreation that exist in Boulder County that currently require a car to get to. A very small percentage of cyclists will begin and end a ride on this trail in Eldorado Springs or the State Park.
- This will draw thousands of cyclists from Denver and the Front Range. Sorry, not true at all. This will be a trail that appeals to the very strong cyclist that wants to have a strenuous, long distance trail experience. The majority of mountain bikers in the Front Range prefer a trail experience that begins and ends at the same place. They want a stacked loop system that affords a different experience every time you visit. There are much better trail systems west and southwest of Denver that satisfy the weekend warrior. The level of stamina and commitment this trail experience would demand is not for everyone.
- Cars with mountain bikes on them will line up and "steal" parking places. This one is laughable; mountain bikers aren't going to spend 10 minutes waiting in a line to get into the park. If they did and were successful at grabbing a parking place, they would immediately be facing a near 1000 foot climb in less than a half mile. They will need a warm up if they wish to proceed west, better to start from Marshall Mesa, Flatirons Vista, or Greenbelt Plateau Trailheads.
- Actually, I predict that the majority of cyclists that would utilize this trail would be going one way... west to east. I will probably never ride this trail east to west. I would prefer taking the N bus to Nederland and make my way back to Boulder for an epic trail experience.
- Concerns of this trail negatively impacting the natural resources of an HCA is rather ludicrous. The current trail is a neglected scratch of unsustainable crap. Trail construction techniques have come a long way since the 1980's, when Boulder County built this trail on City of Boulder Mountain Parks land (BCPOs Al Hardy knows that story). Creating a sustainable trail and reclaiming the trashed part will be a positive for the resource.
- Claims of user conflict are just as silly. On the State Park side, the trashed out section climbing out of the canyon will remain where the majority of trail users visit, while a separate multi-use trail will climb out of the canyon. I am VERY curious to see the design of this segment, since BMA paid a professional trail designer to assess the feasibility of fixing the State Park segment of this trail. Of course, it doesn't currently exist yet.

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• Mountain bikers will create havoc within Eldorado Springs. That's so lame I can't even address this without expletives. Like we are more dangerous than cars. Sheesh.

Okay, it's time to wrap this up. It is my hope that OSBT approves this Feasibility Study without preconditions. Yes, suggest to staff to continue to work to find solutions to the traffic and parking problems in this area. But know that this problem continues to exist with or without mountain bikes in the mix. And we wouldn't even be talking about these wider issues if we hadn't spent 20 years trying to make this multi-use trail a reality.

It took 15 years to get OSMP, BCPOS and CPW to sit down and work together. Let's use that collaboration to address these parking and traffic issues and make this regional trail happen.

My sincere thanks to you for reading this far. Wednesday evening will be a rough ride for you and me. It is unpleasant to hear my neighbors exclaim that the mountain bikers are coming to rape the women and eat the children. Let's get this feasibility study approved and encourage the State, County and City to work together with the village and Water Company to create a long term fix for a very long term problem.

Mike Barrow
Lafayette

Richard Reynolds•Boulder

2/10/2019• 417

Please support the NO ACTION option for the following reasons. NO ACTION remains an option.

Most of the primary objectives of the Eldorado-Walker connection are not met under the current plan:

- It would drive away passive users.
- There would likely be significant, but as yet not assessed, environmental impacts.
- It would exacerbate crowding in an already overused area.
- It appears to be fiscally irresponsible by catering wholly to a single special interest group.

MBA et al.'s assertions reveal massive contradictions:

1. We must have this trail (for all the cited reasons...e.g., expectations; so much time spent on planning, etc.);
2. We won't add much more congestion because most bikers would find the trail to be too difficult. Only a few experts could really use it. So, with such low biker usage, bikers won't add significantly to the parking/congestion problems in Eldo.

So, we'll spend north of \$800 k to build a trail that only a handful of bikers can or would use??

Also consider bikers' arguments that most bikers would ride bikes to the trail head in Eldo, and so would not add to traffic/parking congestion, with the additional advantage of minimizing their carbon footprint.

Not true on the face of it, for several reasons. As one example, every (nice-weather) week, numerous bikers drive to Doudy Draw trail-head to begin rides. Commercial outfits also begin rides at Doudy Draw, with clients driving there to pick up the bikes.

Importantly, please also consider this, paraphrasing one young biker's testimony at POSAC a few weeks ago:

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“Bikers won't go uphill. That's too hard. We will ride DOWNHILL. We will drive our vehicles to Walker Ranch to start, after parking other vehicles at the bottom in Eldo. When done, we'll then drive back to Walker to fetch the other vehicles.”

Obviously, any downhill riding would be especially hazardous for passive users.

+++++

Proponents of the Bikers’ Trail claim that any new trail construction will be environmentally benign.

On what basis is this claim made?

That statement seems to be based on absence of general ecologic knowledge about user impacts and an unwillingness to acknowledge potential impacts.

I see no evidence that knowledgeable staff at OSMP (our very competent ecologists) have done the requisite studies to determine whether or not, or to what degree, environmental damage would ensue from the massive disturbance, as currently proposed.

Such studies must be undertaken at the “trail scale” (on the order of a few meters to tens of meters), not at the broad scales of generalized ecologic polygons.

First, it is undeniably established and well-documented by staff and other trained observers that, on our Open Spaces, soil disturbance leads to the introduction and spread of invasive plants. There will be an enormous amount of disturbed soil by the addition of new trail (with its numerous switchbacks) on the HCA and elsewhere.

The “feasibility” plan for the Bikers’ Trail does NOT meaningfully consider potential ecological damage. That is, the plan does not include meaningful (trail-scale) assessments of damage, nor have the proposed alignments been meaningfully evaluated or mapped for existing plant communities and associated wildlife habitats.

Yes, the planning assessments correctly surmised that ecologic damage would be RELATIVELY greater for the southern route than for the northern route. But that does NOT mean that the northern route would be free of damage.

The Biker community then has apparently taken the proposed alignment as a fait accompli, with the understanding that what is shown on the plan will in fact be the final alignment, in the absence of a real assessment.

Route changes should not be undertaken in the absence of trail-scale evaluation of ecologic damage.

+++++

Passive users, many seeking quietude, will be suddenly startled by mechanized users. Startlement instills fear. (I’m quite certain that many, if not all, of you have been startled and then immediately felt fear. That’s how humans are programmed.) As a result, passive users will choose avoid the area, as has happened elsewhere on city and county open spaces.

+++++

The new Bike Trail would foster commercialization and add to congestion. Under this proposal, furthermore, we would spend upwards of a million dollars so that commercial mountain bike groups can profit off our investment, as they do elsewhere on open-space trails? And these groups aren’t just local and regional; some are out-of-state.

Please support the NO ACTION option.

Thank you for your efforts and time.

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Richard Reynolds

Chris, Becky, Bergen & Soren Aamot•

2/10/2019• 416

I am writing to ask that you support the Eldorado to Walker trail completion. I write this as a parent, a Boulder High Coach and rider that cherishes what Boulder has to offer for outdoor activities. It is why people want to be in Boulder. It is the lifestyle that is Boulder. I have used the trails in Boulder as long as I have been here, dating back to 1992 and it is one of the reasons that my family loves living here. Any time we have had an opportunity to move away, outdoor activities have been one of the many things that has kept us here. Boulder is beautiful and generous with it's parks and open spaces. 3 years ago my son started high school and I got the opportunity to help coach with the Boulder High Mountain Bike team and spend some incredible time with my son as he grows up. We learned about all the amazing trails that I never knew even existed. We also learned about giving back to the community through Trail work and maintenance. As a family, team and individual we have all come to realize how important it is to help maintain that ability to get out and use some of the best trails in the world by becoming stewards of that privilege. I have taken this to the next step and now my work has regular trail work days and it has all happened because of mountain biking in Boulder. There is not a ride that goes by that I don't think about how the trails are built and cared for. And now my youngest daughter is involved and she has the same appreciation that we have. I cannot tell you how wonderful it feels to be out there with my kids sharing these experiences. These trails are good for families.

I realize that some people are not happy and do not want traffic in their back yard. It is a natural thing to not like change especially when it is close to home, but I truly believe that with the proper management and care of this trail system that it can work for everyone. Are there bad stewards, yes, but they are small in comparison to all the good ones. I ask that you make this work for all involved. There are lot's of options other than NO.

Thank you,

Chris Aamot

Becky Aamot

Bergen Aamot

Soren Aamot

Edward (Ned) Riedel•Boulder

2/10/2019• 415

Other than my wife and children there is nothing in my life that I love more than riding a bike. I have ridden and raced bikes since my childhood. As an adult and as my life has grown more complicated, cycling has proven to be a much-needed form of therapy for me. I regularly leave on early morning rides with like-minded friends, MTB or gravel-bike preferred, and we do our best to string together as many sections of less travelled roads, jeep trails and MTB trails as we can, with two objectives: have fun and stay away from cars.

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One of my most favorite rides is called Super-Walker by local cyclists. Starting from my home in south Boulder, I ride up Flagstaff Road, past the amphitheater road, over the top of the hill, then down to the Walker Ranch trailhead. From there I ride the 7.5 mile Walker Ranch loop, and return home on the road. It is about 20 miles of pavement in exchange for less than 8 miles of off-pavement; not the best ratio, but I do it because I love to ride my mountain bike and refuse to drive to a trail head to which I can safely ride. Other go-to rides for me are Marshall Mesa (~7 miles on the road, for ~17 miles of trail) and Betasso (~10 miles on the road, for ~11 miles of trail).

It is for these reasons that I strongly support the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch trail being opened up to bikes. With this new link, the Super-Walker ride now becomes Super-Walker-Marshall! What is 20 miles of pavement in exchange for less than 8 miles of off-pavement becomes 14 miles on, for almost 30 miles off pavement. The best way to describe a link for bikes, joining Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch is that it would be game changing for local off-road cyclists like me. So, I urge the Open Space Board of Trustees, the Boulder City Council, and the Boulder County Commissioners to support opening the link to cyclists as well.

When it is opened, I'm especially looking forward to riding "Super-Betasso-Walker-Marshall" by linking the aforementioned ride to Betasso using Chapman Drive. See you out there!

Regards,

Edward (Ned) Riedel

Mary O'Brien•Louisville

2/10/2019• 414

I go to Eldorado Canyon State Park, and I have serious concerns about the addition of bikes in the canyon. I am concerned about safety.

When I drive up the road from the park entrance to the parking lot at the end of the road, I focus hard to avoid climbers and to avoid pedestrians who are watching the climbers or hiking along the road. The road is so narrow in places that it is sometimes a challenge for two cars going in opposite directions to simply pass each other. In addition, the road is slippery when it's wet. The addition of bicycles on that stretch of road is a recipe for a disaster.

The bicycles can not be shunted onto the Fowler Trail, as that is designated for people with wheelchairs or strollers. Families with small children also use the trail, which has some significant drop-offs toward the river. Bicycles do not belong on a trail with wheelchairs, strollers, small children, and major drop-offs.

I am a hiker, and have coexisted with bikers without any difficulty. However, I do not believe that bikers can enter or exit Eldorado Canyon State Park without causing a serious safety risk.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Brien

Richard Luck•Eldorado Springs

2/9/2019• 413

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I am strongly opposed to the building of a new trail and/ or the repurposing of the existing trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch. I have been a strong supporter of Boulder City and Mountain Parks programs for over 30 years and have always voted in favor of new funding as well maintaining existing sales tax to preserve the magnificent land that we call open space. I believe that building this trail will do irreparable harm to an almost pristine part of our open space system. I feel that the feasibility study was far from impartial and that the the ecological impact of this trail has not been adequately addressed. I challenge anybody to take a walk on the existing trail and then say, with a good conscience, that the environmental impact of taking earthmoving equipment into that area and cutting somewhere between 20 and 40 new switchbacks is negligible. I would call it devastating. I cannot understand how it is possible that the State Park can be supporting the building of this trail when the park is already way beyond capacity for 8 months of the year. There is just not enough room to have more people in the park, especially at weekends when to line of cars at the entrance station backs up way down into the town. There just is not enough parking in this closed canyon and it is the residents who have to put up with cars parking illegally on private property or circulating through the town causing dust and congestion in this small rural village. There is also a very real safety concern for pedestrians, especially for the children who live here, not to mention the difficulty for emergency vehicles trying to access the park .(this is a fairly common occurrence as injuries to climbers are not infrequent) I therefore ask you to stop this badly thought out project before it goes any further and before more tax payer money (mine included) is spent. Richard Luck 150 Artesian Dr Eldorado Springs, CO 80025
eldo_walker_trail_comment.pdf

Doug Young•Boulder

2/9/2019• 412

I am very much in favor of the Eldo to Walker Connection via the north alignment (actually, I was in favor of the south alignment, but the north alignment is fine as well). This is a unique opportunity to both protect and enjoy a critical piece of our open space infrastructure, and make it more accessible to a diversity of uses. In the future, I look forward to hiking, running, and biking on the new connector trail. And I'd like to point out, having been a firefighter on the Walker Ranch Fire, that having good, well maintained trails both serves to (1) provide a fire break, and (2) provide safe ingress and egress for firefighters.

Kurt Smith•Eldorado Springs

2/9/2019• 411

My name is Kurt Smith and have lived at 3400 Eldorado Springs Drive in Eldorado Springs for twenty five years coming this April. Richard Luck (quoted below) speaks my mind. I find it very difficult to understand how anyone who has actually experienced the significant over congestion in and around Eldorado Springs State Park for a great part of the year could in good conscience advocate for a bike trail through the Park. The land and town are already overly stressed and I strongly encourage each of you on the OSBOT to personally come to the Park and town during the spring, summer and fall months and experience the stressed conditions and congestion yourself prior to voting in support of a bike trail that could be damaging to the land we all own and the community we have built.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter and feel free to contact me with any questions or to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely, Kurt Smith

"I am strongly opposed to the building of a new trail and/ or the repurposing of the existing trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch.

I have been a strong supporter of Boulder City and Mountain Parks programs for over 30 years and have always voted in favor of new funding as well maintaining existing sales tax to preserve the magnificent land that we call open space.

I believe that building this trail will do irreparable harm to an almost pristine part of our open space system. I feel that the feasibility study was far from impartial and that the the ecological impact of this trail has not been adequately addressed. I challenge anybody to take a walk on the existing trail and then say, with a good conscience, that the environmental impact of taking earthmoving equipment into that area and cutting somewhere between 20 and 40 new switchbacks is negligible. I would call it devastating.

I cannot understand how it is possible that the State Park can be supporting the building of this trail when the park is already way beyond capacity for 8 months of the year. There is just not enough room to have more people in the park, especially at weekends when to line of cars at the entrance station backs up way down into the town.

There just is not enough parking in this closed canyon and it is the residents who have to put up with cars parking illegally on private property or circulating through the town causing dust and congestion in this small rural village. There is also a very real safety concern for pedestrians, especially for the children who live here, not to mention the difficulty for emergency vehicles trying to access the park .(this is a fairly common occurrence as injuries to climbers are not infrequent)

I therefore ask you to stop this badly thought out project before it goes any further and before more tax payer money (mine included) is spent."

Richard Luck

Christian Griffith•Eldorado Springs

2/9/2019• 410

My name is Christian Griffith I am a City of Boulder native and lived in town til seven years ago when Boulder became too expensive for me and I moved to Eldorado Springs to raise my baby daughter.

For my entire adult life I have been an active supporter and user of OSMP property.

I have run and hiked most of its trails and climbed most of its most significant rock formations.

I have not always been a proponent of OSMP management plans, but I have always been grateful that the underlying guiding principal of OSMP was one which elevated preservation of natural beauty and ecology above everything else, even human recreation.

I realize as I have matured that much of what makes the experience of the mountain parks so rewarding is knowing that sections of the mountains are guarded and insulated from the pressures of front range growth and development. They are areas of nature for its own sake and not simply a outdoor playground to be manipulated for the convenience of its human users.

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It is for this reason that I am writing you with urgency before the board meets to make its determination on the proposed Mountain Bike trail from Walker ranch to Eldorado Canyon state park.

This trail if approved by you will be cut through a designated OSMP Habitat Conservation Area. An area that is in fact one of OSMPs most remote and pristine regions. It's true there is a primitive footpath that shares some of this proposed trail alignment, but I know from first hand experience that except for the first mile on state park property, this trail sees very little traffic.

The proposed trail will require massive amounts of slope modification with very heavy equipment. Jason Vogel, an advocate for the connection and husband of one of your board members told me during a conversation, that the trail building consultants he met with said Mini excavators will be used to deal with the large sections of trail that traverse talus and boulder fields. If this is true, It is hard to imagine that any trail built with these kinds of machines will only have 'negligible environmental impact' as the feasibility study claims. Especially when such a trail is to be cut into an area which the city of Boulder has previously elevated to its highest level of habitat importance.

In researching this question further, I read a report that was created by OSMP staff in 2011 when a mountain bike loop was being considered for the Anemone area in west Boulder. Though also an area of steep slopes the Anemone location is not nearly as extreme in this regard as the South Boulder creek drainage now being considered and is also far less remote. The proposed Anemone trail also did not cut through an designated HCA.

Despite this the Anemone study went to great lengths to analyze potential habitat Impacts for specific species of both animals and rare plants. By contrast after having reviewed the entire Walker Eldo study I was surprised by the apparent lack of original data collection and the cursory approach used address the issue of habitat impact. I do not believe a responsible decision can be made on this trail with such limited data especially in such a sensitive area..

I believe If approved with the current feasibility study as it's only supporting document, the board will undermine the concept of the HCA itself, not just this section of it. Is the board really willing to open that Pandora's box?

I have purposely avoided mention of the impacts on the current state park users many of whom are multinational families that congregate in the back of park during its busiest months and lack the language skills to register their opinions.

I have also consciously omitted reference to the community of Eldorado Springs itself. A close knit township with no elected representation or even traffic enforcement to whom the current visitation impacts are already so profound that a hastily created petition opposing the proposed trail received immediate and near unanimous support.

These things can be easily and conveniently discounted anyway with acronyms that we all know.

However the voice of the voiceless must be sought out. The plants and the animals which were honored with protection from the inception of the Open Space program a protection later codified in the visitor master plan with the establishment of the HCA designation can not speak. They should not be casually dispensed with. To them, I believe the proposed Eldo Walker mountain bike trail will be Impactful in the extreme.

Please do not hastily approve this trail and set such a dangerous precedent in the erosion of the HCA concept. These areas are OSMP's 'wilderness'.

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I urge you to halt the approval of this trail until a full and proper accounting of all of its impacts on both the human communities and especially the natural ones has been made.

I believe it is the greatest responsibility you have as OSMP board members and I pray you do not take it lightly.

Sincerely,

Christian Griffith

Martha Dick•

2/9/2019• 409

This trail should not be expanded.. It does not consider the already crowded town road and public park. Currently hikers and family groups are challenged by speeding bikes in their area. There are many places for bike riders which would not disturb either the people or the vegetation and wildlife. Please.

Martha Dick

Richard Luck•Eldorado Springs

2/9/2019• 408

I am strongly opposed to the building of a new trail and/ or the repurposing of the existing trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch.

I have been a strong supporter of Boulder City and Mountain Parks programs for over 30 years and have always voted in favor of new funding as well maintaining existing sales tax to preserve the magnificent land that we call open space.

I believe that building this trail will do irreparable harm to an almost pristine part of our open space system. I feel that the feasibility study was far from impartial and that the the ecological impact of this trail has not been adequately addressed. I challenge anybody to take a walk on the existing trail and then say, with a good conscience, that the environmental impact of taking earthmoving equipment into that area and cutting somewhere between 20 and 40 new switchbacks is negligible. I would call it devastating.

I cannot understand how it is possible that the State Park can be supporting the building of this trail when the park is already way beyond capacity for 8 months of the year. There is just not enough room to have more people in the park, especially at weekends when to line of cars at the entrance station backs up way down into the town.

There just is not enough parking in this closed canyon and it is the residents who have to put up with cars parking illegally on private property or circulating through the town causing dust and congestion in this small rural village. There is also a very real safety concern for pedestrians, especially for the children who live here, not to mention the difficulty for emergency vehicles trying to access the park .(this is a fairly common occurrence as injuries to climbers are not infrequent)

I therefore ask you to stop this badly thought out project before it goes any further and before more tax payer money (mine included) is spent.

Richard Luck

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Bridget Joyce•

2/9/2019• 407

I have been a home owner in Eldorado Springs since 1996. I am very concerned with the proposed mtg bike trail and do believe it is the wrong decision for the community of Eldorado Springs.

What concerns me is: 30-40 switchbacks to be cut with excavators and skid steers through pristine state park land mountain parks habitat conservation land. Basically creating a mini road for bikers.

Even more people attracted to the state park/small town which topped 500,000 visitors last year alone! Increased hazards on Eldorado Springs drive to residents, their children and pets..fast descending mountain bikes will add congestion and a dangerous distraction to our dirt Main Street and on the road to highway 93.

Greater demand on park parking and increased spill over into Eldorado Springs with great 'exploration' of private parking , roads and private access.

Considering all of these things, please do what you can to keep Eldorado Springs the undisturbed, remote, and magnificent gem that it is today.

Kindly,

Bridget Joyce

Kirk Holub•Boulder County

2/9/2019• 406

As an avid mountain biker, occasional hiker, and Boulder County resident, I wish to express my support for the partner agency recommendation that a multi-use trail be constructed on the north side of the Eldorado canyon.

I believe this trail will be a great asset to all of the County's residents.

I encourage you to authorize its construction and I look forward to volunteering many days helping build and maintain this new trail as a member of BMA's Trail Posse.

Kyle Wilberg•

2/8/2019• 405

I would really love to use pedal power to travel between the trails at Walker and Eldorado Canyon. I believe that it will allow an incredible way to access and enjoy both areas. Please do everything possible to make this a reality. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Kyle Wiberger

Matt Muir•

2/8/2019• 404

I am commenting as an individual.

Though an avid mountain biker and one who would use a trail like the one in question, I would prefer that the town, state park, and climbers be heard in a civil debate which results in their positions being established and understood.

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Consequently, engaging their position or positions in legitimate dialogue would, I hope, prevent a lasting rift between users, citizens, and their institutions.

Admittedly, it may also cause the delay and prolongation of the process of establishing mutually agreeable terms.

Perhaps more important issues associated with a more difficult process could also be addressed and, result in progress for everyone.

Thank you for your oversight of these and other matters, Matt
Matthew Muir

Mindy Nichols•Boulder

2/8/2019• 403

I will not be able to attend next weeks OSBT meeting where this will be discussed. I want to encourage the Board to move forward on the the connector trail before a solution with Eldorado Springs residents have been finalized.

The residents deserve a solution to the squeeze they feel in their tiny dead-end canyon that is a world class climbing canyon. And the Indian Peaks Traverse is truly not the reason for their concern, it is there because of the geography of the canyon, not because of a trail placement, not even in their town.

They deserve a solution to their canyon problem, I agree, I am stunned how many people come up the canyon. But NOT at the expense of a world class through corridor for wilderness use, that does not even go through their town. Thank you for considering and voting for the future of connected trails and for the protection of a front range canyon and the citizens of this canyon.

Don't delay one, as both are important to the health and well-being of the front range economy and citizens.

Respectfully

Mindy Nichols RDN, CDE

Chris Sword•Louisville

2/8/2019• 402

As a member and advocate of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, I'm writing about this trail project.

I understand there is concern about problems in Eldorado Springs. As a supporter of that community (art, pool, etc) I'm sensitive to the needs of local residents. But I think we can approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs community at the same time. Please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of Eldorado Springs.

Mountain bikers are very supportive of communities and the environment, and are part of the fabric of Colorado and Boulder County. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important ... to our community, and our environment!

I want to add my heartfelt support to this trail project.

Thank you!

- Chris

Mary Collette Rogers•

2/8/2019• 401

I am very opposed to the Eldorado proposal. As I hiker, I have come to realize that there is no such thing as a "Multi-Use Trail" where mountain biking is included. I have watched as Dowdy Draw got overrun and now Betasso.

For instance, I went up to Betasso on a hike and nearly got killed as a whole troop of bikers came racing down a hill and around a blind corner. I barely scrambled up the steep side of the trail. The other side of the trail was a steep and dangerous drop off. Now I can only go to Betasso, which I love, on two days of the week, when bikes aren't permitted, which seems very unfair.

The bottom line is that bikers like to go fast. It doesn't work with hikers who go slowly. That's why I am very opposed to opening yet another trail to bikers which essentially forecloses it to hikers.

At the very least, restrict bikers to 2-3 days a week so hikers can enjoy their quiet hikes without fear of being run over by a speeding bike. AND why not expand hiking days at Betasso to 3 or 4, too, to be fairer to non-bikers.

Oh yes, and now I understand that Open Space might be open to e-bikes--only makes matters much, much worse.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Mary Rogers

Jim Disinger•

2/8/2019• 400

Why confuse people? Let's call a spade a spade!

We already have a great multi-use path going from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch and would lose much of that path if this "path"etic proposal is ever acted upon.

There are several, corporate-sponsored, e-bike groups working across the country to increase sales of these electric motorcycles. I understand. There is lots of money to be made. Class 2 "e-bikes", now legal on multiuse trails throughout much of Boulder County, go uphill at 20mph without pedalling. Do we want these on our hiking trails or in our wild areas? These same groups are pushing for a new trail through City of Boulder Open Space and Eldorado Canyon State Park.

The e-bike trail up Eldorado Canyon would add dozens of switchbacks destroying many acres of a sensitive ecosystem while threatening wildlife and hikers alike. The current, wonderful, multi-use, Eldorado Canyon Trail would become unusable, hard-to-maintain, and much longer due to the many switchbacks not needed or wanted by current trail users.

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More importantly, do we want to encourage motorized or mechanical vehicles in our wild areas? What does that do to the whole definition of wild lands? When is enough urbanization enough?

Marcus Popetz•Boulder

2/8/2019• 399

I wanted to share an op ed I wrote because I've been impressed without how well a government process has been working, bringing 3 agencies together that have never worked together before. Now I'm seeing a small number of citizen's concerns beginning to derail and threaten to unravel what has been done to date which is bad for both the project and bad policy making for now and into the future on new trails where we NEED all of these agencies working together to make proper environmental and recreation decisions.

Thanks for your time to read and for your time investment in being an OSBT volunteer and/or council member!

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-2-7-19/>

After 20 years of discussion, starts and losses in momentum, the multi-user trail connecting Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch is moving forward.

We've witnessed Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Eldorado Canyon State Park, Boulder County and the city of Boulder work together beautifully. They held a public process then modified their focus to be the trail alignment and to work on the problems facing the residents of Eldorado Springs, exactly as the process should work.

No single agency lives in a vacuum, so working together ensures that all the agencies can ensure that trail connections are made in a way that makes sense for the entire area and environment. We have to think regionally in the Front Range since thinking locally doesn't work as our population grows.

Unfortunately, at the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting, the members voted to slow the momentum by declaring that the problems of the town need to be solved before construction of the trail can begin. This is lose-lose for both the trail and the town because when government loses momentum, things grind to a halt. My fear is that this leads to no trail, no solution to the problems facing the town and the three agencies becoming disinclined to work together. Instead, we should continue to move forward (which will take years) while using the trail opening date as a hard deadline for when the problems of the town need to be mitigated. Everyone functions better with a deadline.

I would like the recreation community working with the Eldorado Springs residents. I'm weary of overcrowding causing our community to fight. We should rise above and work together towards a better overall community.

Mike Banks•Boulder

2/7/2019• 398

Looking at this project over the last 2 months, we think that the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection is not a good idea and should be scrapped. More careful consideration is necessary about the impact on the area and the ecology before breaking ground on this project. As noted in

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several recent letters in the Daily Camera, there are major access and parking issues at both ends of the project. There are also even bigger questions about the real user need for this Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection. In the end, this trail may serve only a small handful of users. We urge you to put the project on hold, protect that special area and leave the current trail as is.

Susan Ross•Longmont
2/7/2019• 397

A sustainably built trail that addresses wildlife and habitat conservation, restoration, education and outreach, and all aspects of viability for visitors, surrounding community, and protected lands, can serve as a means of building support for protection, conservation and connection for all wildlands. I'm counting on younger folk than I to carry on the work of preserving wilderness and wildlands interfaces for ALL beings on this planet by learning the inherent joy of spending time in the wild, and taking responsibility for its survival. Direct experience of the wild is one of the only ways I know to arouse that deep commitment - and there are many modes of getting there. I would urge the broadest diversity of people to come together in that common goal, despite the very real challenges of our unknown future. No matter how we currently see ourselves - creators, managers, protectors, enjoyers, caregivers, supporters, skeptics, new to it all - let's continue to create ways to experience the wild sustainably through experience, and create a viable future for our home planet and all its inhabitants. I'll do my part -join me & let's do it together!

Kevin Moore•Boulder
2/7/2019• 396

Rather than try and write a comment here, I am going to reproduce the letter Buzz Burrell wrote you, which sums up my feelings perfectly. I'm all for the Eldo-Walker connector in the configurations submitted. Thanks. Kevin Moore -- Dear Board, I have never ridden a bicycle in Eldorado Canyon State Park, while I have been rock climbing there since the Fowlers operated it as a private park, and 100+ times since. I already can hike or run from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch anytime I want, and have done so countless times. I fully support the proposed Eldorado to Walker multi-use trail. Why? Since I personally don't need a multi-use trail, and have been an active climber in Eldo for 45 years, why do I support this? Because it is good for the community and is the fair and right thing to do. As the Board of Trustees knows, E-W has been part of a transparent and public and process for a decade, involving many branches of government. It is possible some people did not participate in the work that has been ongoing, and I can't blame them for that because that participation required an absurd amount of time. But it would be unfair to those who did participate in the lengthy public processes for a "re-set" button to be hit, and to discount the work that has been done. We should be honorable and consistent in our public processes. Numerous valid concerns about the E-W Connection have been raised. Here are my thoughts. Parking in Eldo Certainly. There are far too many cars everywhere, all over the world. There is likely a parking problem driving to work, to shopping, maybe even driving home, but we don't forbid doing these things. Having less cars would be an excellent solution, but not allowing one particular group of citizens to use public land because of their car does not accomplish that, it simply discriminates against that particular group, while still allowing everyone else to do whatever they want. Ironically, this concern is directed at potential mountain bikers, which is the group that is least likely to

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drive and park. Parking at Eldorado Canyon State Park (as well as everywhere on the planet) is a real issue, but one that pre-dates the E-W Connector by decades, is far bigger than that, and the agencies have to address it no matter what. It's important to note that the potential increase in visitation due to the E-W Connector is dwarfed by the percentage increase in visitation to the State Park that has taken place already, and is projected to take place regardless. As a somewhat controversial aside, I personally believe that full parking at trailheads is not necessarily a problem - not being able to drive a car somewhere is a positive for the environment. This will only benefit mountain bikers. Of course. Tennis courts only benefit tennis players, soccer fields benefit soccer players, and swimming pools only benefit swimmers. But we still provide them all as a public service. Our community values diversity (or says it does), and cycling is a great activity, very good for our health and well-being, and is positively promoted as one of the prime contributors to reducing our reliance on automobiles. Cyclists deserve their place in the sun. Eldorado Springs residents are against it. Naturally. Local residents would likely be against picnickers or anyone driving past their house. They were against paving the streets and were against sewer lines. While this attitude is entirely understandable and I'm certainly sympathetic, everyone's taxes paid for public land, that land provides a fantastic benefit to those lucky enough to live next to it, so the general public has a fair right to access what it paid for. There is a greater community good. The Eldorado - Walker Connector is part of a wonderful and much larger overall initiative to encourage healthy exercise, connect people to their natural environment, and keep Colorado a beautiful place to live. Let's all join together and lean in. Thank you for your time and consideration, Buzz Burrell

Brad Bishop•Fort Collins

2/7/2019• 395

I support the building of a multi-use trail connecting Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch.

Linda Mahoney•Broomfield

2/7/2019• 394

To be honest, this is a conversation that I hadn't planned on joining. I had been active with the different BOSMP plans through the years, but since Broomfield left Boulder County I didn't feel like my voice was appreciated any longer. But, I still have a strong attachment to the land and this plan does effect one of our state parks. I have and always will, speak up for biodiversity. We spent many, many hours detailing what unique attributes are protected within the HCAs within the different planning areas. Why on earth, then, allow them to be consistently chipped away for another special interest user group? Also, isn't it more sensible to get a handle on the problems that are outlined, before even thinking about finalizing a trail plan? These problems are listed on your website. "The study found that a multi-use trail is likely to increase visitation to Eldorado Canyon State Park and has the potential to worsen current issues. These issues include: Traffic congestion. Strains on transportation infrastructure and infrastructure that does not meet current demands. Illegal parking. Visitor density & crowding. Emergency response difficulties due to crowded roads. Strains on state park and resources." I'm not sure where the funding will come from for a shuttle bus and extra parking, plus the additional road maintenance that will be required. Will you charge for access to go through the state park? I hope that you will reconsider adding mountain bikes to the mix when the impacts seem pretty high on another HCA. Please remember why these areas were designated for protection in the first place. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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David Chicoine•Boulder

2/7/2019• 393

I am a regular hiker on the Eldorado trail into Walker Ranch as well as on Walker Ranch trails. I am strongly opposed to creating this new north trail because of the problems mountain bikers regularly create for me as a 70 year old hiker. Although most (not all!) bikers are courteous and considerate, on any given hike at Walker Ranch I have to step to the side to let the biker pass. This can be perilous as this often necessitates stepping off the path, which at times can be highly precarious and even dangerously so. Some trails should be restricted to hikers and horse riders for safety reasons but also because hikers often seek the serenity of nature on their hikes, which is regularly shattered by aggressive bikers on the same trail.

Linda and Nils Norderg•

2/7/2019• 392

My husband and I moved here from Massachusetts 10 years ago, and we have found Eldorado Canyon to be a special gem. Our twin grandsons began in the Junior Ranger program when they were 6 and every summer since - even to volunteering now that they are older to help Constance, the ranger who runs that program. While the boys were in Jr. Rangers, I spent the time hiking and often on the current trail in mention. It is currently a steep and narrow trail. Often there is heavy foot traffic and dogs are also allowed. A new switchback trail to replace the current trail will be costly and damaging the area.

Bikes are allowed on a wider trail - Rattlesnake Gulch - and it ought to remain the only trail for mountain bikes.

Over the years we have witnessed the growth of the attendance in the park to the point that if you don't arrive early, there is a line for admittance. Then, only as cars leave the park, others are allowed in. The picnic areas are well used on a first come, first served basis.

Eldorado Canyon is a special place and is currently operating in the summer at capacity. Please do not allow this switchback trail to be built for mountain bikes. Monies of that magnitude should be spent elsewhere in the canyon.

Linda and Nils Nordberg

Aidan and Axel Williams

Gary Waggoner•Boulder

2/7/2019• 391

I have been following the discussion of this trail connection and find the arguments opposed to the trail most convincing. Once bikes are permitted on a trail, especially a mountain trail, the trail becomes un-useable for normal hikers. Bikers generally do not give way to the hikers. Hikers are required to get out of the way or risk being run over on single track trails.

Thank you for your attention.

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Gary Waggoner

Jim Disinger•

2/7/2019• 390

I love to bike from Boulder to Walker Ranch on the several already in-place, bike-friendly routes including Flagstaff Road. I love to hike to Walker Ranch. I do that on one of the only, quiet, hiker friendly routes around, the Eldorado Canyon Trail. Why ruin that beautiful trail with the countless stupid switchbacks and high-speed biker dodgeball?

We're not just taking this trail alignment away from hikers, climbers, photographers and other people. We would be taking away from resident and migrating wildlife and native plants.

Let's just leave Eldorado Canyon live.

Jim Disinger•

2/7/2019• 389

There seems to be a push by the City of Boulder to "approve" a bike trail through Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch irregardless of the capacity related issues affecting Boulder County Open Space, Eldorado Canyon State Park, and the Eldorado Springs community.

Please, at least consider the capacity issues and massive resource damage this would cause on City of Boulder Open Space within the Eldorado Springs road corridor. For several years there have been attempts to mitigate the current parking problems and trail damage caused by current use levels. These trails, currently off-limits to even human-powered bicycles, are beyond capacity. Although they have been hardened, realigned, and rerouted from riparian areas they still cause major impact on the ecosystem.

Cars start parking illegally along the roads as early as 8am when the current parking areas are filled. What kind of logic then would encourage a further attractive nuisance?

Deb Trevor•Boulder County

2/7/2019• 388

I am writing to you today to express my strong desire to support the Eldorado to Walker trail connection.

I have been a citizen of Boulder County for 30 years. I have also been a mountain biker for more than 30 years, though during my child-rearing years I did not have opportunities to ride very often.

Now that my children are in college (CU Boulder and CO School of Mines) and my nest is empty, I have rediscovered the joy and camaraderie of mountain biking. I got back to both Walker Ranch and Sourdough trails this past summer for the first time since my mid 20s!

It is great to be back in the saddle now on a regular basis with a few more trail choices in the Boulder area than we had in the early 90s. However, with the growing population on the front range, the time has come to open more trails up to mountain biking.

I absolutely understand that the Eldorado Springs community does not want anything to be built that they perceive would increase the vehicle traffic through their area. I get it. I too have been feeling the

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pinch for the last several years as folks have been flocking to Colorado in droves. We all need to adapt to this population explosion (or move!).

However, my understanding is that the Eldo to Walker connection has been listed in the master plan documents and recommended by various governmental agencies in multiple reports for well over a decade now.

I have zero intention of trying to drive into Eldorado Canyon on a busy weekend to mountain bike - I hate car traffic too! However, I would love to park at Marshall Mesa and bike to the connector trail, then head on to Walker for an epic ride.

Having access to Walker will also eliminate a long journey up Flagstaff road, taking my car off that road!

I also look forward to eventually riding from Boulder to Winter Park - it's been on my bucket list for a few years now! I am a supporter of the Indian Peaks Traverse trail, and understand the Eldo to Walker trail is a critical link for making the IPT a reality.

Please do not let the citizens of Eldorado Canyon stop this trail from happening. The time has come to all work together to find creative solutions to the parking situation in their community. I believe that the Eldo to Walker connection is a step in the RIGHT direction for mitigating the number of cars in Eldorado Canyon.

Thank you for your time. I was hoping to come speak on 2/13 but I now have a conflict and may not be able to attend the meeting. Please know there are MANY mountain bikers in the community who would be thrilled to leave their cars elsewhere (not in Eldo) and mountain bike into the area on a safe and accessible trail.

Sincerely,

Deb Trevor

-Boulder County Resident

-Local Mountain Biker

-Supporter of Eldo to Walker Trail

-Supporter of Indian Peaks Traverse

-Sympathetic bystander of the Eldorado traffic situation

-Supporter of finding viable solutions to the Eldo traffic problem without impacting the forward movement of building the connector trail

Andrew Feeney Ben Boyer • Boulder

2/7/2019 • 387

We are writing in support of a multi-use trail connecting Eldorado State Park to Walker Ranch. We are the coaches for the local high school mountain bike teams from Boulder High and Fairview. We currently have 200+ riders participating in high school mountain biking, more than any other city in the United States. Boulder and Fairview have represented our city well through the nine years of the high school league, winning 8 state championships, and at the same time maintaining two of the most inclusive programs in the state by welcoming riders with any level of experience and expertise. We pride ourselves in developing responsible young people through riding bikes. A keystone of our success is being able to access rides locally. We are fortunate to be able to reach our public trails without using vehicles. We anticipate that our riders will regularly access the Eldo to Walker trail via bicycle with their

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friends and their families. Our highest goal is to provide the opportunity for our riders to achieve both competitive success and personal development in a safe and enjoyable manner. We want to create open space stewards and lifelong cyclists that welcome a healthy lifestyle and that understand the commitment and cooperation it takes to enjoy and preserve access to Open Space trails. Our athletes have contributed hundreds of collective hours to building and maintaining trails in Boulder County and will continue to do so. Our riders will contribute to the reconstruction of the current trail to allow for bike access when approved. These riders are the future protectors of our Open Space and will inspire a future generation to build, ride, and preserve. Opening the Eldo-Walker trail will help us continue to instill these values in the young members of our community.

Sincerely,

Andrew Feeney (Fairview) and Ben Boyer (Boulder)

Andrew Feeney

Adam Galvin•Boulder

2/7/2019• 386

Please support MTB access through Eldorado to Walker Ranch for these reasons:

Our youth need this - they can't drive to Walker and why should anyone waste gas and time driving to walker ranch when they can ride there? It is not safe for kids to ride up Flagstaff road and its environmentally inexcusable to keep large vehicles driving up to walker.

Lets give our kids something healthy to do and support our amazing MTB teams right here in Boulder, our kids can not drive to trail-heads.

MTB riding is so heavily restricted in the flatirons park, we need to do everything we can to broaden and link the existing MTB trail systems.

We don't need parking spaces in eldo springs for MTB riding, that is ridiculous, the MTBers will ride their bikes up to eldo and beyond.

Boulder youth MTB racers and riders are some of the most respectful and environmentally aware riders I have ever witnessed on trails, they will be stewards of this new trails system and role models for adults I volunteer with youth racers and riders on trail maintenance and will continue to do so for this trail.

I own a home in Boulder, I have rock climbed in eldo canyon for over 25 years, I am a BVSD school principal in south boulder, my daughter is on the Fairview MTB team, I am an avid MTB rider, I care greatly about land use and I want to support healthy activities for youth.

PLEASE open MTB access to Walker Ranch and beyond through Eldorado Canyon!!!!

Sincerely,

Adam Galvin

Janet Robinson•Eldorado Springs

2/6/2019• 385

I would encourage all hikers to read the BMA (Boulder Mountain bike alliance) flyer on trail etiquette posted on their website. Believe it or not the BMA is encouraging riders to use BELLS to alert hikers to their presence, they also refer to some hikers as "jerks." As a daily hiker in Eldorado Canyon State Park

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and the surrounding Open Space I do not appreciate being labeled a jerk nor do I want to listen to BELLS repeatedly from mountain bikers as they hurtle towards me on the trail. The Eldorado Canyon Trail is a unique trail which already connects to Walker Ranch, it is one of the last remaining peaceful trails, I do not support this being trail being seized by the BMA.

Joseph Costello•Eldorado Springs
2/6/2019• 384

I believe that the Eldorado Canyon trail is one of the best pure hiking trails in the region. The Habitat Conservation Area that encompasses most of the trail is some of the last relatively pristine foothills ecosystems left. There are 6-8 Special Conservation Designations in the Eldorado Canyon area according to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, and your feasibility study. While your planners have considered these special areas, I believe they underestimate the damage that will be caused by turning this trail into one suitable for bikes. When you add 25+ big looping switchbacks and traverses on the east end, and around 20 big looping switchbacks and traverses on the west end, you disturb a lot of terrain. I know there is mention of disturbing 24 acres or so of habitat on the west end, like that is meaningless. That is direct disturbance through cutting and filling, grading, moving rocks, and felling trees. This will take years if not decades to rehabilitate. The indirect disturbance will last forever with more noise, visual impact, encroachment and unintentional harassment to the bobcats, cougars, bears, deer, seasonal elk and moose, random bighorn (I've seen them), turkeys, raptors, important rodents, and so on. Once you build it they will come and this area will never be as quiet and pristine and as suitable for the wildlife that live there as it is now. Considering what is likely to happen with the Gross Reservoir expansion the area from Eldorado Springs up through Walker Ranch all the way to Gross and beyond, and north to Baseline Road, is slowly being chipped away at, losing what wildness and sense of isolation it has left. You should be preserving these areas from further development at each opportunity, not continually letting them be developed and denigrated for the benefit of one group of people. If you insist on building N4 as a hiker I implore you to keep N3. There is no room on these steep areas for hikers and bikes. N4 will have a lot of sun on hot summer days. N3 is almost always in the shade. The idea that N3 is hard to maintain is laughable since there has been no maintenance on it in 20 years. Finally, hikers don't want this trail. Neither do runners, who all have earbuds on and won't know there is a bike in the area until it's creeping up their shins. Equestrians don't care, there is no place for them to turn a trailer around in the crowded Park as it is, much less try and pull one up that steep, narrow, busy park road. Will you build big turn arounds in the Park so it looks like you are trying to make this an improved multiple use trail when really all it is, is a hand out to the mountain bikers? Where is there space to build trailer turn arounds in the Park and who will pay for them? This is not an idea whose time has come. These "political directives" to build a trail connection from Eldo to Walker ignore the fact that there already is a trail, it's just not suitable for bikes. Those directives beginning in 1999 mostly came before the crushing demand on our recreation resources became what it is today. I doubt most of the bureaucrats who thought it was a good idea never hiked the Eldorado Canyon trail or imagined the growth and pressure front range recreation resources would soon experience. This is a chance for our open space agencies to stand up and protect this open space and it's increasingly important habitat from unnecessary development and intrusion that harms almost everything and everyone except those who want to get their adrenaline rush by biking the ECT rather than doing it on

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foot. I've had a mountain bike since they were invented. I ride it for fun, not to enjoy nature. Let them have their fun elsewhere. This is not the place. Respectfully, Joe Costello BS Wildland Recreation Management University of Idaho College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences 1979 Master Leave No Trace Instructor, 1995 ex Recreation Planner Assistant Arapaho National Forest, Summit County Colorado, 1978-9

Glenn Porzak•Boulder
2/6/2019• 383

As a past president both of the American Alpine Club and the Colorado Mountain Club, and a resident of Boulder since 1966, I am opposed to the proposed Eldo-Walker Ranch mountain-bike connector for many reasons, including the following:

1. The Feasibility Study performed by staff only looked at whether a north or south bike trail alignment was better. It did not examine the impact of adding an entirely new user group into an area that is already over capacity. A study must be done to examine the impacts to the Park and the region's rock climbing area, public safety, parking within the Park and the community of Eldorado Springs, and impacts to existing Open Space parking areas along Highway 93 and Eldorado Springs Drive. Sensible and cost-effective solutions to these problems must be identified, studied, funded and constructed before proceeding any further with the proposed new trail.
2. A pristine hillside would be crisscrossed by the proposed N4 alignment that switch backs through more than 20 acres of designated HCA.
3. The notion that the trail will be "multi-use" is also misleading. Whenever trails are opened to bikers, other users go elsewhere. More than a third of all OSMP trails have already been opened to bikes, driving out the other users. Nearly 90% of the Boulder County trail system is also open to bikes. Combined, 161 miles of trails are already open to bikes in the City and County open space systems, as well as an additional 50 miles on National Forest lands just west of Boulder. Yet, only 8% of the total users are bikers. The bikers already have sufficient trails.
4. Eldorado Springs is one of the nation's premier rock climbing and hiking areas. Mountain biking is inconsistent with, and will adversely impact these important existing uses.

Sincerely,
Glenn Porzak
Glenn E. Porzak

Joe Bartel•Boulder
2/6/2019• 382

I am a cyclist, father and long time Boulder resident. Many weekends I've driven up to Walker to ride my bike, enjoy the outdoors and spend some time with friends. A trail from Eldo to Walker would eliminate driving completely, extend my time outdoors and be a beautiful way to get there. This trail will also alleviate the over crowded parking at Walker Ranch. I am on board for the creation of this access trail.
Thank you
Joe Bartel

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Michael Browning•Boulder

2/5/2019• 381

I am opposed to the proposed Eldo-Walker Ranch mountain-bike (“multi-purpose”) connector for many reasons, including the following:

1. The Feasibility Study done by staff only looked narrowly at whether a north or south bike trail alignment was better, not the feasibility of adding an entirely new user group into an area that is already over capacity. A true feasibility study must be done to examine in detail ALL impacts of any new bike trail, including impacts to the Park, public safety, parking within the Park and the community of Eldorado Springs, and impacts to existing Open Space parking areas along Highway 93 and Eldorado Springs Drive. Sensible and cost-effective solutions to these problems must be identified, studied, funded and constructed before proceeding any further with the proposed new trail. This was the recommendation made by POSAC at their 1/24/19 hearing and it is the only sensible approach. Please read the thoughtful email from POSAC member Cathy Comstock to the BOCC explaining her vote (the only no vote), a copy of which is attached.
2. A pristine hillside would be crisscrossed by the proposed N4 alignment that switch backs through more than 20 acres of designated HCA. The North Sky Trail in the North TSA was recently approved despite HCA designation. Has the HCA designation simply become meaningless when mountain bikers claim they are “owed” access?
3. The notion that the trail will be "multi-use" is also misleading. Whenever trails are opened to bikers, other users go elsewhere. This has been proven over and over again. Moreover, the OSMP's own 2016 Resident Survey shows that only 8% of users primarily bike on open space lands, while 92% primarily hike, walk their dog, run, climb or "observe nature". Notwithstanding this, more than a third of all OSMP trails have already been opened to bikes, driving out the other users. Nearly 90% of the Boulder County trail system is also open to bikes. All total there are a combined 161 miles of trails already open to bikes in the City and County open space systems, as well as an additional 50 miles on National Forest lands just west of Boulder. Yet, because the BMA is well-organized, vocal, industry-funded, and professionally staffed, it has been able to have a disproportionate impact on our open space system.

Please don't rush to authorize a trail that will forever scar pristine hillsides, impact more than 20 acres of a HCA, drive out existing users, and create numerous problems until and unless a real feasibility study is done and a determination made that such trail's impacts can economically and realistically be mitigated and that its benefits truly outweigh all of its many costs.

Thank you.

Jean Aschenbrenner•

2/5/2019• 380

I attended the Boulder County POSAC meeting on 1/24 when they discussed the Eldo-Walker trail. I was pleased that the motion that they passed precluded STARTING to build the multi-use trail until the parking and over-crowding problems are solved. But I fear that the wording of the proposed motion and the great emphasis on overcrowding scewed the Board's discussion.

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The real issue - SHOULD there be a multi-use trail from Eldo to Walker Ranch - got lost. Suppose we magically fix the parking, over-use and community problems. Assume the north route is better than the south. WOULD WE WANT A MULTI-USE trail from Eldo to Walker Ranch?

Should the proposed multi-use trail be built at all? This is what I got from the speakers at the Thursday 1/24 meeting.

Pros:

1. Colorado can say we have a 'plains to mountains trail'.
2. Young men (like the next-to-last speaker) can get a wonderful adrenalin rush biking downhill. They will be able to leave a car at the bottom, drive up to Walker Ranch and bike down. He said that is what most of his friends will do. 'Why ride up when you can drive.'
3. A FEW hardy bikers will do a long distance bike trip from Boulder to Winter Park. (There are other ways to do this. One speaker said he has done that by taking a bus to Nederland and biking from there.) (A different trail could be built which is NOT through Eldorado Canyon)
4. Bikers have been 'expecting' this trail for 20 years. Building this trail avoids disappointing them.

Cons:

1. It is not an ideal bike trail. Few bikers will want to do the arduous ride UP the many switch backs and then deal with the 'wall' at the top, whatever that is.
2. Hikers will stop using the trail because of concerns about the bikers coming down. The feasibility study mentioned that it has been shown over and over that hikers abandon multi-use trails. Multiple speakers said that multi-use trails are bad. One woman said, simply and succinctly, that she does not use multi-use trails. My two friends had to leave when it got too late – that is what they were going to say. Another woman speaker said she was pregnant and hit by a mtn. bike and broke her back or something. A park volunteer was concerned about all the families and children who hike up the trail and could be hit by bikes coming down.
3. The tight switch backs are 'feasible' but will not create a nice experience for anyone.
4. The trail will negatively impact the environment. (The study says 'It will not significantly hurt the environment'). Much of the trail is through an HCA. No real study has been done. Jason Vogel has commented that the north plan forces people to ascend approximately 1075' but then descend approximately 735'. 'Other alignments were rejected due to habitat concerns. But we should really balance the inevitable impacts on habitat against the quality of the recreation experience provided.' Inevitable impacts?? I have been paying Open Space taxes in Boulder for 35 years to protect the environment and habitats. There are other places for quality mountain bike experiences that will not have such significant 'inevitable impacts on habitat.'

The study showed that it is FEASIBLE to BUILD a trail on the North side of Eldo. But no one ever asked if it is DESIRABLE. This needs to be considered.

Markus Groner•

2/5/2019• 379

I'm happy to see that bike access is being considered for the connector to Walker Ranch, but also a bit concerned about the overcrowding of parking lots and potential user conflicts. Many members of the

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general public are concerned, and it's giving the project a bad perception, since there don't seem to be any good solutions being put forward.

As a mountain biker and BMA member who want to maintain good relations with hikers, I would like to propose the following to help alleviate the concerns:

- 1) Create separate trail sections for bikes and hikers as much as possible, especially at the start of the trail.
- 2) Show the public the currently considered ideas for reducing parking issues in the Eldo area. The lack of proposals or ideas is concerning to many people. Sure, there are many BMA members who would ride from home, but there are many more casual bikers would would want to park in Eldo.
- 3) Ban e-bikes of any kind in the Eldo state park (from what I understand, Colorado State Parks can allow class 1 and 2 bikes.). That will reduce user conflict, reduce chances of high-speed crashes, and reduce the number of bikers. Also, AFAIK e-bikes are not allowed in Walker, and so allowing them on the connector trail would not make sense.

Thanks
Markus

Jeff Ladwig • Superior
2/5/2019 • 378

Hi -

I support immediate action to build a connector mountain bike trail from Eldorado State Park to Walker Ranch. This is an obvious value add to the community as a whole and will improve access to the public outdoor spaces in our communities.

Thank you,
Jeff Ladwig

Jason Vogel •
2/5/2019 • 377

The following is an op-ed submitted to the Daily Camera authored by myself and Eric Budd. Since it might not come out until immediately before your hearing, I wanted to get you this historical perspective ASAP for your consideration.

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Proposed title: Eldo-to-Walker a decision decades in the making

Authors: Jason Vogel, Eric Budd

There is a conversation playing out today over an incredible, but very short, trail opportunity that would make something better than the sum of its parts. The trail would connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch, and ultimately all the way to Nederland and Winter Park as part of the Indian Peaks Traverse (IPT). The Eldo-to-Walker trail is a missing link to make this vision possible.

While the IPT is a recent idea, regional trail connectivity has been a priority for Boulder County for a long time. In the 1980s the county identified desirable regional trails in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. Since then, the county has pursued fee interest acquisitions and easements to facilitate key trail connections such as the Rock Creek Trail, the Coal Creek Trail, the Saint Vrain Greenway, and the LoBo

Trail. Trails in the plains were always the easiest regional trails to build physically, politically, and ecologically. The nature of mountain regional trails is inherently more challenging than those in the plains.

The desire to connect Boulder to Nederland by trail has led to conversations about where such a connection can be made. We'll outline why those options were not suitable, and why the Eldo-to-Walker trail is the best option.

In the 1980s the county identified the aqueduct connecting Barker Reservoir to Kossler Lake as the likely location for such a trail. But concerns about habitat, private property, and the city water line led the county to deprioritize this alignment. Later, in 2007, when the county purchased the Benjamin property to expand Betasso Preserve, thought was put into connecting this property complex west to the Switzerland Trail to make a peaks-to-plains trail connection. Ultimately the county decided that habitat protection for the Benjamin Property and the difficulty of building a trail toward Arkansas Mountain made this connection undesirable.

During the city's West Trail Study Area process, which ended in 2011, discussions were held about the possibility of building a trail west from the Chapman Drive terminus on Flagstaff Road. A complementary discussion was held during the 2013 revision of the Walker Ranch Management plan about the possibility of opening up parts of the Meyers Gulch side of the property to facilitate a connection to Chapman Drive. Again, habitat concerns drove the city and the county to eliminate the possibility of these connections. Both the West TSA and the Walker Ranch Management Plan update directed attention instead towards a connector through Eldorado Canyon as a more desirable place for this regional trail.

As the Walker Ranch Loop and Eldorado Canyon Trail already existed in this area, many believe that putting a regional trail through the canyon would offer much lower additional habitat effects than many of the previously explored options. Now city and county staff in conjunction with Colorado Parks and Wildlife have finally found a feasible connector that minimizes such effects by improving the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail to sustainable, multi-use standards. We finally have agreement from the professional land managers of three agencies that a peaks-to-plains regional trail is possible. This is an incredible moment!

Many townspeople from Eldorado Springs, which sits at the foot of a legendary climbing destination, have expressed reservations about this trail. They are justifiably concerned about traffic and parking in their town and the neighboring state park. But they see a regional trail as an additional problem, when, in fact, it is part of a solution.

A regional trail would allow people to access the state park from more distant tail heads – including Marshall Mesa, Doudy Draw, South Mesa, Greenbelt Plateau, Flatirons Vista, and the Ashram Road. Better yet, people can run, hike, or ride bikes from their homes in Superior, Louisville, Boulder, and beyond to enjoy this incredible state park and the public lands beyond without using a car or a parking spot at all. Not only do we trust in the three staff agencies that have recommended this trail be built, but we also have faith in the passionate community of outdoor recreationists who would become stewards of this long-neglected state park if a regional trail passed through it.

If we approach this issue from a place of optimism and possibility, we believe that we can apply our creativity to resolve the outstanding concerns and finally create this long-prioritized regional trail.

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Jason Vogel

Chuck Ray•

2/4/2019• 376

BMA thank you for working with stakeholders to find us longer thru routes for biking.

First, such a connector enables a complete west/east route which serves long rides very well in using the RTD N route and back to Boulder, carbon free as it should be. Connecting West Mag trails back to Boulder raises the biking status of Bo Co, and still provides all the mixed gravel road options (south or north of the Canyon), without the unsafe descend on Magnolia Rd.

Second, longer rides is what most bikers seek, and parking right at the trailhead still works fine for trails east of Eldorado Springs that will be shorter. I advocate to render trail/bike parking unlawful in the community, and thereby provide a much nicer ride from anywhere Boulder/Superior through El Dordo State Park to Walker Ranch OSMP. In fact, providing an EV shuttle service to Eldorado park for bikes and hikers, returning residents to Hwy 93, could be a double win. (Not dissimilar to Hessie Townsite from Ned Highschool).

-Chuck Ray

Mark Tomusiak•Boulder

2/4/2019• 375

Hello...as a long-time resident of Boulder, and both a hiker and a biker, I wanted to express my support for the construction of an Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

It is important to me to live my life in a manner which reduces my carbon footprint as much as possible, and one way for me to do this is to access the outdoors without the use of a car. In Boulder, options which do not require a drive to the trailhead are limited. The construction of an Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail would allow access to the beautiful Walker Ranch area, for both hikers and bikers, without having to drive through town and up Flagstaff Road to the trailhead. This would also reduce traffic congestion in town.

As someone with friends who reside in Eldorado Springs, I understand the concern about a potential increase in traffic through town. However, the parking problem in town is not a new one, and is not linked to construction of a connector trail, in my opinion - people have been interested in accessing that area for a variety of reasons for a long time.

I would have no interest in driving to Eldorado Springs in order to start a ride up the Connector Trail; the appeal lies in being able to ride from my doorstep in Boulder, without utilizing a car. And if for some reason I did seek to shorten my ride or hike, I would do so by parking in existing lots adjacent to highway 93, as the additional distance involved in doing so is minimal.

I support construction of a an Eldo-to-Walker connector trail for not only increasing access to the outdoors for all residents, but also as a means of reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion in the Boulder Valley.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Tomusiak

Brian MacMillan•

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2/4/2019• 374

I'm writing you today to voice my support towards opening the Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch trail to mountain bikes (not e-bikes).

I've been enjoying Boulder County trails for 18 yrs now and am looking forward to having a trail that we can ride from town to, and back (not driving a car to and from).

Regards-

Brian MacMillan

Deborah Fink•Boulder

2/2/2019• 372

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection. In addition to the significant issues bulleted at <https://www.bouldercounty.org/open-space/management/eldo-walker-connection/>, I am aghast that any route is being considered that will negatively impact so much HCA. I live in SoBo and do enjoy the state park, although rarely at summer peak or on weekends because the parking is so limited. I think it would be unconscionable to subject my neighbors, the residents of Eldo, to increased traffic, congestion, and pollution. If 90% of the residents oppose the recommendation, surely it is important to respect their concerns, along with those of the non-biking majority of users whose presence is more sustainable and mutually compatible than that of the highly vocal and resourced biking community who have so many options in the area already. Thank you for your attention

Deborah Fink

Adam Hoppe•Broomfield

2/2/2019• 372

Sorry, I don't have time to come in person to these meetings due to work but would like to throw out a couple of quick points for consideration.

- 1) The vast majority of trails in Boulder County, whether OSMPS, POS or USFS owned do not allow mountain bikes so any additional trails are really, really appreciated
- 2) Personally Walker Ranch is one of my very favorite trails due to the altitude, views and strenuous terrain. It is somewhat similar to other high mountain trails such as Sourdough or Magnolia but much, much closer to most front-range residents - However, now that I can't afford to live in Boulder County (I reside in Broomfield) I must drive the 37 mile round trip to access this trail. This contributes to a larger carbon footprint, as well as increased traffic for residents along Flagstaff road. Anyway, please take it into consideration that while traffic may increase somewhat in Eldorado Springs due to the extra mountain bikers, you are alleviating some of the traffic for residents of Flagstaff Rd as well as reducing the carbon footprint due to less vehicular miles travelled overall.
- 3) Please look at the data. I am not sure of the numbers but wouldn't imagine having this connector trail open to mountain bikers would increase the traffic that much since Eldorado Springs already has a State park in its backdoor and hikers already access Walker Ranch through the community. It would be hard to imagine that extra traffic from mountain bikers would really add to that much more use percentage

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wise. That said, shouldn't the State really be working with the community over traffic issues since their park attracts the most visitors by far? Doesn't seem fair to put this traffic burden question on the newest, and possibly smallest number of, users

4) Just another point that ties in with my first. When I first lived in Boulder about 15 years ago I would simply bike up Flagstaff to ride Walker. Now that I live further away and am somewhat older this is not worth the effort when you calculate ride time with actual trail time (because of this I drive all the way to Walker almost on a weekly basis in the summer). Should this connector be built it would be an awesome link-up for me with the existing Coal Creek trail and Dowdy Draw trail network and I wouldn't need to use my car at all to access Walker (and yes, I bike to work to Boulder or use my Eco-pass every day of the week so extra miles in a single occupancy vehicle is a real concern). I am guessing these added trail connections would be a great benefit for many like me who simply can't afford to live in the Boulder bubble anymore and don't want to drive everywhere.

Thanks,

Adam

Somewhere in Broomfield

Caroline Haines•

2/2/2019• 371

I am strongly in favor of expanded mountain biking options in boulder county. the eldo to walker connector would benefit the whole community in ways you cannot yet know...in many (most) cases, more bikes is "the answer". thanks for your consideration

Dominick Morone•

2/1/2019• 370

I am writing this email to ask that you approve the trail and fix the problems of the Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Jim Voss•

2/1/2019• 369

I'd like to express my support for the trail connection from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. I have two sons that I mountain bike regularly with and there are several reasons this trail would benefit us and many of the families we know in South Boulder.

1. Having a connector trail that kids can ride to from town keeps the kids off of Flagstaff Road as the Walker Ranch approach. Kids start clamoring to do Walker Ranch in middle school which means they are either getting parents to drive them up Flagstaff or quite often they are doing "Super Walker" - riding Flagstaff road up, riding Walker Ranch, and then riding down Flagstaff road. It seems extremely dangerous to have young riders riding on such a narrow and often dangerous road as a way to get to Walker Ranch. It's a simple ride from South Boulder over to Eldorado via Marshall Mesa and the Community Ditch trail which would be safer, more fun, and put parents minds at ease when they are too busy to drive or ride up Flagstaff with their kids. Moreover, it would reduce the traffic on the heavily used Flagstaff Road.

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2. The mountain biking community is growing very fast. The numbers of kids on the HS mountain biking teams has skyrocketed in recent years and there is no reason to believe this trend will end anytime soon. The ability for teams to RIDE from the local schools for practice is very important in terms of spreading out the mountain biking trail traffic. There are very few rides for the teams to practice on and it takes great coordination not to over run a particular area like Betasso or Marshall Mesa. Having the option to head to Walker via a trail system would relieve the pressure on the other trails tremendously. In addition it would mix up the training rides for the kids which would help to keep their interest in the sport and further develop a love of the outdoors and of bike travel.

3. Exposing our kids and visitors to the beauty of Eldorado Canyon is another benefit of the proposed trail. Currently Eldorado Canyon is mostly visited by picnickers, hikers, and climbers. It'd be wonderful to bring cyclists into the mix. The impact on the Canyon would be minimal - Cyclists would be riding through and not adding to the congestion of the parking or hiking on the main trails. Cyclists coming via car can park out at Marshall Mesa and ride on in. Hikers and picnickers must use the Canyon parking. Not allowing cyclists to pedal through the canyon to enjoy a trail ride up to Walker is akin to the old time perspective of not allowing snowboarders at ski resorts.

4. Fostering a love of the outdoors in our children is a major goal for many families that choose to live in Boulder and the surrounding towns. Whether by hike, bike, kayak, or climb...let's continue to provide healthy and exciting options for us and our kids!

Thanks for the consideration. The opportunity to ride via trail to Walker would be cherished by those of us that love the outdoors and love to ride bikes!

Thanks,

Jim

Tanya Petach•

2/1/2019• 368

Thank you so much for your dedication and service to Boulder and the open space!!

I am writing to you today on behalf of a number of concerned, millennial mountain bikers. We love to bike, to get outside, and to recreate on the trails behind this wonderful town; however, the proposed Eldo-Walker Ranch connector bike trail is of great concern to us.

These trails are FULL, and while mountain biking is a wonderful sport, we never want other trail users to feel uncomfortable on busy trails that are overwhelmed by bikes. Moreover, the ecological damages are great, and the parking situation sounds like a fiasco.

While we would love to see more bike trails pop up in the Front Range, the Eldo-Walker Connector trail is a sticky situation. We strongly hope that the proposed mountain bike trail is not built.

Thank you again for your service to the town and community. We respect your decision making process immensely and will wholeheartedly stand behind your decision, regardless of the outcome. Just thought we should drop in our two-cents before it is too late.

Thank you,

Tanya Petach

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Jason Vogel•

1/31/2019• 367

I hope you take the time to read this article coauthored by myself and Allyn Feinberg:
<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/the-indian-peaks-traverse-as-a-solution/>

Laura Tyson•

1/31/2019• 366

I have lived in Eldorado Springs for 29 years and I know the section of OSMP land that the trail would traverse, the state park, and the town of Eldorado Springs very well. I am also a mountain biker, and I have some serious concerns about the proposed Eldo to Walker Ranch mountain bike trail. First and foremost is the unprecedented intrusion of a mountain bike trail into an OSMP HCA. Second is that part of what makes Boulder a great place to live is its outlying areas, including Eldorado Canyon State Park and the historic town of Eldorado Springs, both of which are already experiencing overwhelming traffic and congestion that would only be exacerbated by adding another user group and more visitors.

1) The proposed trail would cut across approximately a mile and a half of one of Boulder's most remote and pristine HCAs. Thus far there are only two short sections of MTB trail that extend into an HCA- approximately a quarter mile on Chapman Road and a very short section of the Upper Rattlesnake Gulch trail out of Eldorado Canyon. By increasing mountain bike trails in HCAs by a factor of six, the proposed trail would set a precedent of bike intrusion into HCA areas, which I believe is in direct contradiction to the original intent of the HCAs- that they be protected habitats with low levels of visitor use and a remote experience for hikers that use them.

An HCA is a form of wilderness. There is a reason why the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964 barred mechanized travel from wilderness areas. And even the International Mountain Bike Association opposed a recent House of Representative bill to open wilderness areas to bikes, stating "Public lands are being threatened at an unprecedented level, and it's imperative that public land users come together to protect these cherished places."

2) The proposed trail is riding on suggestions made in the 2005 Boulder Visitor Master Plan, the 2011 West Trails Study Area Plan, and Hickenlooper's "16 in 2016" initiative to build MTB connector trails in Colorado. Since those plans were done, visitation in Eldorado Canyon State Park has skyrocketed- 88% in the past two years alone. See graph below. (Note that the feasibility study falsely stated that it was a 48% increase in two years. Their visitation numbers were correct, so this was apparently a case of bad math.) Nowhere in those plans is it codified or mandated that the trail should be built; only suggested that the feasibility be investigated. Clearly, the situation is not the same as it was in 2005, 2011, or even 2016.

3) The feasibility study had a strong pro-trail bias. It acknowledges that the park and the town of Eldorado Springs are already experiencing major problems with traffic, dust, and crowding. Yet it dismissed the 'No Action' option because that option would not build a bike trail. This was not an objective feasibility study that carefully weighed costs and benefits of a mountain bike trail; it was a pro-trail biased report that camouflaged the real issues like habitat conservation and overcrowding, and became a 'lesser of two evils' comparison of the north and south routes.

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I request that you use good management practices and land stewardship in your recommendations for this trail. Before you jeopardize Boulder's precious HCAs, do a thorough environmental impact statement to see what affect increased usage, in the form of bikes, will have. Recognize that when bikes come, hikers leave, and this trail would eliminate of Boulder's truly remote hiking areas. Insist that the three partner agencies implement a visitor management plan BEFORE building the trail; a plan to manage existing and future crowds, that is funded and given a trial run BEFORE a trail is approved or built. This, I believe, is your job as the Open Space Board of Trustees- to preserve our public lands for their pristine habitats, and for the peaceful enjoyment of the majority of residents.

Remember that mountain bikers represent only 10% of Open Space users, yet they already have access to nearly all (50 miles) of the trails at Walker Ranch, Doudy Draw, Eldorado Canyon and Marshall Mesa. Please don't let the loudest voices be the only ones heard.

Laura Tyson

Daniel Mellish•

1/31/2019• 365

I am sensitive to the concerns of Eldorado residents and know the BMA is addressing them.

Thank you,

Daniel Mellish

Bruce Muller•

1/31/2019• 364

I would like to voice my opinion in favor of moving forward with the development of the proposed trail. Though I do wish there were a way to develop a trail separate from the existing hiking trail in order to mitigate any negative interactions between hikers and bikers.

It is unfortunate that the State Park is only accessible via one road through the middle of the little town of Eldorado Springs. Boulder County, the town of Eldorado Springs, the State Park, and the Boulder OSBT should be working together to reduce the number of cars entering the park and encourage alternative means of access to the Park. Regardless of the proposed mountain bike trail, the concerns raised regarding increased visitation to the park should be addressed in parallel with the development of the biking trail.

- Conduct an objective study of how much the new mtn. bike trail would increase park usage and, most importantly how many users would drive into the park to use the trail.
- Boulder OSBT should be working closely with Colorado State Parks to expand shared parking facilities along Eldorado Springs Drive and to encourage cyclists to access the State Park on their bikes.
- They should explore a State Park/Boulder Open Space hiker/biker shuttle service from the parking lots at the intersection of Marshal Rd and Rt 93 with stops at the South Mesa and Dowdy Draw Trailheads and the State Park.
- Encourage bikers to park at and ride from the Marshal Mesa Trailhead via Dowdy Draw to access the State Park.
- Revisit opening the Fowler Trail to biking as it could provide another attractive riding option to access the State Park without driving though Eldo.

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- Revisit building a mountain bike trail through the southwestern Open Space lands, connecting the South Boulder Creek Trailhead with the South Mesa Trailhead and encourage folks to park and ride from there to access the State Park.

I hope the public process continues to provide ideas and good dialogue between the various user groups and land owners. With open minds and an open decision making process, no doubt good solutions to the access issue will be put in place.

Bruce Muller

Cheryl Roth•

1/31/2019• 363

I urge you to please approve the trail and fix the problems raised by the Eldorado Springs residents at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix these existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Roth

Chris Memelink•

1/31/2019• 362

I'd like to write a short email advocating for the Eldo-to-Walker trail.

First; WOW, what an opportunity to make a statement on what Boulder stands for: an educated active community that support incredible outdoor opportunities in its own community. This is the exact reason that makes many people want to live in Boulder. I see this trail as a valuable asset for the Boulder community.

Second; Please don't delay approving this trail due to a pre-existing problem that should be addressed for the residence of Eldorado canyon. Trail users (Mountain Bikers & Hikers) want to help with a solution.

I personal look forward to volunteering my time to help create a special trail for many generations to enjoy nature.

Appreciate your time!

Regards,

Chris Memelink

Timothy Heiman•

1/31/2019• 361

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I would like to express my interest in having a trail system from Eldo to Walker. This trail will offer epic scenery and will offer a longer distant ride option.

My family enjoys all outdoor activities that Colorado has to offer and feel this would be a great addition to the healthy lifestyle we live here for. My son and I also help build and maintain many of these trails through volunteering with Boulder High School Mt Bike Club. I am always surprised about how much work these kids (and in general all mounting bikers provide for the trails they love to use.

I have talked with and reads letters from many of my friends, co-workers and other outdoor advocates and understand the complicated issues around this proposed trail system. However, I think we can make this work with all parties' concerns addressed – while having this great trail created for used by all. I have read that some people do not want more people (some from other cities or surrounding areas) to come and enjoy. I hope people do come and enjoy – as they too should enjoy our beautiful outdoors, just as I enjoy going to other areas (and other states) to enjoy the great outdoors their area offers.

Please consider building this trail so my family and I can enjoy this epic trail and we will offer to help build maintain the trail as needed. I am certain that if the community works together, we can fix the problems around Eldorado Springs congestion. Please don't delay the construction of the trail waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community. This is our community too.

Thanks - Timothy

Steve Chaput•

1/31/2019• 360

Hello,

I writing to encourage you to move forward with the building of the Eldo-to-Walker Connector trail. I and many of my neighbors plan to bike from my South Boulder condo to utilize this trail. My use of the connector trail with not increase demand for parking in the state park.

Please do not delay this project due to crowding concerns in Eldorado Springs and the park. While quite valid, the overcrowding concerns are a separate issue that can be handled independently.

Thank you for your service!

Steve Chaput

Aaron Ingalls•

1/31/2019• 359

To whom it my concern.

I feel the South route should be reconsidered and have the Follower trail heading east opened up to MTB's. And have the Fowler trail connect to the Spring Brook loop which connects to Doudy draw. That way MTB'ers could park at any one of the three parking lots, Doudy Draw, Marshal Mesa or Flatirons Vista to assess the new Eldo Walker trail. And the best part is that one one would even need to go

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through the town of Eldorado Springs! Why has this never been talked about? It makes good sense to me.

Aaron Ingalls

Kieu Chaput•Boulder

1/31/2019• 358

Please move forward with the building of the Eldo-to-Walker Connector trail. I am looking forward to riding from my south boulder home to this new trail!

I think the crowding concerns in Eldorado Springs and the park can be dealt with later, in a separate effort.

Thanks,

Kieu Chaput

Douglas Errett•

1/31/2019• 357

Hi,

I just wanted to voice my support for this trail connection plan since it would improve accessibility to Walker Ranch without having to drive all the way up Flagstaff road saving both time and gas as well as adding extra mileage on the trail.

After the recent snow storm I saw that a hiker got hurt on the steep trail with some strategic rerouting and mellowing out of the trail to enable bikers to go up it would also improve the walking since many of the steps would be removed in the process.

I am a Broomfield resident and enjoy the access to open space and trails that Boulder, Jefferson, and Broomfield counties provide to their residence. I don't believe that this trail modification would be detrimental to the small town feeling that the Eldorado residence would experience since most of the additional bike users would be biking into the park instead of driving.

thank you very much for allowing these types of discussions and the opportunity for more access to the mountains that we love.

Douglas Errett

Nick Igel•Boulder

1/31/2019• 356

Hello,

I am emailing to show my support for the Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch connector trail. I am a longtime Boulder resident, and a hiker and mountain biker. I would like the trail approved ...and I'm sure a solution to the residents traffic concerns can be found.

Thank You

Mark Gittes•Boulder

1/31/2019• 355

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I am a Boulder resident and bike at Eldorado Springs frequently - I am one of the few that actually enjoys climbing up rattle snake gulch! I can assure you that there are very few bikers that go to Eldorado Springs as I seldom see anyone up there. The trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch will be a great addition to mtn biking in Boulder and rest assured the amount of traffic resulting from bikers will be minimal. Why? Because that would be an "epic" ride that people would not do all the time like say Heil Ranch, Hall Ranch or Betasso. It would simply be a phenomenal option for bikers but it would not create traffic. Look at Picture Rock in Lyons for example - fantastic trail that connects to Heil Ranch but is never too crowded. Just my 2 cents.

Mark Gittes

Elwood Ireland•Boulder

1/31/2019• 354

I live in Boulder and am in favor of building the mountain biking connector trail between Eldorado Springs and Walker Ranch.

I attended last week's meeting at the court house and am sympathetic with those that live in Eldorado Springs and are bearing the brunt of congestion in what they consider to be "their" area. One of the Eldorado Springs residents focused on the enormous growth in popularity and attendance at Eldo State Park during the last few years. It seems as if the number of bikers that will utilize the new trail will be very small in comparison to the state park entry numbers. Additional parking or alternative transportation for the Eldo pool, Eldo state park, hikers and bikers does need immediate attention; yet the strong and vocal contingent of Eldorado Springs residents appear fixated on bikes as the primary cause of concern. I would argue that the number of bikers is small in comparison to the pool and state park users. If a fix can be found for the congestion of the roads for all, the bikers will not contribute significantly to the problem.

Thanks for your ongoing work for Boulder.

Bernie Norton•

1/31/2019• 353

I wanted to reach out to express my strong support for the development of a multi-use trail on the north side of Eldorado canyon. I support approving and developing the trail while addressing any issues raised by Eldorado Springs at the same time, please don't delay the construction of the trail while waiting to fix the existing problems of the Eldorado Springs community.

As an avid mountain biker that lives in South Boulder, I believe we have far too few trails open for mountain bikers. Boulder is home to many mountain bikers and the sport is a meaningful part of our culture and the economy.

I for one, pledge to access the Eldorado Canyon trail by bike, not by car. Access to the canyon trail by bike would be made easier if the trail system that connects to Lehigh/Greenbrier road were opened to bikes. I strongly support that initiative as well.

Best,

Bernie Norton

Andy Wing•

1/31/2019• 352

Being able to link trails and create more recreational opportunities is critical for the City of Boulder. Trail user management strategies need to include

-making it easier to access recreation from town

-making it easier to link parks together for longer hiking, biking and running routes

Trails are heavily used in Boulder County, which is a great testament to the love for the outdoors that most residents have. There are concerns about parking and increased usage in the Eldorado area that should be addressed. However, the opportunity to create a better, safer recreational opportunity that keeps cyclists off the road and allows cars to be parked at 4 other trailheads (not just in Eldorado Springs) should not be superseded by parking concerns. I live near Eldorado Canyon and when I have visited that park, it has primarily been via bicycle. I have never parked my car in Eldorado Springs. That will be the case with a large percentage of trail users.

Andy Wing

Lindsey Sharp•Boulder

1/31/2019• 351

I am FOR the connector between Walker Ranch and Eldorado Springs.

While I understand the Eldorado Springs residents concerns, the traffic has always been a concern in Eldorado Springs and is something that does need to be addressed in general, this trail is not something that is the sole cause for concern.

I'm a hiker, e-biker and mountain biker and have lived in Boulder for 20 years. With so many of us in town, there are fewer and fewer places where we can mountain bike nearby, resulting in driving further and further away. This trail opening is perfect and gives another opportunity to mountain bike close to home and reduce our carbon footprint. I have a feeling as this trail is perfect for mountain bikers that the traffic will not be an issue as most bikers will want to get there by biking.

I think this trail will be a perfect opportunity from Eldorado Springs to get creative on their concerns about traffic. Look at Chautauqua Park, the traffic and parking became such an issue that the city started doing a free shuttle on the weekends, how perfect for those wanting to hike the park, for the city doing something proactive and great for the residents to reduce the insane parking issues they were facing.

Change is difficult, but it's needed. Boulder isn't getting smaller and the residents desire to be active isn't decreasing. I'm not saying ignore Eldorado Springs residents concerns, but they're not the only ones with concerns. I have kids that love mountain biking as well, I want them to have options to get outside and enjoy what we as residents have invested in for so long, access to open space for everyone.

Thank you,

Lindsey Sharp

David Rockwell•Boulder

1/31/2019• 350

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Good morning,

i would like to comment on the Opening of the Eldo-Walker trail.

First I am very happy that the trail has been improved and I hope to be able to ride it soon; leaving by bike from my home in Shanahan Ridge.

I have lived in Boulder for 40 years. I have been in Eldo Springs many times and have hiked from Eldo to Walker many times.

Traffic has always been a problem in Eldo. A solution there is decades overdue. Perhaps it is a good thing that the trail building has been a driver to do something about a long standing problem.

Frankly, traffic is a problem at every trailhead, and especially at the trailheads on Eldo Canyon Drive (South Mesa and Doudy Draw).

Lots of mountain bikers are going to ride from town and not drive to Eldo to then ride west.

Any parking issues can be addressed simultaneously with the building of the trail. It does not make sense to delay building the trail until the parking issues in town are resolved.

Apparently this was the initial recommendation, which has now been amended. that amendment is a mistake.

I believe the vision of some opponents that bikers will arrive from all over the front range is also mistaken. Frankly there are far more trails to ride in our adjoining counties both north and south. Boulder has historically been way behind the curve in opening trails to mountain biking. Jeffco is far more bike friendly.

It's about time Boulder got moving; and it should not be delayed when the parking situation can be addressed at the same time as the trail building.

Please don't let the small Eldo community control the timeline on this project, they can, and should, occur simultaneously.

Thanks again for approving the trail.

Best regards, Rocky

David L. "Rocky" Rockwell

Jason Miloser•

1/31/2019• 349

How can i help?

Jason K Miloser

Nobel Biocare

Gavin Lantzy•

1/31/2019• 348

I fully support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

I believe this will actually alleviate traffic as it gives a dedicated route that can be followed vs. trying to traverse the back country!

Thank you for your time.

All the best,

Gavin Lantzy

Will Edgington•

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1/31/2019 • 347

This is such an important and needed trail. I love to ride Walker Ranch but hate driving there. It would be so awesome to be able to ride from Eldorado Springs. I understand concerns about over-use and crowding but I think those concerns can be easily remedied. There are already parking apps that let you know about availability of parking. Something like this should be utilized so that when lots are full people could park at hwy 36 and ride in. I know the cave (citizens against virtually everything) people will be out in full force but don't we live in a society? Can't we all share? Can't we all get along?

Fix the parking dilemma and I think this will be a world class connector trail!

Will Edgington

Managing Member

Jeff Oakey •

1/31/2019 • 346

I have been a Boulder County resident for over 15 years and have dreamed of more mountain biking access in and around Boulder so it goes without saying that I fully support the Eldo to Walker Ranch trail. For me it will cut down on the number of times I will have to drive up and over flagstaff mountain.

Thanks Jeff Oakey

Frank Pickell •

1/31/2019 • 345

I will not be able to attend the OSBT meeting on Feb 13th, but would like to voice my full support for building the trail. Creating a way for mtn bikers to access walker without driving up flagstaff would be an amazing and much needed access point. Please consider moving the project forward.

Thank you

Frank

Ian Jacobson • Boulder

1/31/2019 • 344

I'm writing to urge you to approve the connector trail between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch for mountain biking. I understand the residents of Eldorado Springs are concerned about an increase in traffic. These are concerns that can be addressed. This trail is a much needed enhancement to the Boulder area mountain biking community and I'd urge you to push this ahead while we simultaneously work to collectively address the concerns of the community.

We can and will do both.

Jason Richardson • Superior

1/31/2019 • 343

This project should continue. There will be entry points from Gross Reservoir side of Walker x2, plus access to parking in Eldo State park (limited), Community Ditch, Marshall Mesa and Flatirons vista. The good from this project far outweighs the fear. Most of the traffic feared will be cyclists seeking more backcountry riding options and will be keen to access this trail from the multiple trailheads along the system. Additionally, many like myself, will access this trail from my home in Superior, CO and won't seek trailhead parking.

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Joe Richardson•Boulder

1/31/2019• 342

Hi - I'm a 62 year old member of the Boulder community. Been here for about 32 years, have had several businesses, raised a family, have a kid at Boulder High and another at CU Boulder. I mountain bike, hike, walk our dog and drive as little as possible. I support the Eldo to Walker trail and the Indian Peaks Traverse. Please consider the needs and wants of the community as a whole and make the new trail a reality. Thanks for your hard work on this.

Mary Richardson•Boulder

1/31/2019• 341

I support the Eldorado to Walker Ranch Connection for several reasons. First and foremost, I have to drive to Walker Ranch to hike or ride my bike. This connector would allow me to leave my car at home to get to the riding. Second, I believe the trail connection is necessary to proceed forward with the Indian Peaks Traverse. Several times annually ride my bike to Winter Park and this would allow me to avoid driving to Nederland to start the ride. Finally, we need access for all users to more trails in Boulder County. The concerns about excessive use will prove unfounded as this trail will be technical and climb steeply out of the canyon. Please continue moving forward with this project, solutions are out there if we get creative. Mary Richardson

Janet Robinson•

1/30/2019• 340

I appreciate your responses.

Has anyone studied the Dowdy Draw trails regarding the percentage of cyclists who drive there versus ride ? Also where the cyclists come from ?

MJ Post•

1/30/2019• 339

Many have concerns over increased parking demand in Eldorado Springs when the multi-use trail to Walker Ranch is fully operational. I live on Eldorado Springs Drive and know there is indeed a problem on weekends, but not so much on weekdays. The weekend jam-up is caused in part by families lining up at the park entrance early (before opening) in order to get parking and picnic tables at the State Park Visitor center, for all-day affairs with kids and friends. How much more demand for parking by bikers will occur when the new trail opens is hard to assess, but I don't think it will be overwhelming.

One way to mitigate the demand for parking by bikers is to provide access from Boulder to Colorado Hwy 170 (Eldorado Springs Drive), on which I live. It has been logical for years to connect south Boulder (Greenbriar and Lehigh streets) to Hwy 170 through open space with a narrow corridor bike trail, joining the highway just below the hill southwest of the Eldorado Market (gas station). Conservationists, rightly or wrongly, blocked this concept during the trail study there. Such a bike trail would have minimal impact on bird nesting, if done right. Then, a lot of bikers from Boulder would not need to park near the State Park. They could bike from home or park on neighborhood streets in south Boulder. I think this would relieve a considerable amount of parking pressure at the Park, from Boulder citizens.

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David Gelderloos•Boulder

1/30/2019• 338

Greetings, and thank you for the work you have done so far on the connector trail feasibility study. I strongly support a mountain bike connection between Eldorado Springs and Walker Ranch. Mountain biking infrastructure in Boulder County has been a slow-growing process and it's wonderful to think about being able to tie more of the county trails together via single-track as opposed to narrow and dangerous roads such as Flagstaff. I imagine this must be a difficult decision with all the vocal interests being expressed, and I encourage you to push forward with the connector. Thank you, David Gelderloos Boulder County

Edward Arnold•Boulder

1/30/2019• 337

I am a mountain biker. I am writing to OPPOSE the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. The reason I am writing, is that there is an elephant in the living room in regards to biking on trails which are shared between bikers, hikers (esp. those hiking with dogs), and equestrians. The problem is that we've never dealt effectively with 2 classes of Problem People: (1) Bikers (usually male) between the ages of about 15 and 35, who always ride at maximum possible speed, as though they are on their way to a fire, regardless of who is on the trail with them; and (2) Bikers of all ages, who have never learned common courtesy, who do not slow down, smile, and otherwise convey friendliness toward trail users who are not riding bikes. There has been a series of letters in the Daily Camera on this issue, and it is clear that the people who have written in, have been terrorized by aggressive bikers. Until Boulder Mountainbike Alliance is forthcoming about this problem, and takes steps to educate their members on the need for common courtesy in regard to trail sharing, I don't want them to get what they are asking for.

Erin Kersten•Louisville

1/30/2019• 336

Thank you for considering the new connector trail. Building that trail is many years overdue and I urge you to complete it quickly, without letting the usual nimby comments bog you down. Stay strong, stay the course. It is a huge opportunity for recreation and are residents to have this amazing Front Range trail. Also, I urge you not to conflate any existing issues that Eldo residents face with this trail. Instead let's encourage low carbon recreation, like biking, and do what we can to sensibly manage the needs of all parties. Thank you, Erin

Terry Drissell•

1/29/2019• 335

I urge you not to approve the proposed mountain bike trail between Eldorado State Park and Walker Ranch. This trail is for an elite group of users, who seem to have a powerful hold over Boulder policies and policy-makers. The trail would destroy fragile natural habitat, and ruin the very reason this area is of such value.

Thank you.

Terry Drissell

Tim Hogan•Boulder

1/29/2019 • 334

We have seen a number of pieces addressing the Eldo-to-Walker planning process for a multi-use trail connection designed to accommodate mountain bikers. Just to be clear, the process at this point has decided on a feasibility study; no decision has been made as to the final outcome.

Regarding mountain biking, a recent Patagonia catalog wrote: "It's hard to imagine a better region than Colorado's Front Range for any cyclist to cut his or her teeth. The cycling communities there are deeper than anywhere in the country, maybe the world." I include this here to emphasize the untoward pressure such a community places upon our public lands, a pressure on full display at recent open houses and in the compendium of initial public comments on the Eldo-Walker project. The Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance, one of the prominent contributors to this discussion, is an active group of a thousand members or so, but it hardly represents the overall community of riders in the area, to say nothing of the overall number of visitors to our open space lands.

From the southern grasslands and Doudy Draw, to the northern foothills and the route being pushed through the Habitat Conservation Area on Joder, to the miles of trails available to bikers on County Open Space and USFS lands throughout the Boulder District, our public land agencies have been more than accommodating to riders. In the case of the latter, the Boulder Ranger District chose to sanction 46 miles of user-created trails in their most recent travel management plan. If the word of Magnolia Road locals and Nederland residents is to be believed, many of these miles were covertly built by riders over the years. Add to this the amenities provided by the city and county in the form of bike parks and an extraordinary system of bike paths, and one can only ask: What more does the cycling community want? The feasibility study will evaluate the route on the north side of Eldorado Canyon at the west end of the park, and will broadly follow the hiking trail that has been there for decades. This route lies proximate to one of the least travelled HCAs in the Boulder Mt. Parks, the area on the west side of Bear and South Boulder Peaks. Increasing use on the southern boundary of the HCA, or even encroaching into it as some have suggested, will lead to additional fragmentation and impacts on native plant and wildlife communities. As population pressures escalate, our natural areas are increasingly degraded and the ecological integrity and beauty of these habitats lost.

Riders are always ready to trumpet their environmentalist cred by pointing to the trails they build, but here they are proposing opening up a quiet track that has long served pedestrians, with an engineered route designed to accommodate two-wheeled mechanical transport. At some point, a difference in degree becomes a difference in kind, a difference that will surely not go unnoticed by the local plants and animals.

The current trail traverses steep, south facing slopes, necessitating excavation and rerouting to accommodate the increased impacts. Over time, such trails require additional management and maintenance; anticipated bike use could easily increase the need for upkeep many times over. As others have noted, the introduction of riders will result in the trail becoming largely a mountain bike route as hikers, equestrians, and runners are driven away by the constant need to look over their shoulders for bikes moving at startlingly rates of speed. The mountain bike community is dismissive of this claim, but it has occurred on public lands across Boulder County, as near to the proposed route as Doudy Draw and its environs.

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This alignment has been looked at numerous times over the years and dismissed for a variety of reasons. If it was easy it would have been done long ago. Not only is the route itself problematic, it seems it might very well become a magnet for riders from across the Front Range inundating Eldorado Canyon, exacerbating congestion from the South Mesa trailhead to the west end of the park. Some locals might ride from town, but one can only imagine the line of cars with riders coming from Denver and elsewhere.

While it appears a No Action alternative is being used as a “baseline,” I hope it will be seriously considered as an option if the social and ecological impacts become intractable. Not all public lands can accommodate all user groups, nor should they be asked to do so.

Joshua Gay•Boulder

1/28/2019• 333

While I am in general a supporter of multi-use trail systems in our parks and open spaces, I believe that Eldorado State Park is already crammed to capacity much of the year, and that expanding the trail system to permit more diverse use of the park will add to this strain. Further, whereas the family and group friendly aspects of the park (picnic areas, maintaining wide gradually sloped and wheel chair friendly trails, etc) encourage many to fill their vehicles with people, activities such as mountain biking tend to encourage more single occupancy vehicles competing for the few parking spaces available.

My wife and I love bringing our baby twin girls (1 years old) and our 3 year old because there are trails where we can push our double wide stroller and still safely leave plenty of room for people to comfortably pass us (in either direction) without needing to step an inch off the trail!

If you do decide to expand the trail system, I hope you will consider ways to further incentivize HOV/carpooling or to even offer a bike friend shuttle service so mountain bikers could park where there ride ends instead of where it begins (thus keeping spaces free for more hikers, walkers, and picnickers).

Sincerely,

Joshua Gay

Marica Klump•

1/28/2019• 332

Please, please DO NOT vote this trail through! I am a 68 yr old female who hikes the Eldo trail. I would be pushed off the trail by the aggressive mtn bikers who are using their wealthy habit to push for additional trails that aren't appropriate. I've been almost run over by them several times. The biggest and fastest should not always win. Parking is already a problem but it's really the speed and aggression in a serene, beautiful natural setting that does not work! Marcia Klump

Clint Anderson•

1/28/2019• 331

To whom it may concern,

The Eldorado to Walker Ranch trail will be a wonderful addition to the Boulder community. Please approve this trail.

Thanks,

Clint Anderson

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Andria Bronsten•Boulder

1/28/2019• 330

I oppose the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch trail connection. I oppose more access for bicycles because it would ruin the hiking trail for hikers. More cars parking in Eldorado Springs will overload an already overstressed area and will negatively impact the people who live there.

Your web site already outlines the challenges:

The feasibility study and public comments identified current challenges in Eldorado Canyon. Local and state land management agencies, visitors, and Eldorado Springs residents have been experiencing capacity-related challenges such as congestion, parking, and crowding issues for decades. Over 90% of Eldorado Springs residents who provided feedback did not support the preliminary partner agency proposed recommendation.

The study found that a multi-use trail is likely to increase visitation to Eldorado Canyon State Park and has the potential to worsen current issues. These issues include:

Traffic congestion.

Strains on transportation infrastructure and infrastructure that does not meet current demands.

Illegal parking.

Visitor density & crowding.

Emergency response difficulties due to crowded roads.

Strains on state park and resources.

This pretty much says it all.

Not every place in Boulder County Open Space needs to be opened up. A lot of places (Mt. Sanitas trail, Chautauqua trails) have been loved to death. People do appreciate smaller-is-better. Bikes can go on other trails already open to them. Please leave the trail system between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch as it is.

Thank you.

Andria Bronsten

Gabriele Sattler•Boulder

1/28/2019• 329

Whom it may concern;

I am reading with sadness your decision to construct a new mountain bike trail to connect Eldorado State Park with Walker Ranch. I also understand that the already existing hiking trail will partially be used for this construction. I have been hiking this area for twenty years and hbeen so thankful that there are still trails were bikers are not allowed, which makes it save for me a 77 year old woman to be on this trail. Some of the trails in Eldorado State Park are very narrow with steep inclines on one side and

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vertical fall offs on the other. Getting out of the way of a biker for older people becomes very hazardous. In my twenty years of hiking in Boulder County I have only once!!!! encountered a person who got off her bike in a situation like that and let me have the right of way. Only once, usually bikers barrel right through, never mind how you handle the situation.

I would like to point out to you that the Mountain Biker Alliance HAS NO RIGHTS TO ANYTHING. We all have privileges which should not be given, or withdrawn , to save the environment. It boggles my mind that Boulder of all places is willing to cave in to bikers again, after basically handing over the whole Dowdy Draw area all the way to 93 to the bikers. Those were trails I used to walk, not any more. I am tired of having to jump out of the way every two minutes for an approaching biker. Same situation with the Marshal Mesa Trail. It has basically become of limits for walkers, the bikers have taken over.

To think about the whole idea of having bikes on mountains: when I encountered this concept for the first time, I thought it a very crazy idea. All of us have gotten used to a very sick behavior. Boulder prides itself on creating Habitat ConservationAreas, and then for economic reasons allows bikes to tear them up.

No new connector, leave the area as is. Bikers have plenty of trails and roads to ride on.

Gabriele Sattler

John Osborn•

1/28/2019• 328

Please approve your proposed mountain bike trail connecting Eldorado SP and Walker Ranch.

Thank you

John Osborn

Pat Carrigan•

1/27/2019• 327

For the good of the environment and the vast majority of the citizens of Boulder, you have an obligation to deny the latest request to create new paths and to permit more biking in our open space and mountain parks.

I realize that the BMA and its allies are well funded and well organized, and I imagine that most of them are probably polite and well intentioned, however, they cannot or will not prevent what will certainly result from the expansion they propose.

As a lifelong citizen of Boulder (58 years), I can tell you what will happen if you open the proposed trail because I have seen it time and again since the “invention” of mountain bikes around 1980. In the early 80’s before mountain bikes were banned on the Mesa Trail, the entire system was being torn to shreds by those who rode off-trail and/or after periods of heavy precipitation.

After years of running on Marshall Mesa, Dowdy Draw and the surrounding trails, I no longer do so because I have been hit on numerous occasions by bikers who usually jump back on their bikes and ride away.

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As you expand trails for bikes, intentionally or not, you are reducing the number hiking and running trails for the rest of us. The simple reality is that “multi-use trails” that include mountain bikes speeding by deter use of those trails by non-bikers.

The majority of Boulder’s citizens and its long term taxpayers, not students or day visitors, will never bike on the proposed trail. Accordingly, you, as our trusted representatives have an obligation to deny the request to permit mountain biking between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Pat Carrigan

Steve Garrison•Boulder
1/27/2019• 326

Thanks for hearing my opinion. Since moving to Boulder about 14 years ago it continually amazes me how bicyclists are treated as third class citizens on Boulder trails, well maybe fourth class:

First come...

- the walkers
- the horses with riders
- then the walkers with dogs
- then the bikers get the leftover trail scraps

Excuse me, but aren't there as many or more bikers overall? Especially compared with the rare horses/riders which get high priority.

Why are bicyclists the enemy? Why do bicyclists get all the attitude in Boulder?

Where are the trails ONLY for bikers? We should have them; we pay taxes just like the other trail groups. Hikers have their trails, horse riders have theirs, where are ours?

Not only should bikers be completely welcomed on trails, along with all other users, but we should have some of our OWN trails. As time goes on I will be floating this idea and perhaps I will run for office so that this notion can be presented.

Give us our trails and stop treating biker user groups as persona non grata!

Thanks for hearing my opinion.

--

Steve Garrison

Alex Zolot•Boulder
1/27/2019• 325

As a Boulder resident and biker, I'm writing to voice my support for the proposed trail connecting Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. This trail would open large parts of the front range and beyond for bike-based transportation and recreation. Currently, there are only a limited number of bicycle routes out of Boulder, and all of them to the west require incur road biking risks and a willingness to tolerate dwindling shoulder space on increasingly congested roadways. The proposed connection would enable biking from Boulder to the front range trails, including connections over the divide into Winter Park and Beyond. There are far too few options for environmentally friendly recreation in this state, and too many places accessible only by car. Please support this trail connection.

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Regarding a recent Daily Camera editorial about this same trail, I would urge cooperation with the Eldorado Canyon authorities to limit over-crowding. Encouraging bikes (as opposed to cars) entering the park should support this goal, and bikers do not require parking spaces. I feel this trail is a major contribution to the trail system and supports the outdoor recreation and environmental protection goals of OSBT.

Thank you,
Alex Zolot

Gareth Doskey•Boulder
1/27/2019• 324

I am not opposed to linking Eldo and Walker but I am opposed to creating a mountain bike trail. I run, MTB, and climb. I'm opposed to it for several reasons

1. This won't even be a good trail for MTBs.
2. It will crowd a frequently used trail even more (this is true even if MTBs are not permitted)
3. While MTBs are supposed to yield to pedestrians, that is almost never the case.
4. MTB trails are very expensive to maintain and riders pulling off the trail or shortcutting the trail cause much erosion. The large front range population makes this even worse with individuals riding wet trails and causing severe ruts.
5. Eldo can already be very crowded and I feel this will make it worse. There is no good place to add parking to the park and Eldorado Springs residents are not happy about it either.

Thank you for the consideration,
Gareth Doskey

John McCarthy•Boulder
1/27/2019• 323

Hi,

I am a Boulder resident of 27 years and have been deeply disappointed in the progress of providing additional mountain bike access and new trails over the years. Please approve the Eldo-walker trail connector for mountain bikes as it provides a way to get up to Walker Ranch without riding your mountain bike on the road or driving all the way up there from Boulder. It seems that all good ideas are met with the typical Boulder, "we can't" attitude and I am sure you'll see this from many commenting. Fact is I moved to Boulder for the Open Space recreational experience, it's just that it seems all the good ideas get blocked by NIMBYism and environmentalists who don't want anyone to use the open space.

I am voting against your funding until I see progress on opening up recreational use of the open space land. Many of us like me are out there so keep that in mind as we need to see progress on this front.

John McCarthy

Mary Russell•
1/27/2019• 322

Karen Sandburg's Letter to the Editor in Sunday's Daily Camera (Jan.27,2019) outlines every reason why I oppose opening up the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch to mountain bike trails.

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As an avid mountain biker from the good old days of the 80's and 90's, I know how thrilling it is to cruise through vast mountain terrain, such as Crested Butte's 401 Trail, Monarch Pass's Monarch Crest Trail, and Breckenridge's Pennsylvania Gulch trail, to name a few. Now that my mountain biking is limited to dirt roads, I relish the moments and memories of walking along quiet, peaceful, and moderately difficult hiking trails throughout all of Colorado, and especially in Boulder's foothills.

I am one of the many women who are aging out of the mountain biking sport, and gliding safely into the sport of walking. As a science teacher and naturalist, I appreciate the interface of Boulder's foothills and plains, as a place where flora and fauna can live in peace, and where I can continue my quest to discover new specimens as I hike slowly, and conscientiously along her trails. If a mountain bike trail is built between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch, plenty of evidence points to the destruction of habitat for many flora and fauna.

Please, consider the adverse impacts of biker/hiker conflicts and vote NO on allowing a small group of adrenaline junkies to destroy a sacred Habitat Conservation Area.

Respectfully,

--

Mary L. Russell

Doug Walker•Superior

1/27/2019• 321

In considering the proposed Eldorado Canyon-to-Walker Ranch bike trail, I urge you consider your mission: "The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department preserves and protects the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder." The existing trail is one of the last refuges for those of us seeking a quiet, wooded nature hike near home. A bike invasion will neither preserve nor protect that experience, a bike trail will ruin it. Please, reject the proposal.

Sincerely,

Doug Walker

Matt Samet•Boulder

1/27/2019• 320

I'm writing to express opposition to the proposed mountain bike trail in Eldorado Canyon. Eldo has traditionally been a center for climbers, hikers, picnickers, birders, etc. A serene, powerful place enjoyed by quiet, conscientious users. The recent population boom on the Front Range has put a huge amount of pressure on the park, and this trail will only worsen the problem, if not outright drive other users away.

As a climber who has frequented the park since 1991, and having seen just how fast, aggressive, and often entitled and unfriendly mountain bikers can be on other trails in the Front Range, I'd hate to see this same error made in Eldo. I would hesitate to hike up to Rincon, for example, or to bring my family on the Eldorado Trail, knowing that I'd be at risk if injury from bikers bombing down the trail.

IMO this would be a terrible move that would only degrade the experience of visiting the park.

Mountain bikers have enough options around here already.

Thanks for listening.

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Matt Samet

Susan Evans•

1/27/2019• 319

I urge you Please do not allow bikes on trails now used for hiking when expanding trails from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch – or anywhere else for that matter. Many, many years ago I used to love walking my dogs at Marshall Mesa, but when bikes were allowed there, I had to stop. I wouldn't hear the cyclists until the last minute as they rode up behind me – and then only because my dogs warned me. When I was biking, that is not the way I had learned to treat pedestrians.

I am sure you remember, a few years ago we in the area of Shanahan Ridge ended up before the City Council fighting to keep bikers off those hiking trails on Shanahan Ridge. Fortunately, hikers won and many hikers and their dogs use those trails now. But pedestrians cannot compete with bikes. If you are in doubt, please walk over at Marshall Mesa on a nice day when several (or more) bikers are riding there.

I might mention that I walk Shanahan trails six days a week with my dog. It happened that yesterday two other people who had been hiking up there a long time asked me, "How long have you been coming up here?" The answer is since 1971 when most of the trails today (and definitely not the road!) were not there yet. They asked because they, too, have walked there for many, many years.

Please make very separate trails for bikes and keep them away from where we all hike.

Thank you.

Susan Evans

Janet Theodore•Boulder

1/27/2019• 318

I am writing to you to ask you to NOT approve the Eldo-Walker trail. I have been a resident of Boulder (specifically Table Mesa neighborhood) for 20 years and have seen many changes in the city of Boulder that have me seriously concerned. We have our wonderful open space resources being 'loved to death' by the numbers of people using them. I am not one of those people that don't want to share our resources or have everything stay the same as the day I arrived. But I do feel very strongly that Eldo Canyon is a very special place that simply does not have the ability to serve another large population of users. I firmly believe that opening this trail to mountain bikers will take it away from the many people who have enjoyed it for years. Hikers of all abilities will not be able to use these trails without having to navigate fast moving mountain bikers.

I think it is essential to preserve our open space resources that are closer to town and more accessible for those in our community who are unable to go farther-families with small children, elders and people with health compromises. When the park reaches capacity with mountain bikers then all the other people who love to picnic in the park, use the pool and enjoy the trails will be shut out. I know balancing the needs and desires of the various constituents is challenging, however this particular park and open space doesn't have anymore room for a large group of users such as the mountain bike community.

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Please do not approve this trail and preserve a 'close to town, but feels like somewhere far away' park for the community of people that already fill it close to capacity.

Jane Theodore

Greg Scott•Boulder

1/27/2019• 317

I have just read Karen Sandburg's article on the proposal to add Mountain Bike access to the Eldorado State Park system. While I enjoy mountain biking myself I see a need to leave this beautiful area as is. It is currently well used and I agree with Karen's assessment that seeing the families among others pushed out by aggressive mountain bikes is not at all far fetched. Please don't mess with this area and let the mountain bikers enjoy the many trails and areas they already have designated for them.

Thanks for listening...

Greg Scott

Ben Binder•Boulder

1/27/2019• 316

The Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connection feasibility study found the proposed trail will increase visitation to Eldorado Canyon State Park and seriously worsen the following conditions: Traffic congestion. Strains on transportation infrastructure and infrastructure that does not meet current demands. Illegal parking. Visitor density & crowding. Emergency response difficulties due to crowded roads. Strains on state park and resources. CPW spokesman Jason Clay said in an emailed statement that the agency understands the concerns of the Eldorado Springs community and is "committed to exploring ways to address them along with our partner agencies." It is prudent to explore ways to address these issues and determine if they can be addressed in a satisfactory manner BEFORE granting final approval and starting any work on this project. Sincerely yours, Ben Binder bbinder@ddginc.com (303) 860-0600

Jonathan Sackheim•Boulder

1/27/2019• 315

Greetings and thank you for considering the new connector trail. Building that trail is many years overdue and I urge you to complete it quickly, without letting the usual nimby comments bog you down. Stay strong, stay the course. If all hell breaks loose after this trail is added, which of course it won't, you can always close it down later. The only way you'll ever know is if you open it up and see how it goes. Also, I urge you not to conflate any existing issues that Eldo residents face with this trail. Instead let's encourage low carbon recreation, like biking, and do what we can to sensibly manage the needs of all parties. Thanks again for your consideration.

Matt Grandsaert•Boulder

1/27/2019• 314

I would be very interested in having a trail from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch and beyond. As a longtime South Boulder resident and mountain biker, we need more trails in Boulder in order to not have to drive all over Colorado to get some longer (20+ mile) rides in. I understand and appreciate the congestion and parking concerns, but I, for one, would be riding directly from my home and thereby

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causing no additional parking. I think this would be a wonderful addition to the Boulder mountain biking trail system. Please consider implementing this plan. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Matt

Ken Northcote•

1/26/2019• 313

I heard the project was in danger and just wanted to add that I think the project should go through. it would reduce traffic on flagstaff road both from bikers and commuters.

thanks

Kent Northcote

Clare Tone•Eldorado Springs

1/25/2019• 312

Greetings,

thank you for your time and care in matters covered at the meeting last night. I apologize for late submission on my comments, and please do let me know if I need to submit some other way in order to be considered.

Thanks for your consideration,

Clare (Word document attached)

[bc_posac_statement_ver_2.docx](#)

Jonathan Wirth•Lafayette

1/25/2019• 311

Boulder county needs more multi use trails that include bikes. Back in the 1980s bikers had better access to the trails around Boulder. Promoting better multi use trails is good for the inhabitants of the county. We can solve the traffic and parking problems. Please help everyone enjoy the outdoors by building this Eldo-walker trail.

Glenn Norwicke•Arvada

1/25/2019• 310

Please consider opening the trail up to mountain bikers. It would be a tremendous asset and the MTB community is eager to assist with maintaining the trail through volunteering.

Nader Sefidabi•Lafayette

1/25/2019• 309

Dear Committee, I am opting for Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain biking connection. As an immigrant and an outdoor enthusiast I really appreciate how much people respect and enjoy the great outdoors here in Boulder County. I love hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, running and every other outdoor activity. I believe everyone should be able to do their favorite outdoor activity as long as they

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are not hurting other trail users, wildlife and the environment. Parking is not going to be an issue since mountain bikers can park at Marshall Mesa trailhead and ride to Eldorado Springs in less than 20 minutes. This way there will be fewer vehicles on the road, as well as fewer bicycles on dangerous Flag Staff road. Please let us make this happen, Thanks, Nader

Brittany Sliter•Lakewood
1/25/2019• 308

I am an avid trail runner and I am in full support of this trail connection. This would be a beautiful place for long runs and would be a great way to connect two different communities.

jeffrey carter•Lafayette
1/25/2019• 307

Hi- I am a Boulder County resident and I write in support of the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connector trail. As a mountain biker, I have long hoped for this connection as it will connect two popular riding areas- Walker Ranch and the Marshall Mesa trail system. Many Boulder County residents are mountain bikers and they are faced with a limited number of places to ride, none of which are connected to one another via trail. Yet there is ample open space and hiking trail networks in Boulder County. An Eldo/Walker connection will create the opportunity for connected trail networks. I can envision leaving my house in Lafayette for Walker ranch, riding there, through Eldorado Canyon, stopping to pay the use fee and completing my ride home via the Marshall Mesa network and achieving local mountain bike nirvana in the process. While I recognize and appreciate Boulder County's efforts to create new mountain bike trail experiences over the last decade, most of the vast trail network continues to exclude mountain bikers. The Eldo/Walker Connector is a reasonable and limited effort that will have an outsized effect on improving the trail experience of Boulder County resident mountain bikers. Thanks for reading

Clare Gallagher•Boulder
1/25/2019• 306

As a trail runner, I support this connection trail. I think it will greatly help the quality of the trails (with two being present and with the MTB community becoming involved stewards). Let's be real, the MTB community takes care of the trails! My biggest concern is for the locals of Eldo: how will parking be handled? I would hate to see increased parking around locals' homes. If bikes could access the state park free of charge, wouldn't this help alleviate parking pressure AND increase human powered recreation and traffic? I think this would have a positive impact on the climbing community if bikes could enter the park free. In short, I'm in support of the trail as long as the parking issues is addressed through allowing free bike and foot traffic into the state park.

Luke Elphinstone•Boulder
1/25/2019• 305

The trail connecting eldorado canyon to walker ranch would be an awesome opportunity for my high school mountain biking to ride new trails, and ride more. The trail would be much safer than riding on flagstaff, and much easier to access walker ranch.

Suzanne De Lucia•

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1/24/2019 • 303

I am an avid mountain biker, but am opposed to the Eldo-Walker trail, as I believe that there is already too much pressure on this area and on the town site of Eldorado Springs.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Sincerely,

Suzanne De Lucia

Jeff Flynn •

1/24/2019 • 302

I was very disturbed by a guest opinion in the daily camera the other day that suggested that the new mountain bike trail would literally lead down into the area where people picnic in the park.

I've been told by various people that those picnic areas are often used by people of color and their families.

If such is the case, this will literally cause the picnickers to abandon that area and thus the park. No one wants their young children to be put in danger by mountain bikers. And that is not to blame the mountain bikers.

Is Boulder Open Space promoting trails that actually displace people from using the park, especially those who may not have the money to go rent a cabin up in the mountains for a weekend?

I hope not.

At this time, it does not appear that this trail is ready to be approved. Displacing people from the park should be one of the things that is studied first. Let's not do harm with our policies.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Flynn

Karen Sandburg •

1/24/2019 • 301

According to the WTSA Final Plan, a multi-use trail connecting Eldorado State Park to Walker Ranch was not promised but would be given a "best effort" and possibly a feasibility study if needed. This Plan was finalized in 2011.

Things have radically changed since 2011, with Eldo park visits more than doubling in the last two years, severely straining the small town of Eldorado Springs. There are only 120 parking spots inside the park so the road into Eldo is currently a nightmarish row of idling cars polluting the air.

Introducing a new user group will displace other users on multi-use trails, a reality that is a net loss for hikers, runners and climbers. That isn't even considering the damage done to 20 acres of HCA.

I think this is a very bad idea from so many perspectives. At the least, this proposed trail is deserving of a feasibility study to look more closely at the far reaching impacts this trail will have on current users, the town of Eldorado and the HCA that will be needlessly lost.

Best,

Karen Sandburg

Buzz Burrell • Boulder

1/24/2019 • 300

I have never ridden a bicycle in Eldorado Canyon State Park, while I have been rock climbing there since the Fowlers operated it as a private park, and 100+ times since. I already can hike or run from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch anytime I want, and have done so countless times.

I fully support the proposed Eldorado to Walker multi-use trail.

Why? Since I personally don't need a multi-use trail, and have been an active climber in Eldo for 45 years, why do I support this?

Because it is good for the community and is the fair and right thing to do.

As the Board of Trustees knows, E-W has been part of a transparent and public and process for a decade, involving many branches of government. It is possible some people did not participate in the work that has been ongoing, and I can't blame them for that because that participation required an absurd amount of time. But it would be unfair to those who did participate in the lengthy public processes for a "re-set" button to be hit, and to discount the work that has been done. We should be honorable and consistent in our public processes.

Numerous valid concerns about the E-W Connection have been raised. Here are my thoughts.

Parking

Certainly. There are far too many cars everywhere, all over the world.

There is likely a parking problem driving to work, to shopping, maybe even driving home, but we don't forbid doing these things. Having less cars would be an excellent solution, but not allowing one particular group of citizens to use public land because of their car does not accomplish that, it simply discriminates against that particular group, while still allowing everyone else to do whatever they want. Ironically, this concern is directed at potential mountain bikers, which is the group that is least likely to drive and park.

Parking at Eldorado Canyon State Park (as well as everywhere on the planet) is a real issue, but one that pre-dates the E-W Connector by decades, is far bigger than that, and the agencies have to address it no matter what. It's important to note that the potential increase in visitation due to the E-W Connector is dwarfed by the percentage increase in visitation to the State Park that has taken place already, and is projected to take place regardless.

As a somewhat controversial aside, I personally believe that full parking at trailheads is not necessarily a problem - not being able to drive a car somewhere is a positive for the environment.

This will only benefit mountain bikers.

Of course. Tennis courts only benefit tennis players, soccer fields benefit soccer players, and swimming pools only benefit swimmers. But we still provide them all as a public service.

Our community values diversity (or says it does), and cycling is a great activity, very good for our health and well-being, and is positively promoted as one of the prime contributors to reducing our reliance on automobiles. Cyclists deserve their place in the sun.

Eldorado Springs residents are against it

Naturally. Local residents would likely be against picnickers or anyone driving past their house. They were against paving the streets and were against sewer lines.

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While this attitude is entirely understandable and I'm certainly sympathetic, everyone's taxes paid for public land, that land provides a fantastic benefit to those lucky enough to live next to it, so the general public has a fair right to access what it paid for. There is a greater community good.

The Eldorado - Walker Connector is part of a wonderful and much larger overall initiative to encourage healthy exercise, connect people to their natural environment, and keep Colorado a beautiful place to live. Let's join in.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sonja Sabels•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 299

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I am writing as an avid enthusiast of the outdoors, an active hiker and mountainbiker who spends many hours every day on trails. After decades of being outside, my opinion is that mixing bikes and hikers is a terrible idea. To illustrate my point, during the years that the mountain bike trails in Dowdy Draw and Marshall Mesa have been open, my personal experience is that the overall etiquette of mountain bikers is very poor. The majority of bikers will not yield to others, not observe right of ways, and not slow down for or respect the safety of hikers. Opening up the Eldorado trail to the mix is inviting more unsafe behaviour on a very large scale. This trail is frequented by large groups of beginner hikers of all ages, skills and ethnicity, and I foresee a serious increase in conflicts, miscommunications, accidents, and mountain rescues. Additionally, I have noticed a considerable increase in aggressive and high speed driving in the town of Eldorado Springs. I feel that inviting more cars laden with bikes to an already stretched and overfilled Park is pushing the town and facilities beyond the reasonable. We already deal with speeding vehicles churning up dust and parking illegally during many months every year. If I had any more positive observations to share about our fellow outdoor enthusiasts, I may have a different opinion, but as it is I am absolutely not in favor of the Walker Ranch bike connection as it is proposed. Please separate bikers from hikers, and please let's get our fellow bikers educated on what it means to be a responsible and considerate participant of the trail system. Thank you.

Nancy Auerbach•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 298

The Feasibility Study has revealed significant issues associated with construction, maintenance, management, and use of an Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection Trail designed for mountain bikers. I strongly recommend that POSAC approve the No Action/Existing Conditions option. As a professional ecologist, I am particularly concerned about the ecological degradation that would occur if the (mostly) new trail were constructed. The degradation that would occur includes sensitive habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, and erosion. The natural world is under assault around the world and it is death by a thousand cuts—when we degrade nature we degrade the world we need to live in. There are already many trails in this area that hikers and climbers and bikers enjoy. We don't need any more trail construction. As a recreationist (trail runner, mountain biker, and climber) I am concerned that the mountain bikers have been so powerful in pushing their agenda. In my experience of running hundreds of miles on the Boulder Open Space trails, I can definitively say that my good experiences are diminished when mountain bikers are also using the trail. Hiking and mountain biking are incompatible

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trail uses. No matter how many signs are posted, bikers always have the right-of-way and hikers must always be on the defensive at the risk of injury. As a resident of Eldorado Springs, I am concerned that associated increased people, traffic and congestion will diminish the quality of life for all us residents who chose to live in Eldorado Springs because of its natural beauty, serenity, and majesty. The town already supports park and pool recreation that strain its capacity. There is an extreme risk that this proposed trail would attract huge numbers of people from the Boulder and Denver Metropolitan area and farther afield. The town and Eldorado Canyon State Park simply cannot support increased use without there being degradation of experience, safety, health, well-being of everybody except the mountain bikers. There are already many trails in this area that bikers enjoy. The proposed mountain bike trail is simply not feasible. Important stakeholders (the community of Eldorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park, and all visitors except mountain bikers) would be the losers if this trail construction were to proceed. I strongly recommend that POSAC approve the No Action/Existing Conditions option.

Bay Roberts•Eldorado Springs
1/24/2019• 297

Dear Sirs, I live in Eldorado Springs and I am a mountain biker. I love to ride my bike but I am against the Walker Ranch to Eldo trail. Since Doudy Draw and Spring Brook have been open to mountain bikes, it is not possible for people to walk there or ride a horse. Once the bikes come, it makes it very unpleasant and/or dangerous for other users. This proposed trail would clearly benefit ONE group and one group only, the mountain bikers. And the mountain bikers are a special interest group fueled by money from their sponsors. As you are aware, our beloved Eldorado State Park is absolutely over-run most weekends of the year, every holiday and throughout the summer. The impacts of this over-crowding are extreme for the residents of Eldo- congestion, lack of parking, illegal parking, dust on the road. The park is clearly under-funded and under-staffed through no fault of their own. They can not handle the amount of use in the park and this new trail would just add a new user group to the mix, add more people and probably more cars (as people drive into Eldo or near Eldo to park their car for the start or end of the ride). The people of Eldorado Springs would be heavily impacted by adding even more congestion to our area—we want a voice. The mountain bikers deserve to have a voice too but what they will lose if this trail does not get built is another bike ride. But the people of Eldo will lose the peace, sanity, clean air of their home town. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views. Respectfully submitted, Bay Roberts PS if we feel un-represented here in Eldo, I can only imagine how the birds, wildlife and native plants feel- who speaks for them?

Rich Reynolds•Boulder
1/24/2019• 296

No new bike trail, please. Bikes in this area would destroy quietude and solitude sought by passive users. Mechanized users, bikers, startle hikers. Bikers would take over this trail from passive users. New trail alignments promote invasive plants. Managers always claim that invasives will be monitored and remediated, but this never happens to any meaningful degree. Adding bike use to this area will greatly exacerbate crowding and worsen parking issue for Eldorado Springs and outlying area. Biking will attract commercial outfits dumping multiple bikers in clusters. How will the agencies control profiteering on our public lands?? Thank you Rich Reynolds 4331 Eldorado Springs Dr 80303

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John Steiner•Erie

1/24/2019• 295

I've been a Boulder county resident since 1992. In that time several short local trails have been added and they are appreciated. For those of us who like to spend more than an hour or two adventuring on mountain bikes, We have to drive or take a bus up to Nederland for for greater access and safe passage to the high country. We have the support system to work this out. By any means necessary, our community can make the trails work for all involved. Please, take this into consideration. Let's make Boulder greater than it already is. Sincere thanks. John

Kevin Bains•Longmont

1/24/2019• 294

In favor of multi-use trail from eldo to walker. Specifically in favor of mountain bike only sections.

Damon Kelley•Arvada

1/24/2019• 293

My apologies for the typos in my last response, I think I sent it while falling asleep. Regardless I was saying I hope they build it, have been following the previous discussions on the planned trail which looks great as do the additions at Walker Ranch. Lack of parking near the Eldorado State Park Ranger station is probably a major concern and I don't know where the next downstream options are and I know the Eldorado residents are probably protective of their remaining land understandably. I know there is always concerns of overuse of trails too and this would put a major artery to Walker Ranch instead of having to drive up Boulder or Coal Creek Canyons to get to Walker ranch. Hopefully there are available options for parking, that always seems to be the bottleneck. I was suggesting vehicles with bikes not allowed past a certain point on the road from HWY 93. Hikers and rock climbers should have priority for close proximity parking since they have gear and no wheels. Thanks for listening.

Laura Tyson•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 292

There is a critical piece of information that was downplayed and actually reported erroneously in the feasibility study. Visitation to ECSP was 524,000 in 2018- 88% more than two years ago and more than twice what it was in 2005 and 2011 when this trail idea was first proposed in the Boulder Visitor Master Plan and the West Trails Study area plan. (In the study it was reported as an increase of 48% in two years- which is just false, and just bad math.) In its own documents the park stated in 2017 that it was unable to effectively manage the increased crowds. Please show responsible stewardship and require that an actual management plan be developed and implemented to address existing traffic and congestion issues, in the park and in the town, BEFORE the trail is approved. The current approach of making problems worse before figuring out how to fix them is poor management, and the result of a powerful mountain bike lobby that is pushing this through as fast as they can. I've attached a graph of park visitation. Please Slow Down, Listen, Think, and Plan before approving this trail!

[ecsp_annual_visitation.pdf](#)

Jason Holzworth•Golden

1/24/2019• 291

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The trails should be open to bikes. Biking provides an excellent benefit of exercise as well as mental health.

Ron Gager•Boulder

1/24/2019• 290

As an Eldorado Springs valley resident and a former mountain bike shop owner and an avid mountain bike rider, I am completely opposed to this trail extension. The Park and Open Space areas are already over capacity on any nice weekend and the trail extension will only exasperate an already overtaxed resource. I do NOT believe riders will choose to ride into the park versus driving in - as evidenced by the large number of cars with bikes that pass our house every day.

Nancy Denison•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 289

Dear Board Members, I am writing this in opposition to the Eldorado Springs/Walker Ranch Trail. I believe the cart has been put before the horse on this matter. A new management plan needs to be implemented before the trail is approved. I have lived in Eldorado Springs for 25 years and hike the surrounding trails daily. I also have ridden my horse on the trails. The only time the bikes would truly yield to me was when I was on my horse. When bikes essentially took over Marshall Mesa Trail, Doudy Draw my hiking experience was compromised. After rain or snow multiple use trails are closed due to bikes potentially ripping up the trails. This was never the case when horses and hikers were the main users. The Eldorado Canyon/Walker Ranch Trail offers a very different experience crossing terrain west of the Flatirons, S Boulder Peak and Bear Mountain. It is steep and rugged in some areas and rolling in others. It feels more "wild" than the other trails. To have that terrain ripped up to create a new trail for one user group seems disrespectful of our preserved public land. Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Denison

Marc Eichinger•Louisville

1/24/2019• 288

Dear POSAC Members, I am writing in support of the Eldo-to-Walker multi-use trail. As an avid mountain biker, hiker and father two young children I support this effort to expand our community's options to actively explore the outdoors. Thank you for your effort and collaboration on this initiative!
Best, Marc Eichinger Louisville, CO

John Cartwright•Louisville

1/24/2019• 287

Hello, I'm writing to express my concern over the proposed Eldorado-Walker connector trail. While I am a mountain biker and climber myself and understand the enthusiasm of the bike community for a new trail, I feel that the additional traffic in Eldorado Springs and Eldorado Canyon State Park will make an often already crowded situation untenable. Even without the additional bike users, the state park's popularity with tourists, hikers, picnics, and climbers make it quite difficult to get into the Park on a summer weekend. In short, I don't think Eldorado Springs and Eldorado Canyon State Park have the capacity to handle the influx of additional visitors and strongly urge you to postpone moving forward on the new bike trail until a solution to the current overcrowding is found. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Alex Hyde-Wright•Boulder

1/24/2019• 286

Dear POSAC members, I strongly support the creation of a multi-use Eldo-Walker Trail that will enhance the regional connectivity of our trail system. While I would have preferred a north and south trail to create the possibility of loops or separating uses, I understand there are strong environmental reasons for the north alignment to be the sole alignment. Contrary to popular belief, mountain bikers are not "taking over;" there are tons of trails in Boulder County that are off-limits to bikes (all OSMP trails west of Boulder, many POS trails at the major ranches, and all of the wilderness areas). Allowing one trail on the south end of town (Eldo to Walker) and one trail on the north end of town for people to be able to ride right out of the city hardly constitutes "taking over". The Eldo-Walker trail as proposed is an excellent compromise, and will form the first/last link in a phenomenal trail system linking Boulder to Winter Park. Please approve this trail! Thank you, Alex Hyde-Wright

Erik Sween•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 285

Dear POSAC Members, Thanks for doing what you're doing. It takes so much time and is such an important process. There are 3 things I want to touch on: good trails/bad trails, unincorporated towns, and marksmanship. I worked for Outward Bound for over 10 years. I love Colorado's wild places. I have walked a lot of trails, I know trails really well. I am also a mountain biker. There are places trails should go and should not go. Eldorado State Park is unique. It's the queen of Colorado's State Parks--it's beauty is unmatched. I hope all of you have been there to know what I mean. There doesn't need to be a mountain bike trail everywhere. That's not a good place for a trail. Not there. It will change the current use to serve one user group. I moved to Eldorado Springs in 1988 and bought a house in 1993. We are an Unincorporated Town in Boulder County. We are not part of the City of Boulder. We are dependent on you to listen to us. We do not have any public infrastructure except a sewer. We have a pool, we have a post office, we have a park. But all the streets in Eldorado are private. When the Park and Pool are going, we are at capacity. Full up. We don't have room for a flotilla of mountain bikers. It's the residents of Eldorado Springs who will pay the price. Switching to marksmanship metaphor. If you're at the rifle range, there's a 3-step process. Ready, Aim, Fire. It's not Ready, Fire, Aim! With this project, that's what it's become. Ready, Fire (build the trail), then Aim. Meaning do the planning for parking, management, and impact afterwards. That's unconscionable with a one of a kind location like this one. Please push pause and vote for thorough planning being done ahead of approving this.

Sincerely, Erik Sween

Gregory Barnes•Boulder

1/24/2019• 284

Please open this connector trail for bicycling. I ride my mountain bike up Flagstaff road to get to Walker ranch, and I've had several close calls with cars which ignore the speed limit and the signed rule to not pass bikes on curves. I would only ride this connector from my house, so there would be no additional parking strain. I am a rock climber and I support this trail, some climbers have portrayed themselves as speaking for the climbing community in opposition, but please know that many climbers do not agree. I also have small kids and we have no issues hiking on multi-use trails. They are learning to bike on trails

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(which are far safer than roads with texting drivers!), and I look forward to exploring additional biking trails with them without wasting energy and polluting the air by driving. Thank you for considering this long-awaited connector trail! Greg

James Pancoast•Thornton

1/24/2019• 283

I'm unable to attend the meeting but I'm a mountain biker and I'm in full support of the Eldo to Walker connection. Thank you!

ELLEN GAGER•Boulder

1/24/2019• 282

Eldorado State Park has been used for years as a recreation spot treasured by many user groups. As it has grown in popularity the increasing traffic, parking problems, and congestion in the Park and surrounding residential areas has grown as well. To correct the current overuse of the Eldorado Springs area is already an unaddressed and lingering problem, and to add a major new bike loop would cripple an already insufficient infrastructure. The proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch bike trail should NOT be approved. Issues related to safety on switch backs in the park for both bikers and hikers are inevitable. "Expert" riders may know how to handle that kind of terrain, but novice riders certainly do not. Is OSMP willing to accept that pain, conflict and liability? Will there be a "skill test" for riders to pass, similar to the process that is required of pet guardians to let their dogs use OSMP? SAFETY must be the primary concern and in an area where there are families with small children, handicapped visitors and the general public interacting with the intensity of a sport like mountain biking, in advanced terrain, accidents are sure to happen. The general public will soon realize that it is not a safe area for them. Mt bikers have many other options. Eldorado Springs should not be one of them.

Marion Zimmerman•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 281

From my home of 30 years, I can see the cars backed up trying to enter the park. I watch them struggling to turn around at the highly congested area by the park entrance adjacent to the one lane town bridge where the Eldorado Springs tanker trucks enter and exit. Cycling through town is dangerous. It is difficult to avoid hitting pedestrians while avoiding being hit by tanker trucks, Fed Ex trucks, UPS trucks, garbage trucks, and the ever increasing tourist traffic while navigating a potholed, bumpy road that narrows and widens with no definitive boundaries. The continuation of the road into the canyon is even worse as it is less than 2 small cars wide at best in many spots with steep drop offs down to the creek. I created a path on the opposite bank in order to avoid being hit by the visiting drivers that are not familiar with the dangers of the road. Until the Eldo State Park figures out a way to mitigate the traffic and parking problems caused both by the terrain and the ever increasing useage, it is absolutely ridiculous to encourage more use by creating the proposed biking trail. I suggest reopening the Mesa trail to cyclists at the very least on a limited perhaps even trial basis. Close in to many parts of Boulder could be a fantastic moderately difficult trail that would easily connect with the existing paved cycling routes along Broadway and beyond. Marion Zimmerman

Angela Bartlett•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 280

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As a property owner and long time resident of Eldorado Springs and a user of Eldorado Canyon State Park I have to let you know what a bad idea this trail is. You have not thought through this idea and seem to be ignoring the negative consequences: The environmental impact of a new trail through an ecologically sensitive area. Overcrowding in an already maximized area. Bowing to the demands of a well funded and powerful lobby that has only its own concerns at heart at the cost to all other users. Increased traffic and illegal parking in the town of Eldorado Springs. Please look at the whole picture and stop this madness. Sincerely, Angela Bartlett

Ann Doyle•Eldorado Springs
1/24/2019• 279

I would suggest that before any decision is taken regarding the new biking trail, that city representatives take the time to visit the park during high use days during the summer. You will see that adding bikes to an already overcrowded and overused area would be an absolute disaster and stress not only the park, but its facilities, other hikers and picnickers. The rangers are so stretched in their current park maintenance and we have seen first hand what happens when an accident occurs. The town itself has many issues concerning parking and safety for families and children living there. I have lived in Eldorado Springs for 25 years and I recall when the first biking trails were added in the Dowdy Draw area. On the first day when the trails were opened I was nearly knocked over by an enthusiastic cyclist who screamed at us to move over from the hiking trail so that he could pass by, nearly crashing into us. This is simply too small an area, that is already overcrowded, to add another section of sporting activities. Please remember that this is where we live, walk and play and safety for our families and children should be paramount.

Curtis Cole•Denver
1/24/2019• 278
Yes please.

edwin schmidt•Denver
1/24/2019• 277
Please open this up for mountain bikers

Rick Marshall•Eldorado Springs
1/24/2019• 276

1) Park and town are already overcrowded in the summer, especially when the pool is open. Crowded parking in town results in one lane traffic gridlock that is already horrendous. 2) Eldorado Canyon State Park is already over used in the summer and Rangers are already overworked. 3) One can pick up a lot of speed on a mountain bike coming down Kneale Road by the Bastille (with realizing it). There have already been serious bike crashes by lone riders. (Ask a ranger). Feel a duty to warn that if more mountain bikes are added to this overcrowded car and pedestrian situation, serious injury or death may result. Perhaps the attorneys that are attempting to push this mountain bike trail through should be held personally liable in this event?

Tod Smith•Eldorado Springs
1/24/2019• 275

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Please see the attached testimony. I hope to deliver this in person, but may not make it back from my meetings in the San Luis Valley in time. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Tod Smith
Good evening, I am Tod Smith and I live at 42 Barber Lane in Eldorado Springs, Colorado. I don't know if you have seen the movie Field Dreams (if you haven't this will probably fall flat) but, in the movie, Ray, who builds a baseball field in his corn field, is told by a voice – "if you build it, he will come." Well in this case, if you build it, they will come. They will come to Eldorado Springs, a Town that is already overrun by constant traffic and all its inherent problems every single weekend from May through at least September, and nicer weekends throughout the year. These problems have existed for at least 15 years and will be exacerbated exponentially if the County, City of Boulder, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife approve building a new mountain bike trail. The impacts of building a new mountain bike trail must be addressed and viable solutions to mitigate those issues have to be identified as part of any feasibility study. This is the only way the project proponents, including Boulder County, can ensure an accurate and valid analysis of the impacts and benefits of reconstructing the Eldorado Canyon Trail to accommodate mountain bikes. Leaving those problems until sometime in the future, as is being recommended by County, City, and CPW staff, quite frankly, turns the entire feasibility study, and its purported analysis of impacts on its head. Approve and construct the mountain bike trail, then we'll try to address the already identified impacts.

The County is obligated "to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future inhabitants of Boulder County, and to guide future growth, development, and distribution of land uses within Boulder County." This language is taken from the introduction to the County's land use code which is incorporated into the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. I suggest to you that it is equally applicable to actions taken by Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

Staff recommends that you approve a mountain bike trail to which the only access is through the Town of Eldorado Springs, a small narrow town built into a canyon, tightly packed with homes, and one narrow dirt access road. You've heard others describe how Eldorado Springs currently suffers from significant harmful impacts due to the location of the State Park and the people accessing the Park. I won't repeat them. But, there is one thing the agencies recommending approval of the trail, the opponents in their letters to the editor, their petition, and Daily Camera commentaries, and even the proponents in their letters and commentaries agree upon, these currently existing harmful impacts on our town will be exacerbated by the additional car traffic and bike riders accessing the proposed trail. The feasibility study gives short shrift to these current and future impacts, the proponents suggest they are easily resolved. Some suggest they will be resolved as part of the State Park's Visitor Management Plan, a planning process that the feasibility study recognizes has not even been funded, ignoring the fact that the residents of Eldorado Springs have been pleading with the State Park and County for assistance in getting the existing problems solved for years. So, how do the County, City, and CPW respond – they propose approving the trail, designing it, and building it, at an estimated cost of \$800,000 - \$1 million dollars – and during that process they will try to find solutions.

In the memo provided to you for this meeting, County Open Space Staff state that "There also was agreement among the project partners that current challenges such as parking capacity, congestion, park access, and the Eldorado Springs interface must be addressed as part of the future planning, design, and construction phases." I'm not quite sure what is meant by the "Eldorado Springs interface."

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Would that be meeting and collaborating with the community of Eldorado Springs rather than simply seeking their public comment at public meetings and on web surveys? That certainly did not occur as part of the process leading up to Staff's recommendation to approve the trail. I note that the memo states that in December this Committee told staff to "review the Eldorado Springs townsite community concerns." I believe that may have precipitated the only meeting with the Eldorado Spring community on January 8, 2019, at the beginning of which County and CPW staff informed those in attendance that staff had already recommended approval of the mountain bike trail.

Additionally, the memo states: "Staff also recommends that Boulder County continue working with the City and CPW in collaboration with stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that mitigate capacity-related issues impacting the greater Eldorado Springs community. We support ensuring that capacity mitigation efforts are in place before the trail is opened to biking." The process has been flipped on its head! Staff identified but failed to conduct any significant analysis of the impacts, they failed to study and assure the implementation of solutions, and they propose approving and moving forward with construction of the trail on the flimsy unenforceable promise that they will figure out solutions in the future. And I don't for a minute believe that once a million-dollar trail is built, the County and the City will keep it closed as they try to find and implement solutions. Remember, if you build it, if you've spent a million dollars building it, the mountain bikers will come.

You have an obligation to decide, in your consideration of Open Space staff's recommendation, whether the health, safety, and general welfare of the Eldorado Springs community, citizens of Boulder County, have been fairly considered and fully analyzed. They have not. The process demands that you first address and solve the identified problems and impacts confronting the citizens of Eldorado Springs, the only citizens who are directly impacted by the current overrun condition of the State Park and the heightened impacts this trail will bring to our community. Only then can you honestly analyze whether the impacts, solutions, and benefits support reconstruction of the trail to accommodate mountain bikes.

[testimony to advisory committee tod.docx](#)

Robbie Cartwright•Louisville

1/24/2019• 274

Dear POSAC members, Please put me on record as being vigorously opposed to the connector trail! I regularly hike in Eldorado with my family. Currently traffic and parking in Eldorado Canyon is already far above capacity, and most mountain bikers would drive with their bikes to park at the trailheads, further exacerbating the congestion. Adding speeding mountain bikes to hiking trails greatly increases the likelihood of trail injuries and altercations. The construction and use of this proposed trail would have a far more detrimental environmental impact than its proponents acknowledge. It would appear to add many more switchbacks. Mountain bikes definitely cause more erosion than hikers. Please do not even consider going ahead with this project until the current overcrowding issues in the park are resolved, and after that please carefully consider the potential safety hazards to the public and damage to the park environment. Thank you. Sincerely, Robbie Cartwright

Scott Lehman•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 273

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I am resident of Eldorado Springs township and I respectfully urge POSAC and BOCO Commissioners to vote “no” on the proposed mountain bike trail connecting Eldorado Springs and Walker Ranch and to delay further consideration until such time as a comprehensive Eldorado Canyon State Park and ECSP/Eldorado Springs township interface management plan is in place. I have reviewed publicly available documentation of present and past deliberations by POSAC and Boulder City OSBT, all of which cite as ongoing, yet unmitigated issues i) inadequate parking, ii) degraded user experience when sharing trails with mountain bikers, iii) impacts on the environment and sensitive wildlife habitat, and iv) growing impacts at the Eldorado Canyon State Park/Eldorado Springs interface (among others). Assessments of local trailhead parking (incl. Marshall Mesa, S. Mesa, Dowdy Draw, ECSP and associated overflow into Eldorado Springs township) in 2011 indicated inadequate parking at that time. Since then, ECSP visitation has more than doubled according to CPW statistics. Use of the other trailheads (some of which now accommodate ECSP overflow) has undoubtedly increased by a similar amount in response to population growth along the Front Range. ECSP staff presently report a lack of resources and staffing needed to manage recent increases in visitation. Despite inter-agency acknowledgement of these issues, and for reasons yet to be clearly articulated, POSAC, City OSBT and Colorado State Parks and Wildlife have each recently recommended proceeding with the proposed trail project. The BOCO Eldorado Springs-Walker Ranch Connector Feasibility Study notes “The shared commitment to the North Route facilitates continued collaboration among the partner agencies, helps align long-term planning, funding, and resources, and creates a platform to work with the community on addressing access, local traffic congestion, parking impacts, and trail user conflicts.” It then adds that public input to a yet-to-be funded and staffed Visitor Use Management Planning process will not begin until sometime in 2020, well after a proposed decision date on the connector trail sometime next month. Given expressed concerns about current and anticipated further impacts of State Park, City and County trailhead use and concerns about user group interactions any decision to expand current use before creating a Management Plan would seem to be irresponsible, and a clear dereliction of BOCOs mandate to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future inhabitants of unincorporated Boulder County. Once again I respectfully urge you vote “no” on the proposed connector trail, and delay further consideration until such time as a Management Plan incorporating input from Eldorado Springs township is in place. POSAC may furthermore wish to renew consideration of alternative E-W connector trail routes at locations other than in the already stressed ECSP. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to this process.

Bradley Anderson•Superior
1/24/2019• 272

The proposed trail/route is long overdue. It's time for some equity with regard to POSAC's approach to trail use, planning, etc., and equity - by any measure - includes far greater access, opportunity, and resources for MTB. Parking, traffic and access issues can be mitigated with careful planning. Thanks POSAC for the time and effort put into this process!

Gary Shirman•BOULDER
1/24/2019• 271

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I support the proposed multi-use trail that the 3 agencies have recommended. These 3 agencies have been working for 4 years on this project and they have considered all aspects and impacts in coming up with their recommendation. Their thorough research and work on this project should be respected and honored, or why bother spending all this time and money if their findings are thrown aside by a few vocal opponents? This decision should not be influenced by this minority group. There will never be 100% agreement on any decision made. Thank you!

Jennifer Renshaw•Silverthorne

1/24/2019• 270

Please create this trail and allow mtb access! More multi-use or mtb specific trails help to alleviate the congestion on other local trails. Connector trails help to access different areas more easily via bike (or foot) instead of hopping in the car to go to various trailheads. I hope this proposition is supported and moves forward. I used to live in Boulder and would've loved this option back then. I still frequent the area to mtb and climb and think this is a great idea. Thank you! Jennifer Renshaw

Mitch Smith•Boulder

1/24/2019• 269

Please approve this trail connection. I normally take the N bus to Nederland for a day of mountain biking in the West Magnolia area. Coming back down to Boulder via mountain bike is difficult after the Dot trails on the east side of Magnolia. I take CO 68 to Flagstaff Road and pass Walker Ranch to climb over the top. Flagstaff Road is busy and has little to no shoulder. This trail connector would allow me to descend away from vehicles and have also have a nice mountain bike ride. I've seen some discussion that the existing Chapman drive would be an alternative, but it still would require me to use Flagstaff Road for many miles without a shoulder. Only after the final ascent on Flagstaff Road is where the cutoff to Chapman drive occurs. Finally, I never plan on going up the connector trail and, if I do, it will be after riding from Boulder via the South Boulder Creek trail and the Marshall Mesa Community Ditch trail.

Crystal Gray•Boulder

1/24/2019• 268

Dear POSAC members, I support the interagency staff recommendation to proceed with the Eldo/Walker multi use trail connection including addressing the parking/access issues which will take a serious program, as well as public education, to solve. I served on the Boulder City Council during the approval for the West TSA. There was so much interest our final meeting was held in the Boulder High auditorium. Council supported examining the feasibility of a multi use trail connection between Walker and Eldo as well as climber access on trails in the HCA. Of course the details of how and where to achieve this were not included in the West TSA but there were guiding principles for future decision makers to refer to. The council said no to bikes on the Mesa Trail, no to a parallel bike trail to the Mesa Trail and no to a bike trail from Shanahan Mesa to Eldo. We said yes to Chapman Road bike access. We also supported HCA's and limited dogs in certain areas. As part of the West TSA approval Chautauqua and Eldorado Springs were identified as major access points to the trails in the West TSA. We knew use, parking and access would be issues to be addressed in the future - which is now! The recent Chautauqua access program can give you an idea of one way to solve some access problems - and I am sure there are lessons to be learned to improve this program. The impacts to the Eldorado Springs Community will only

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increase with the exploding Front range population so it is important to use bold access management programs as well as education out reach across the front range - we, the users, have to adopt new ways to access our open space to solve these issues. Once you make a decision on the staff recommendation I am sure, in the future, user conflicts will be addressed so please seriously consider to limit electric bikes on this trail connection. Thank you for the good work POSAC and the county staff does with our tax dollars - we depend on you to keep the eco system healthy and sustainable and accessible. Best, Crystal Gray Boulder Council member 2003-2011 303-906-5509

Alan Brown•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 267

POSAC Members: This is to recommend the NO ACTION OPTION for Eldorado Canyon Trail to Walker Ranch until a detailed analysis can define/cost impacts and improvements for Eldorado Canyon State Park and Unincorporated Eldorado Springs. State Park visitation has increased 300% since the 2013 flood, and Park funding/staffing are a constant challenge. The Original Eldo Townsite, platted 1904-1908, is an intact historic place. Eldo is a compact rural hamlet with very little auto-people capacity. Another Feasibility Study would have addressed the obvious public safety, congestion, property-rights and parking problems BEFORE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, NOT AFTER. But this "feasibility study" appears to have only settled conservation-versus-bikepath arguments. While South BoCo Trailheads and Open Space are bursting at the seams. A box canyon has geographical limits to provide for the exploding recreation population of today. A future shuttle + vehicle reservation system? Eldo is a private property realm with historically limited infrastructure. But there are recent infrastructure precedents, like the successful Eldo Sewer, accomplished in partnership with Boulder County and the State. And County Transportation Dept has worked closely with Eldo on road Design/Construction Permit Documents, as yet unbuilt. Are future bikers not waiting-in-line to pay at the Park Gate? Are bikers expecting to ride on the already crowded ADA compliant Fowler Trail? Are bikers parking in Eldo private spaces when the Park turns them away? Are they racing through town? All area Trailheads will be full. Will they park illegally on the State Highway? I am asking you to stand up for a valuable Park and Community, and also for current open space and Park users. Thank you, Alan Brown.

Janet Tolin•Boulder

1/24/2019• 266

I strongly recommend that POSAC approve the No Action/Existing Conditions option. I am concerned that the increased amount of people and traffic will diminish the quality of life for the town of Eldorado Springs. It's already congested and overburdened with pool and State Park visitors.

Elizabeth Felts•Superior

1/24/2019• 265

I am a mountain biker, hiker, and trail runner living in Boulder County. I am in favor of the mountain bike connection from Eldorado Canyon SP to Walker Ranch. This connector trail will enable users to create a larger loop from south Boulder County, spreading users out and lessening the traffic burden on Flagstaff Dr., which is often busy and dangerous for motorists, cyclists, and hikers. Personally, I will use the new connector trail to ride my bicycle from my house in Superior through Marshall Mesa to Doudy Draw, into Eldorado Canyon SP, then on to Walker Ranch. This is a unique opportunity to create a long

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mountain bike ride in Boulder County, which many users want but do not currently have access to, and from talking to other members in the MTB community, this is how most plan to use a connector trail--to connect different segments of a big ride. This type of use will attract experienced mountain bikers, who tend to be more courteous trail users. A connector trail will lessen the traffic load in and out of Boulder.

Mark Udall•Boulder

1/24/2019• 264

Like many other people I have grave concerns about the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain bike corridor. I urge the POSAC to at this time not approve the recommendations of the staff to proceed with the next steps. The feasibility study has not addressed many of the legitimate and fundamental questions that have been raised by not just the residents of Eldorado Springs but many other engaged Boulder County citizens. Until traffic, parking, and environmental impacts have been completely addressed the plan should be not be approved.

Maggie Fox•Boulder

1/24/2019• 263

We have been residents of the Eldorado Springs Valley for the last 15 years, but we have been coming here to hike and bike for over 35 years. We have observed with increasing concern the changes in traffic, congestion and impact on open space values that have become serious in recent years. The recommendation to open the Eldorado Canyon trail to connect with Walker Ranch by Open Space staff is a violation of the open space stewardship values of this County and the cultural mores of this Valley. The Feasibility Study serving as this basis of this recommendation is both misleading and blatantly incomplete as it fails to actually look at or deal with the numerous impacts to residents and visitors of the Town of Eldorado Springs and the State Park including overcrowding, limited and thus illegal parking, the impacts on the natural values of the trail, the twenty acres of the HCA and more. As residents of this Valley and long time users, we urge the Commission to stop this proposed trail connector. We live with the impacts of mountain biking on the Dowdy Draw, Spring Brook Loop and know first hand that this is unwise. Thank you, Maggie Fox

Jason Goff•Superior

1/24/2019• 262

I am fully in support of adding mountain bike accessible trails to complete an Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connection. It would add to the amazing activities of our area, allow more users to see the Flatirons from a different perspective, and encourage more people to conserve our environment. I live nearby and could ride all the way from home, eliminating yet another car on the road and parking lots of our trail systems. Please let this happen!

Jerilyn DeCoteau•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 261

Please accept these written comments. Jerilyn DeCoteau
Comments on the Walker-Eldo trail

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I am Jerilyn DeCoteau. I have lived in Eldorado Springs for 13 years and hiked and biked here for 34 years.

I want to speak to my own experience when trails are opened to bikes and from living with the impacts of overcrowding in the state park.

Eventually there are no conflicts with hikers because, like me, they stop using those trails. Truly, there is no way to share a steep trail with bikes. It is unsafe for hikers and can't be fun for bikers who must stop, especially on hills, to accommodate other trail users. I move off the trail for my own safety. I'll give you one example why. I had a near severe collision with a biker coming downhill from the Spring Brook Trail going way too fast on a blind curve. I was barely able to jump off the trail to safety. He did not stop. No one should need a second example to understand that speeding bikes and pedestrians don't mix. That was the last time I hiked that trail.

What you are considering with this trail is simply displacing the current users in favor of a small group of bikers. Bikers know that. If hiker displacement hasn't been studied, it should be, because it is a consistent pattern where trails are opened to bikes.

I live on the creek across from the entrance to town. In the summer I cannot leave my windows open because of the dust from traffic. We can't even enjoy a summer breeze on a hot day, if we don't want to breathe dust and have everything we own shrouded in dust. The dust is an actual health hazard.

I watch cars line up going in and out of the park in a steady stream all day. Many speed, especially when leaving at day's end or after being turned away from a full park. They speed by people, children and pets walking along the dirt road, the only place they can walk. It is as though these visitors have some special right of way that takes precedence over those who live here. This is an actual safety issue. It makes me cringe to see it and should make you cringe too.

I watch emergency vehicles every weekend headed into the park and wonder how they will navigate the traffic and whether the injured, lost or sick person will be ok.

Most of all, I wonder why the County, the City and the Park seem to be bowing to the mountain bike community against all impacts, against all other users and without any plan for addressing the existing overcrowding and health and safety problems.

The biking community feels they deserve this trail, but they must face reality. Satisfying their wants comes at high cost to all other users, the park and the town of Eldorado Springs.

We need solutions, not more problems. Why not spend nearly a million dollars fixing the existing problems instead of adding to them. Then we can consider a bike trail.

I want to mention park fees. I enter the park at least weekly to hike. It is a joy to be in such beauty and serenity. I know people come into the park on the Fowler and avoid paying. I ask these people how they think the park is maintained for their enjoyment if they don't pay their share. I hear of members of the biking community who talk about how they will avoid paying the fee. Some say they will ride past the line of cars to enter the park, and I wonder if they think they can use this park without paying and without waiting in line like everyone else.

I also want to mention trail closures, which are more frequent at Doudy and on the Ashram road since those trails have been open to bikes. This is presumably to protect the trails from degradation after a rain. I noticed that the Doudy was closed on Wednesday morning. It had snowed a bit so maybe the trail was wet. Bikes do more damage to trails than hikers. Yet the trails are closed to all users. It would

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make sense to close the trails to bikes and still allow hikers. This would allow a blessed few days of no conflict hiking on these trails.

Thank you for allowing me to express some of my concerns.

[jerilyns comments for the hearing on jan 24.docx](#)

Amelia Hall•Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019• 260

I am a long time resident of Eldorado Springs and I am unable to attend the meeting in person. I am writing to express my serious concern with this feasibility study and the proposal to expand the use without any concrete commitment to addressing the influx of traffic and the lack of available parking in Eldorado Springs. It isn't enough to just acknowledge the problem and figure it out later on. For those who are attempting to push this decision through and to mock the residents of Eldorado Springs on social media, I would ask them to consider how they would feel if they had had hundreds of cars and people descending upon their neighborhood every weekend. Parking in their driveways, littering and urinating on their properties and speeding past their homes. This canyon is losing its beauty and peace by not having any support or infrastructure to accommodate the traffic that passes through the town. Further I am concerned about multi use trails being dominated by aggressive cyclists who, from my experience, tend to believe that they have priority over hikers, families with young children, and the elderly who also like to use these paths. My final point is that I urge POSAC members to meaningfully address how they are supporting issues of diversity and inclusion in parks and open spaces, how are they accommodating all demographics of society to use and enjoy these spaces? Mountain bikers are overwhelming white, upperclass men and women, who already have tremendous advantages, privileges, and access to a wide range of places and sites to enjoy their leisure time. Can't we explore the feasibility of encouraging a more diverse community, to provide a shuttle service to visit the park and provide spaces for all demographics to enjoy the space. Not just those who can afford \$3000 mountain bikes? There are already many multi use trails available for them, nearby Doudy Draw and Marshall Mesa are just two examples. these are trails I no longer hike on because of bikers bearing down on me at high speed. This isn't intended to denigrate the sport but frankly I am fed up with the idea that we have to accommodate a group who already have so much. When is enough, enough?

Justin Berkompas•Wheat Ridge

1/24/2019• 259

Please open this trail for biking. I and many of my friends would use this.

Kristina Diller•Boulder

1/24/2019• 258

I fully support the unanimously proposed a multi-use trail agreed upon by the three partner agencies (Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Colorado Parks and Wildlife). This trail connection is a vital piece of Boulder County trail infrastructure and will create many great recreation opportunities for generations. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of

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the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. Please support this trail alignment and project! Thank you.

Gerry Huitt•Louisville

1/24/2019• 257

Dear POSAC members, Please strongly consider opening this connector for bicycles. I believe this will be a strong addition to Boulder county recreation that will help to alleviate congestion, improve safety, and reduce user conflicts. Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Kenkel•Superior

1/24/2019• 256

The three-agency working group under the leadership of Boulder County staff recommended a multi-use, regional trail to connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch — the Eldo-to-Walker trail. I would like to thank the staff of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their hard work and willingness to collaborate. This trail recommendation is the culmination of several extensive public processes, including a unanimous decision by Boulder City Council during the West Trail Study Area, as well as Boulder County's Walker Ranch Management Plan, the Boulder County and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans, the 2016-2026 Colorado State Trails Plan, and the state's Colorado the Beautiful program. We are gratified that four year effort has led to a recommendation to provide a multi-use trail connection from the plains into the mountains, an amenity that currently does not exist in Boulder County. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. I understand the scope of this three-agency recommendation before POSAC and OSBT is regarding the alignment of the trail and nothing more. Nevertheless I want to express my hope that the Committee Members and Trustees will encourage their agencies to continue this successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the goal of solving the parking and crowding challenges that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the town of Eldorado Springs for decades. Possible solutions to the parking issues are shuttles and multi-use trails that allow people to hike, run or bike from Boulder directly into the park. BMA members have been engaged in this project from the beginning and the resources this organization has successfully employed in other areas will be available to help make this regional trail connection and its implementation a success.

Hailey Hawkins•Boulder

1/24/2019• 255

I'd like to respectfully submit my comments regarding the Eldorado Canyon-Walker Ranch proposed trail. I do not support this trail expansion. I am a Boulder resident, wildlife advocate, climber, hiker, and a volunteer on the board of Boulder Rights of Nature. In my personal and professional life, I walk the balance of conservation and recreation. E.B. White said it well: "Every morning I awake torn between a desire to save the world and an inclination to savor it. This makes it hard to plan the day." I feel this is relevant to the newly proposed Eldorado Canyon-Walker Ranch trail. At Boulder Rights of Nature, we see outdoor access has a privilege, not a right. When that access infringes on the rights of others, human

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or non-human, we have a responsibility to alter our behavior in a way that protects the ecosystems that provide life. A new Eldo-Walker Ranch trail will further fragment land in a Habitat Conservation Area. These are areas that Boulder County has identified as valuable to wildlife activity. Habitat loss and fragmentation are the number one drivers of species decline and extinction worldwide. Boulder is no exception. Some of our declining species include the Abert's squirrel, American marten, and northern harrier. Public lands, including "our" Open Space systems within the city and county, are the result of settler colonialism and the oppression of native peoples. If you, like me, live in Boulder and the surrounding areas, you live on land stolen from Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples. With regard to the Eldo-Walker Ranch trail, the rhetoric that says that we have a "right" to open space access is an extension of the colonialist mindset that took this land from the original inhabitants of Boulder and Colorado in the first place. We don't have that right. We do have the right to give voice to the oppressed peoples and lands that are continually being colonized through modern means. I recognize and appreciate the people, like all of you, that work hard to protect our open space. And I hold the duality that we now "own" our open space. We are where we are. And no individual alive today is to blame for that. However, moving forward, we can work to decolonize our actions in a way that promotes life and health of humans and, at the same time, our environments. Thank you for your time.

Clare Tone•Boulder

1/24/2019• 254

Greetings, attached is a portion of comments I would like to submit. I am worried that there is a cut-off time to submit written comments to the staff, is that true? This is a huge topic, I have been researching the feasibility study and related reports and documents for days (weeks actually) in order to make an informed contribution. Thanks for considering, Clare

COLORADO'S STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN – 2019-2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/SCORP/Final-Plan/SCORP-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Which starts with: "Those who recreate outdoors had a variety of motivations, the most popular being to enjoy nature, to relax, for social purposes such as spending time with loved ones, and to improve personal health. The most common recreational activity statewide and regionally is walking, followed closely by hiking/backpacking and then picnicking and tent camping. With this in mind, the public's recreation priorities focus on the development of local walking trails and paths, increasing opportunities to view wildlife..."

Everything about the Eldo Canyon-Walker Ranch Mtn Bike Trail works in opposition to this.

Please review Priority # 3 (Land, water and wildlife conservation) as these speak specifically to the issues we are raising. I have pasted that section in red below.

In the introduction, Governor Hickenlooper states:

"I certify that the plan was developed with extensive data collection and public involvement. This is a plan for all Coloradans. Now, it is up to all of us -- local, state, and federal governments, conservation and recreation professionals, volunteers, and recreationalists -- to act upon the information and strategies provided in the plan."

In other words, it is beholden upon every decision maker and law maker in Colorado to act upon the strategies outlined in the comprehensive recreation plan. Specifically the three-agency group that has so far recommended the construction of the multi-use trail: Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the city of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife; But also and importantly the pro-industry Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, Eldorado Springs residents (including the Artesian Springs property owners) and City of Boulder by extension.

From Colorado's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019:

Strategy 1: Initiate and support planning efforts to gather and aggregate data and produce maps that factor in landscape-scale considerations (including migration corridors and unfragmented habitat) and inform land use decisions (private, local, state, federal and tribal). Convene diverse outdoor interests with land managers to compile and interpret data and to develop effective collaborations throughout the planning process.

My notes: The feasibility study claimed to—but failed—to develop accurate mapping regarding landscape scale considerations including migration corridors and unfragmented habitat. Their mapping relies on inaccurate data and many assumptions. Also fails to address impact of Gross Reservoir reconstruction project just to the west and how that will impact migration routes and forage pressures, etc.

Strategy 2: Incorporate outcomes of Strategy 1 into land use decisions by promoting and utilizing consistent maps and datasets to illustrate the overlap of recreation and conservation interests.

Collaborate with private, local, state, federal and tribal land managers/property owners to inform decisions in support of conservation and recreation objectives.

Objective II: Address Recreation Impacts - Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts. Utilize best practices when developing new trails or other outdoor infrastructure.

My notes: The feasibility study utilized park visitation numbers that are wildly inaccurate to project recreation impacts of the mountain bike trail. Please refer to Laura Tyson's information from 1/24/19 meeting (source: Colorado parks and Wildlife annual visitor numbers)

Strategy 1: Compile existing research and conduct new research to better understand the impacts of recreation on land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. Incorporate findings into the development of management guidelines that optimize conservation while maintaining infrastructure and recreation experience. Strategy 2: Share outcomes from Strategy 1 with outdoor recreation partners (private, local, state, federal, tribal and NGOs). Convene partners to build broad support and commitment to address findings and mitigate impacts of recreation on natural resources.

My notes: Please consider role of IMBA and Boulder MBA (a chapter of IMBA). Refer to my presentation notes from 1/24/19. The role of the mountain bike industry has clearly influenced this process.

[scorp.docx](#)

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Please support the approval of the Eldo-Walker connector. This trail is an important missing link in regional off-road connectivity. The concerns about a "parking apocalypse" because of this trail are over exaggerated. Most mountain bikers plan to park at other trail heads in the SoBo system or ride from their homes. Currently, there is a lack of quality, challenging trails for mountain biking in the SoBo system. This is forcing mountain bikers to drive to Walker, Heil, Hall and other areas around Denver. The alternative to this trail is simply more cars on the road. Please don't set this project back another 20 years. Boulder's population is growing. We need more trails and trail accessibility. More trails closer to home is beneficial to the entire community. Thank you.

Tommy Delgado•Castle Rock

1/24/2019• 252

Please open these beautiful trails to bikes Thank you

Mike Barrow•Lafayette

1/24/2019• 251

I am sending my comments in the attached document.

Good evening. First and foremost, I want to thank you for your service. Our community thrives because people like you give their time to make things better.

Tonight, staff is asking for your approval of a feasibility study that answers the question; "Can a sustainable trail be created between Eldorado Canyon state Park and Walker Ranch?" That is the scope under your consideration and nothing more. But we all know there are problems in this area that have been going on for decades that need to be addressed as well. You are hearing from people tonight that the improvement of this trail and addition of mountain bikers will make a bad situation worse.

We can debate about how worse, but that won't solve a single problem. I would also say that saying no to this feasibility study won't solve any of the parking and crowding issues that have existed in this area for decades either.

If our 20 year effort to make a regional trail connection is a catalyst to address these larger problems, then I would think that those crying wolf would be thankful that these issues are being discussed at all right now. Right now we have three agencies collaborating on a scale I've never seen in my 28 years of advocacy. This is opportunity knocking.

I am asking you to approve this study and ask the Boulder County Commissioners to continue this collaboration to address the complex problems that exist in Eldorado Springs and Eldorado Canyon State Park. I think it is safe to say that maintaining the status quo is unacceptable with or without mountain bikers in the mix. It will take city, county and state agencies working together with the community to address these problems. And if it's mountain bikers desire for a regional trail connection that triggers this effort, well, that's fine with me.

Regional trails are a concept that is sorely needed in Boulder County. They disperse use and enable users to get out of their cars and have a trail experience between the "islands of recreation" that currently requires a car to get to. This is how we relieve pressures on individual open space parcels without having to increase the number of trail miles on those lands.

I've been working on this project since 1999. Even if you approve this study, we have a long way to go to make this project work. Let's find a way to say "YES" instead of looking for a way to say "NO".

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Bogdan Lita•Boulder

1/24/2019• 250

Please allow the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connector as proposed by Indian Peaks Coalition.
Thanks!!!

Debbie Moguillansly•Louisville

1/24/2019• 249

I am writing to offer my support for the eldorado canyon to walker ranch connection. I am an avid trail user and would love having access to this new trail option.right now most of the trails I enjoy (Walker Ranch being one of them) I have to access through the Boulder Canyon or surrounding area. This new connector would be such a wonderful addition to the South Boulder trail network. I would certainly get a lot of use and enjoyment out of it!

MaryBeth Vellequette•BOULDER

1/24/2019• 248

Dear POSAC members, I would like to express my utmost support for the building of the Eldo - Walker connector trail and its access to mountain bikes. I have been a mountain biker for over 20 years, and see this connector as a necessity - it will encourage biking to trailheads (in particular Walker Ranch), lessen the auto traffic on Flagstaff Road, and encourage mountain bikers to stay closer to town (and spend their \$\$\$ here as well) rather than driving to another community to ride. I have always been a believer that our open space is a precious resource, but also one that should be used by all kinds of recreationists, not just observed from afar. Please consider this a strong positive in support of the connector! MaryBeth

Richard Miller•Golden

1/24/2019• 247

Please open this trail to biking!

Fred Kueffner•Longmont

1/24/2019• 246

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but as a Boulder County resident that enjoys hiking and mountain biking I would like to say that it would be wonderful to have the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connector trail completed. My Family and I would use a trail like that several times a year. Thank you very much for all your efforts.

David Thompson•Louisville

1/24/2019• 245

I support a trail allowing mountain bikes to connect through the North side of Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. It will eliminate the need for myself and other mountain bike riders to drive up Flagstaff road to reach Walker Ranch.

Ryan Balciar•Boulder

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Dear Advisory Committee, Thanks so much for the time you are dedicating to this decision making project. As a business owner and 20+ year resident of Boulder County I believe that allowing more users to access our beloved mountains is important. While I sympathize with the concerns of my fellow citizens, I believe that many of their concerns are unwarranted. Personally I would love to be able to access Walker Ranch from our fine city without having to ride up portions of Flagstaff Road. Driving to a trailhead is one of my least favorite activities. Typically I ride to Walker twice a year, although every time I am passed by a car or truck I am forced to reassess my sanity. A route from the South Boulder area would be safer and more pleasant. I would also really support building a better trail that connects the Doudy Draw area to the proposed new trail. Offering a great riding experience will provide incentive for cyclists to park on the east side of 93, easing the traffic burden felt by residents in Eldorado Springs and the park itself. Thanks again for your time, Ryan Balciar

Theodora Barychewsky • Eldorado Springs

1/24/2019 • 243

I am the owner/occupant of 237 Eldorado Springs Drive, Eldorado Springs, Colorado, 80205. My home is located on Eldorado Springs' 'main drag', in the heart of town, just east of the Eldorado Springs Swimming Pool. As you are aware, traffic through my town has dramatically increased in the last 5 years or so. Because our road is dirt, the increased traffic kicks-up a LOT of dust. One or two times a year, 'mag-chloride' is spread on the road to mitigate dust. That helps, but not for long. At no time in the summer can I open the windows of my house. Several times during the summer the outside of my entire house needs to be power-washed; windows need cleaning every other week. Often I am concerned about the long term consequences of breathing at my house. The proposed 'Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch Connection' will only increase traffic and congestion, as well as further contaminate the air on Eldorado Springs Drive. Please consider allowing completion of a management plan for Eldorado Canyon State Park prior to approving the Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch Connection. Thank you for your consideration. Theodora Barychewsky

Todd Bowen • Golden

1/24/2019 • 242

This connector trail will benefit the community. It is a necessary connector they will ultimately bring revenue to local communities and decrease cars driving around with bikes on them.

Edie Stevens • Boulder

1/24/2019 • 241

The alleged "Feasibility Study" fails to include any analysis of the environmental impacts the proposed trail will have on the Habitat Conservation Area of the City of Boulder's Open Space. This HCA would be carved up by the construction of switchbacks— no references to the size of the trail necessitated by switchbacks or possibility of erosion, no analysis of the effects of such a trail on its flora and fauna. We read daily of the extinction of species, of insects and birds necessary for pollination of food crops. We hear of the disappearance of animals native to Boulder County. Will you, as caretakers of this land and its species, frivolously accept such a limited analysis of the proposed trail?

Corinne McKay • Boulder

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Greetings, committee members! As a local mountain biker and the parent of a student who has ridden with the Fairview high school mountain bike team for three years, I am writing to encourage you to approve the plan to approve the "Eldo to Walker" trail, that would provide a much-needed recreational and training opportunity for local mountain bikers. The need for this trail is clear: despite the fact that my family lives in Boulder, which we would all agree has one of the most amazing trail systems of any city or county in the US, we often find ourselves driving to Jeffco, where more mountain bike trails exist, and where conflicts between hikers and bikers are managed in an equitable way. This new trail is an opportunity for Boulder to show leadership in accommodating users who want to enjoy the trails and open space in a multitude of ways. Additionally, this would show support for the fact that, year after year, Boulder's schools turn out some of the state's top mountain bikers, despite the fact that mountain biking is a club sport. For lack of other options, our young people mostly train on just two trail systems: Marshall Mesa and Betasso, and are in critical need of other options. I hear and understand the concerns of Eldorado Springs residents: parking, traffic, and crowding are certainly major concerns at the park. However, I think that the plans that have been presented to mitigate those issues (i.e. a shuttle, multiple access points for the trail, off-site parking for bikers and trail runners who do not have heavy equipment with them, etc.). In addition, I feel that all of us need to accept that when we live in an amazing place where many people move for the quality of life, it is illogical to be surprised when other people besides ourselves want to recreate on the land around us: the best solution is to equitably manage access to the recreational resources that we have. Thank you so much for your time and consideration! Corinne McKay

Adam Prosis•Longmont

1/24/2019 • 239

I support the decision to connect Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. It will help bring more unique visitors to the area, provide economic growth and will help users enjoy the area more.

Monique Cole•Boulder

1/24/2019 • 238

I'm writing in support of a mountain bike friendly connector trail between Walker Ranch and Eldorado Canyon. As an avid mountain biker since the 1980s and a volunteer coach for the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team, I see how crowded our mountain bike trails can get. We need more trails so we can distribute the use and reduce user conflict. Connecting two mountain bike areas will also reduce the amount of driving people do to get to trailheads. It would be amazing for the student athletes that I coach to be able to bike with their friends on the weekends from their homes in Table Mesa through Marshall Mesa and Dowdy Draw to Walker, spending very little time on dangerous roads. Mountain biking is growing quickly, so I hope that the trails available in Boulder County will keep growing as well. Thank you for your service on the POSAC board! I appreciate your time. Sincerely, Monique Cole

Kevin Moynihan•Louisville

1/24/2019 • 237

I won't be able to attend the in-person meeting tonight, but wanted to voice my opinion. I'm a mountain biker. This trail is extremely high value to cyclists as a connector between Walker and

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Marshall Mesa. I can mountain bike to Marshall Mesa from my house and would ride up to Walker and even up to West Magnolia and Brainard from home. To address some of the issues brought against this trail: I will never drive a car to El Dorado to park and ride from there - I will always ride in. I am completely happy to pay park fees but would love to be able to connect to this trail via Fowler from Springbrook loop. If the park is seeing issues with overuse, segregating mountain bikers is not a solution. If those issues persist with this trail introduction, consider throttling trail use by limiting users by day of the week or directional travel on certain days. Thank you for your consideration. PS: I'm in favor of the south alignment but would love any way of accessing Walker without being another car or another cyclist-in-danger on Flagstaff.

Ryan Baczurik•Centennial
1/24/2019• 236
Completely for it!

Kyle Lofstedt•Lakewood
1/24/2019• 235
Let's make directional mtn bike trails so there is less issues between trail users.

David Osbirn•Longmont
1/24/2019• 234
Please consider opening up this trail to bicycles. I currently ride Boulder County, Jefferson County, and Larimer County trails and would love the opportunity to ride from Marshall Mesa through Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch (and hopefully further west).

Johnny DeFeo•denver
1/24/2019• 233
Two thumbs up for Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch. Would definitely like to utilize on mountain bike. Yes please!

Jeff Girkout•Lafayette
1/24/2019• 232
As a 21 year Boulder resident and 10 year volunteer for the Boulder mountain bike patrol I could not be more pleased to hear of the progress made regarding the proposed multi use trail from Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch. I have long dreamed of riding my bike up that route while sharing smiles with my fellow trail users. I would be happy (as would others) to volunteer time towards trail work and/or increased bicycle patrols to politely educate trail users on proper etiquette. Other "hiking only" trails have succeeded in becoming multi use, this would be yet another opportunity to demonstrate just how well we all can get along. Thank you so much for the hard work and progress made on this great project! Keep it up.

Kyle Goodmaster•Denver
1/24/2019• 231
I would love a new trail, there are more people than ever out there so spreading them out always helps. A trail system with a lower user per mile ratio always helps avoid conflicts, and who likes getting mad in the woods? Nobody! Bikes are fun. Peace on earth

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Karen Tourian•Boulder

1/24/2019• 230

I support the development of the Eldo-Walker multi-use trail. Since this is a collaborative effort with 3 agencies, it seems that all could come together to work on parking mitigation. Eg, if cyclists and pedestrians (runners) could enter ECSP free, they would be much more likely to park elsewhere (such as the Dowdy Draw trailhead) and ride/run over, rather than parking at the State Park where you pay a fee.

Kenneth Kubala•Boulder

1/24/2019• 229

This comment is in support of the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain biking trail. Adding this trail would great enhance the biking recreation around Boulder and provide a safe biking route to Walker Ranch without having to risk life and limb biking up Flagstaff. Best Regards, Kenny Kubala

Josh Winer•Boulder

1/24/2019• 228

Please accept my support to create a mountain bike route from eldorado canyon to Walker Ranch. The creation of this connector will provide a much needed alternative to driving to a trailhead and will offer an alternative to the very few "ride from home" options available in boulder. The result will be spreading out trail use and providing a more sustainable network for cyclists and hikers alike!

Trace Baker•Boulder

1/24/2019• 227

At the 24 Feb POSAC meeting, it appeared as if the Eldo residents arrived and signed up to give input en bloc, and all were opposed to the Eldo-Walker trail. With one exception, speakers voicing approval of the trail were not heard until after the 8:30 break. I had to leave around 9:00. A citizen--or journalist--leaving early could have the impression that the overwhelming public opinion opposed the trail. The approach to assigning speaker order appeared to give trail opponents an unfair advantage. As a committee, I'm sure you are aware of your process, and can disregard speaker order. Still, would the perception of fairness be enhanced if you randomized speaker order at sign-up? I haven't thought much about how randomization would affect pooling time, but I'm sure something could be worked out.

Adam Haid•

1/23/2019• 226

My name is Adam Haid. I'm a Trustee in Erie and former board member for Boulder Mountainbike Alliance. I work at NetApp in Boulder and spend a lot of time and money there. I've built trails in Erie, Boulder, and Nederland as ridden my bike all over Colorado. I am very much in support of a trail connecting Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch.that allows bikes to traverse the two. Please allow the connector to be built and grant more access for biking in Boulder County.

Adam Haid

Erie Trustee

Kay Tuttle•Boulder

1/23/2019• 225

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Hello,

My name is Kay Tuttle and I am an avid mountain biker, hiker, and trail runner. Please do not exclude mountain bikers from access to this proposed trail. Mountain bikers are an important part of the community. We have as much right to the trail as other trail users. If the problem is parking congestion I do not understand why mountain bikers should be the user group that is singled out for exclusion. I propose an every other day policy, one day mountain bikers, one day hikers, with equal access to both groups.

Than you,
Kay Tuttle

Nathan Hickie •
1/23/2019 • 224

Hello,

I am writing to express my gratitude that the trail alignment from Eldo to Walker Ranch is being considered.

As both a hiker and a mountain biker, this trail would be a fantastic addition to the Boulder county trail system.

From the hiker's perspective - this could spread the mountain bike user base across more miles of trail than we previously had to offer and make for a less heavily trafficked experience at other trail systems.

As a mountain biker, this would be a great way to reduce traffic on Flagstaff road and turn a 45 minute drive to the Walker TH into a 10 minute drive to one of the trailheads surrounding Eldo.

I wholeheartedly support the construction of the trail and would again like to thank you for your consideration of the new alignment.

Thanks,
-Nathan Hickie

Peter Riley •
1/23/2019 • 223

I would like to express my support for at least part time access for mountain bicycles to the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch trail now under discussion. I have read others' letters and many good points have been raised. I too worry about even more crowding and impact upon the terrain and wildlife. I do think there are local examples of where this can be successfully managed — for example Centennial Cone Park in Clear Creek Canyon, which designates days for hikers and others for bikers. I would strongly discourage use of e-bikes and would advocate rangers with the ability to enforce proper trail bicycle etiquette. I do think that multi user conflicts can be successfully reduced.

Peter Riley

Matthew Muir •
1/23/2019 • 222

To Whom It May Concern,

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In regard to the proposed Eldo-Walker connector trail, I would be pleased for there to be more time devoted to hearing the voices raising questions about the route. Granted, this prolongs a painful process and complicates potential outcomes.

Points 4, 5, and 6 in this document seem pertinent to me,
<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/SHIFT/CPW-SHIFT-Principles.pdf>.

Regrettably, there are some parties involved who, in my opinion, historically and still today fail to listen or respond in real terms.

Two notes, I'm an avid mountain biker and would personally benefit from this trail. Two, I'm commenting as a private individual.

Regards, Matt
Matthew Muir

Laura Osborn•Boulder
1/23/2019• 221

Greetings,

Since my last communication, I have become strongly opposed to the proposed Eldo-Walker Connector Trail due to the increasing information I have obtained as to how this trail will negatively affect current user groups, Boulder County residents (which includes Eldorado Springs dwellers) and also nearby wildlife. Mountain bikers currently represent only 10% of Open Space users. However, they already have access to over 30% of the City's Open Space Trails and nearly 90% of all Boulder County trails. Why do they need more access, when the end result will adversely affect the residents of Eldorado Springs; the current users of Eldorado Canyon State Park; hikers which currently enjoy peaceful access to an "established" trail between the Walker Ranch and Eldorado Canyon; climbers and families visiting the State Park; wildlife residing within the proposed area; and visitors to the Walker Ranch trailheads which already have parking issues? To me, this proposition is unfairly biased in favor of the mountain biking community.

As a 50+ year resident of Boulder County and 12-year volunteer at the Meyer's Gulch Open Space portion of Walker Ranch, it is apparent that the most vocal groups within the City and County receive more perks than those who are less demanding. This is not fair. There needs to be a point where all the ongoing demands of the mountain biking community are weighed against the resulting impacts to humans, wildlife and habitat.

My wish is that you will seriously consider voting against this proposed trail.

Thank you,
Laura Osborn
Boulder

Lucy Buckley•
1/23/2019• 220

As a resident of the valley of Eldorado Springs, I witness regularly the congestion, traffic issues, capacity challenges in the town of Eldorado Springs, the State Park, at the Douly Draw and Mesa Trail parking

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areas, and the overflow down Eldorado Springs Drive and onto neighborhood streets. The proposed connector trail will add to an already overcrowded situation. All user groups do not need access to all options, and the draw and impact of this particular connector trail for bikers from Denver metro, in-state, and even out of state, cannot be downplayed.

Eldorado Canyon State Park is served by a narrow dirt road that literally has no where to go for additional parking or usage. Park visitation has increased by upwards of 30% in the last 3 years. There is already a strain on transportation, access for emergency vehicles and infrastructure. Inviting another use group is like pouring 12 ounces of coffee into an 8 ounce cup — it is already overflowing on weekends, sunny days and holidays with illegal parking spilling out from designated parking areas. Bikers can access Walker Ranch from Flagstaff Road and Chapman Road. No further access is needed. By OPMS, City and County own data, bikers already have access to 90% or more of all natural and paved trails. The current connector trail proposal has huge impacts on the environment (20 switchbacks, Habitat Conservation Area impacts) without even mentioning the impacts on wildlife viewing, hiker serenity or the local Eldorado Springs resident community and businesses (Eldorado Springs Pool).

A master visitation and impact plan, which includes and considers current data and realities, needs to be thoughtfully considered and formulated.

Please do your jobs as stewards of the environment, our unique mountain corridors, and as representatives of the local community. This connector plan proposal has been rejected in the past and should be rejected now, for all the reasons cited above.

Thank you,
Lucy Buckley

Gail Blandford•Lafayette

1/23/2019• 219

I recently heard there are proposals being made to reconfigure/change the Eldorado Canyon Trail to accommodate mountain bikes. My comments may be too late to make a difference, but I feel this is such a bad idea I have to comment anyway. My apologies for not doing so earlier.

I am a Boulder County resident, currently living in Lafayette. I enjoy hiking the trails around Boulder. I appreciate the concept of multi-use trails, to include mountain bikers, but I avoid such trails. They simply aren't as enjoyable to hike because of always needing to stay aware of the bikers. No matter how careful and courteous mountain bikers may be, they are almost always going faster than I am and I need to make sure to stay out of their way.

While I understand that mountain bikers want more trails, I don't believe that all trails should be multi-use trails, due to topography and access issues. The Eldorado Trail is a good example of that.

Both ends of this trail are quite steep. It naturally lends itself to limited and less access and use, not more and varied. In fact, the limited access contributes to a feeling of peace and intimacy on that trail, which is one of its most charming features.

Hikers of all ages and abilities (including many families who are in the Park for a picnic) and rock climbers weighted down by ropes and gear already use the steep part of the trail originating from the Eldorado State Park visitor's center. Adding mountain bikers into that mix is not advisable from a safety perspective.

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I do not believe significant modification/destruction of natural areas and habitats could be avoided if the trail is reconfigured to accommodate mountain bikes in addition to those who already use this trail. And since both the town of Eldorado and Eldorado State Park already struggle with parking issues on many days of the year, I do not understand why mountain bike accessibility and greater use is even being considered for this area.

Also – I understand there is some discussion about possibly allowing mountain bikes to access the Eldorado Canyon Trail via the Fowler Trail. Please don't allow that to happen. There are precious few handicap accessible trails in the area, and the Fowler Trail is one of them. I've taken advantage of the handicap accessibility feature myself on several occasions, after injuries and surgeries, and I was very thankful for the opportunity to at least feel like I was "hiking" in that beautiful area. If I'd had to dodge bicycles in order to use the Fowler Trail, I would not have gone there because of safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Gail Blandford

Mike Vandenman•

1/23/2019• 218

Re: http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_32400080/laura-tyson-and-others-bike-trail-would-worsen

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996:

<https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm>). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Mountain bikers also love to build new trails - legally or illegally.

Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat - not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g.

grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using.

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Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See <https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm> for details.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous:

https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm .

For more information: <https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

--

I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help?

(I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.)

Wildlife must be given top priority, because they can't protect themselves from us.

Please don't put a cell phone next to any part of your body that you are fond of!

<https://mjvande.info>

David Hall • BOULDER

1/23/2019 • 217

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I cannot attend the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting this Thursday, but I would like to show my support for the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail.

James Martin • Boulder

1/23/2019 • 216

Good morning. I am writing to express my support for the current configuration of the Eldo to Walker Trail. I live in South Boulder, and if and when I used the trail, I would ride my bike from home. I do not think this trail as opened to mountain bikers will have a significant impact on traffic at Eldorado Canyon State Park. I really believe most bikers will ride to the trail from other trailheads such as Walker Ranch or Marshall Mesa. I also believe any potential user conflict can be mitigated, just like it is all over our wonderful trail system. Thank you for your consideration.

Edward Jobes • Arvada

1/23/2019 • 215

To whom it concerns, As a resident near Eldorado Canyon, I'm absolutely in favor of a connection between Walker and Eldorado Canyon that would include on leash dog access, biking, running and hiking. Walker is an absolute favorite, and I feel residence would benefit greatly with this connection. Please consider my vote in favor of this. Thanks!

Jennifer Stilwell • LAFAYETTE

1/23/2019 • 214

Hello, From a BMA email I saw that Boulder County is proposing a new trail, the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. I am very much IN FAVOR of this new trail. As both a hiker and a biker I support it. The hiking along the flatirons is excellent allowing for many different trail combinations but as a biker I often feel like it is difficult to get any variety and many times find myself having to ride on roads to piece rides together. On a recent outing with my women's hiking group one of the women suggested we hike Dowdy Draw. I explained that there were really very few biking trails in this area but many hiking trails and we should choose one of those. I then opened up my BATCO Trails & Recreation Map of Boulder County and showed it to them. As being hikers only, they were unaware of the vast difference in quantity of the "light orange - Pedestrian and Equestrian ONLY" trails versus the limited "dark orange - Multi-Use" trails. Several expressed surprise that the bike trails were so limited. Please approve the new Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. Thank you, Jennifer Stilwell

Mark Mortell • Boulder

1/23/2019 • 213

Please support expansion of mountain biking options in and around Boulder with the development of the Eldo to Walker trail. Thank you

Joe Marnoni • Boulder

1/23/2019 • 212

I've been living in Boulder for almost seven years now and was introduced to the sport of mountain biking at Walker Ranch two summers ago. It fills my summer months with a reason to get up in the morning, and keeps me physically fit. Please allow my love of this area to grow and continue building additional trail links like this one. Thank you.

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Adam Galvin•Boulder

1/23/2019• 211

Please, please, please open access to Walker Ranch from Eldorado canyon for bicycles! With all of the flatirons park trails closed to mtbs this new access is essential for the health and recreation needs of the community. Driving to walker ranch is a ridiculous waste of gas and cause of traffic congestion. Eldo already has a road easily capable of handling bikes, if parking is an issue make them park further away and ride in or have a shuttle on busy days, I am a rock climber as well and would put parking for climbing and hiking ahead of biking in the management plan.

Hope Leoni•Boulder

1/23/2019• 210

Hello. I am writing to support the Eldo-Walker Ranch trail. I have read the comments about crowding at Eldorado Canyon State Park but believe that not going ahead with the trail does not provide a solution to the crowding problem. As a state park, Eldorado Canyon should look at crowding solutions that Chataqua Park has begun to use. Boulder has very few mt bike trails that can be ridden to from the city. Walker Ranch is a fantastic trail that users must drive to. Boulder should support a trail that helps users leave their car at home.

Jason Hill•Superior

1/23/2019• 209

I am writing in support of the proposed Eldo/Walker connector trail. I am an avid mountain biker who lives in Superior. Myself and my family love the outdoors and lifestyle offered by the Front Range and see the connector trail between Eldorado Canyon and Walker as a significant positive add for mountain bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. I totally get that other trail users might have concerns but we can collectively work these issues and create a resource that wins for all trail users. No sane mountain biker is going to want to jeopardize this trail or cause undue concerns or issues for other folks who would use the trail. I encourage us to work the issues together and achieve a win/win for all parties. Regards
Jason Hill

Ryan Ognibene•Boulder

1/23/2019• 208

Hello, I am in FULL SUPPORT of the Walker to Eldo connector trail for multi use (hikers/bikers)!! Knowing many bikers in town, ALL of them would just ride to the trail from town or park further away which makes this even more of a good idea. People are allowed to ride Rattlesnake gulch and that drives very few if any additional parking issues. Please don't let the selfish vocal few take away from increasing the benefit for all trail users. Thank you for your time. Ryan Ognibene

Chris Trevillian•Boulder

1/23/2019• 207

As a local Boulder City resident for over 16 years I would like to voice my support for the Eldorado-walker connection trail to support mountain bike access. Maintaining equal access for all trail users is important to me and my family. Regards, Chris Trevillian

ANDREW ROSEMEIER•ARVADA

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Regarding the Eldo- Walker connector As a mountain biker, hiker and outdoor enthusiast I am excited about the possibility of this trail becoming a reality. The trail represents a missing piece in the boulder area allowing truly epic rides. I believe this trail also will allow a reduction in driving by making it possible to ride from boulder to walker on mountain bike without excessive road miles. I think this trail can benefit outdoor enthusiasts in boulder and also benefit local businesses who will see the increase in patronage from those trail users. Please consider this a vote in favor of the development of this trail.

Scott Lyttle • Westminster

1/23/2019 • 205

Hi POSAC Members, I am writing to express my support for the proposed Eldo to Walker Ranch connector. This would be an incredible asset to the community. The Front Range around Boulder has relatively limited MTB options, certainly compared to the amount of foot trails. There are so many people in the MTB community who would benefit greatly from this trail, and it would be a great asset to Boulder County as well. Please go forward with the trail and allow cyclist access from Eldorado to Walker Ranch.

Zach Seeling • Boulder

1/23/2019 • 204

WE NEED THE ELDO TO WALKER TRAIL!!! Extensive research has been done making this trail not only feasible, but also a good thing for the community and Boulder as a whole. The mountain biking has become stale in Boulder and many people are no longer considering Boulder as an outdoor-progressive town. If we want to keep people coming and coming back, we must invest in the outdoor infrastructure, INCLUDING putting in new trails. Furthermore, creating more connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car is extremely important as Boulder expands. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a link necessary to create a NEW trail experience that we can all enjoy without stepping into a car and will help keep Boulder relevant and fresh as an outdoor town. How can we say we, as a town, value outdoor activities without actually creating new trails for its members to enable them to reduce the use of cars? PLEASE SAY YES TO THE ELDO-WALKER CONNECTION TRAIL.

Ken Kreidl • Boulder

1/23/2019 • 203

I have heard from many mountain bikers about what a wonderful addition an Eldo to Walker mountain bike trail would be for Boulder County, since there are hundreds of miles of hiking trails, but very few mountain bike trails. Please continue to move forward with this excellent plan. Thanks, Ken Kreidl, MD

Brodie Donaldson • Superior

1/23/2019 • 202

I'm a member of both BMA and Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol. I recommend access to Walker ranch through Eldorado to Walker ranch for several reasons. I know many riders that would ride from the Marshall Mesa area, through Eldo to Walker if they could. Instead in order to do a complete ride in Walker we either have to drive or ride Flagstaff. Neither one are as safe as it would be to ride through Eldo and both add to congestion in the Flagstaff area. A similar ride that works well and currently available is doing Marshall Mesa area to Betasso. It's mostly done via multi-use paths and single track.

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The ride is extremely safe when compared to doing Boulder to Walker via Flagstaff where cars, bikes and hikers all mix in. Anyone against it should try riding Flagstaff on a Saturday or Sunday during the summer and tell us it's safe. We're also missing a continuous route through to Nederland or any of the US Forest west of Boulder because it's all cut off by different regulations. We can do it via roads but that's not the safest for Mountain Bikers who aren't used to road riding.

Stewart Sallo•Boulder

1/23/2019• 201

Hello, I urge the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee to approve and support the building of the "Eldo-to-Walker" trail, as well as any other reasonable trail building projects that will expand trail riding opportunities adjacent to Boulder County. I have been an avid mountain biker and hiker for many years, and I have ridden trails in many communities in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and California. In all of my travels I have never found the level of enthusiasm for mountain biking that exists right here in my home town of Boulder, Colorado. Sadly, I have also never found the level of restrictions that exist in our community with respect to mountain biking. There is a serious disconnect in Boulder County with respect to the desire for mountain biking access and the limited number of mountain biking opportunities that exist to satisfy that desire. This community wants and needs more mountain biking access, and the Eldo-to-Walker project is a great way for the powers that be in Boulder County to move in the direction of fulfilling the needs of the large and growing segment of our population that enjoys the great sport of mountain biking. Thanks for your consideration. Stewart Sallo

Lauren Sanders•Boulder

1/23/2019• 200

Hi, I live just outside the Eldo gates. I feel strongly that a paved bike path along Eldorado Springs Drive (ESD) could alleviate some of the anticipated congestion problems coming with the bike path. As a resident, I already see ESD as an accident waiting to happen. Bikers and runners are currently on a narrow shoulder while cars are traveling at high speeds crossing lanes to give bikers and runners room. Bikers could park at Marshal Mesa and bike in.

Jason Glebe•Boulder

1/23/2019• 199

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Eldo-to-Walker MTB Trail. Boulder is in desperate need of an off-road route connecting these two popular trail areas. Hundreds of local mountain bikers, hikers, runners and trail enthusiasts use both of these areas and often drive to recreate at either. By connecting the two via the proposed trail, you encourage non-motorized transit between the two and remove unnecessary traffic from Flagstaff Road - further benefitting the ever-growing number of cyclists on that route. Boulder has a history of promoting outdoor recreation but cycling has often been an after-thought. The Eldo-to-Walker connection would provide an epic multi-use trail creating memorable experiences for a generation of Boulderites and show the large, influential cycling community that Boulder does indeed have their interests in mind as well.

Michael Walsh•Boulder

1/23/2019• 198

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ELDO - Walker Connection I strongly support the connector trail that has been discussed & recommended. Hearing from BMA that support is wavering as a result of a few vocal detractors has motivated me to write to make sure you hear from mountain bikers (who also hike a lot) who ENTHUSIASTICALLY support the plan. I ride all the Boulder area trails as often as I can. I even ride TO the trailheads 90%+ of the time. Riding to Walker is one of my least favorite rides. You spend so much time getting there that the time on Walker is less enjoyable. Being able to ride from Eldo up would be so much better. I've parked in Eldo with my family to hike. I understand it's crowded. New trails for more users is a good thing. Please look past the vocal minority and consider recreation for all. Thank you.

Henry Noerdlinger•SUPERIOR

1/23/2019• 197

I am writing in support of the Eldorado to Walker Ranch mountain bike trail expansion. As a resident of Boulder County, I have been waiting anxiously for this to happen. If and when completed, I would probably ride from my house to the trail at least 50% of the time, park outside Eldorado State Park 30% of the time and park within the park 20% of the time. I implore that the great folks at POSAC continue to work towards trail completion. Many tax paying local outdoor enthusiasts will benefit greatly from this project. Thank you for your time, Henry Noerdlinger hnoerdli@gmail.com 303 915 6699

Tom Torrance•Boulder

1/23/2019• 196

I fully support the proposed Eldo-to-Walker connector trail. This one would really help alleviate some trail congestion. Thanks.

Drew Geer•Boulder

1/23/2019• 195

I am contacting you to support the planned Walker-Eldorado bike connection trail. I understand & have read in the paper there have been many negative comments. This is a well designed & researched project. There is a single common thread to all the negative comments - "this is my personal trail, or my group (hikers) trail & I don't want any other users on it". The traffic parking concerns are ironic as it is the hiker groups that universally drive to the trail head while cyclists are much more likely to ride. This is really an ethos that cannot persist with our trail use. Hikers do have options of trail to use if they are so distressed by cyclists that they cannot co-exist, including trails right out of Eldorado. There are no cycling only trails, nor cycling only days. Boulder has done an excellent job encouraging sharing of the trails & monitors conflict well. Please consider proceeding with your well thought out trail design. Drew Geer Boulder

Craig Muncy•Firestone

1/23/2019• 194

I fully support mountain bike access to the Eldo-Walker trail. It is a beautiful area that all hikers and bikers should have access to and enjoy.

Wesley Pickens•Louisville

1/23/2019• 193

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I wanted to voice my strong support for the El Dorado/Walker Ranch link MTB trail. Despite a huge avid MTB community there are very few options for technical single track riding that are accessible by bike from the Boulder area. This is particularly true of the South Boulder area, resulting in huge pressure on the Marshall Mesa trail system. The EIDo/Walker link would make a mostly dirt bike w/o drive of Walker possible. Please allow this link to happen. South Boulder needs more single track access that we don't have to drive to ride!

Michael Steinberg•Boulder

1/23/2019• 192

I am writing to submit my enthusiastic support for the Eldorado to Walker Ranch trail proposal. The mountain biking community of Boulder has time and again proven to be incredible stewards for trail maintenance and community support. This would not only benefit the cycling community in Boulder but also the ancillary communities in many ways. Thank you for your support of this amazing initiative.

Jason Boardman•Boulder

1/23/2019• 191

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support of a trail linking Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch that is accessible to mountain bikers. I am a professor at CU (as is my wife) and we have lived here since 2002. When new trails are proposed there is a regular outcry of opposition from a very small group of individuals in Boulder. When the trails are built there are virtually none of the proposed altercations or negative interactions that this small group puts forth. That is because the bulk of the mountain bike community are respectful, polite, we say 'hello', we get off of our bikes when people are hiking up a tough section, and we are committed to building and maintaining trails and a trail network that has a minimal impact on the local environment. Both of our kids (now 15 and 17) are very much into mountain biking (my daughter will graduate from BHS this spring and has ridden on the team for the past 4 years) and these trails make it much safer for them to access trails like walker without riding on congested roads. I beg you to consider that these public outcries are blown out of proportion. This is an incredible public resource and it would be wonderful to allow mountain bikers to access this resource. It is also important to keep in mind that "NO MTB" is the most extreme. There are many ways to limit access (no cyclists on certain days of the week) that will reduce hiker-biker interactions. Thank you for considering this and I truly hope that we as a community are able to move forward on this. Jason B

Kevin Schill•Boulder

1/23/2019• 190

This is in regards to the Eldo-to-Walker trail. I have been an active volunteer with both the city and county for 27 years. I was a crew leader when the new mile section of trail was designed and built through the Crescent Meadows section of Walker in the 90's. I started the Park Host bike program with the county in 1996-97 that later became the Mtn Bike Patrol and I know volunteer between 30-60 hours a year with this program. The bike community has been advocating for a plains to Walker route for as long as I have been in Boulder. This new proposal will be the culmination of years of work and have positive impact on the area by reducing traffic on Flagstaff, parking issues at Walker and generally enhance bike friendly atmosphere of Boulder and it's amazing Open Space programs. Lets keep people out of cars. Thanks for listening. Kevin

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Kate Weinstein•Boulder

1/23/2019• 189

I strongly support the proposed Eldo to Walker multi-use trail. I have followed the process, and think the City, County, and State have done a good job balancing conservation and recreation in this proposal. I am mostly a hiker, but support all users, including mountain bikers, having access to trails. I have had good experiences sharing trails with mountain bikers, and find the majority of them to be very courteous and friendly. Also, the more trails in the Boulder area that are open to mountain bikes will spread out bikers on many trails, which will make for less congestion on existing trails.

Rob Painter•Boulder

1/23/2019• 188

Hi. Respectfully writing in support of mountain biking and the the proposed Eldo/Walker connector. Thanks for your work and your consideration. I think this would be a great addition.

Bryan Ganzel•LYONS

1/23/2019• 187

I agree 100% with BMA's position. The three-agency working group under the leadership of Boulder County staff recommended a multi-use, regional trail to connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch — the Eldo-to-Walker trail. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance would like to thank the staff of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their hard work and willingness to collaborate. This trail recommendation is the culmination of several extensive public processes, including a unanimous decision by Boulder City Council during the West Trail Study Area, as well as Boulder County's Walker Ranch Management Plan, the Boulder County and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans, the 2016-2026 Colorado State Trails Plan, and the state's Colorado the Beautiful program. We are gratified that four year effort has led to a recommendation to provide a multi-use trail connection from the plains into the mountains, an amenity that currently does not exist in Boulder County. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. BMA understands that the scope of this three-agency recommendation before POSAC and OSBT is regarding the alignment of the trail and nothing more. Nevertheless we want to express our hope that the Committee Members and Trustees will encourage their agencies to continue this successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the goal of solving the parking and crowding challenges that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the town of Eldorado Springs for decades. Possible solutions to the parking issues are shuttles and multi-use trails that allow people to hike, run or bike from Boulder directly into the park. BMA members have been engaged in this project from the beginning and the resources that our organization has successfully employed in other areas will be available to help make this regional trail connection and its implementation a success. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance is primarily a land stewardship organization, and we will continue working to find win-win solutions to any challenges that arise. We invite you to join us in making the trails in Boulder County better for all users. Visit us at

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bouldermountainbike.org to find out about volunteer trail building days and other volunteer opportunities.

Doug Claxton•Boulder

1/23/2019• 186

I am writing to voice my support for the Eldo to Walker mountain bike trail connection. I was thrilled to hear that this was being proposed. Boulder has amazing recreational opportunities; however, mountain bike options are lacking. I fully support the many trails that are off limits to mountain bikers, but I feel that this necessitates a continued push for expanding access to mountain bikers. Boulder lacks mountain biking options that are ride-able from town without needing to jump in a car. The Eldo to Walker connection will achieve this and create an amazing opportunity for bikers to access Walker without driving up Flagstaff. The drive up Flag is always congested with vehicles and road cyclists. I feel the Eldo connection would reduce vehicle traffic destined for Walker. Please make this connection happen! Doug Claxton

Peter Holck•Boulder

1/23/2019• 185

I strongly support the creation of a bike trail from Eldorado to Walker ranch. I have hiked the trail on the North side many times, but the creation of a bike trail would add immensely to the bike trail system and to my enjoyment of Eldorado canyon. I have seen several of the proposed routes, and whichever is deemed best is fine by me...just need one approved!! Thank you.

James Lackey•Boulder

1/23/2019• 184

I would just like to thank the agencies involved and offer my support for the Eldorado to Walker Ranch trail proposal. This level of agency interaction and agreement is a bit unusual and very much appreciated. This is a very important and long awaited connection between existing areas. While there are certainly parking and traffic concerns that exist, there are several good alternatives to help reduce current and future problems there. Also, the difficulty and elevation gain over the proposed trail are very likely to minimize excessive use of this route, especially after some initial interest subsides. My wife and I each spend nearly 200 hours a year on the trails within Boulder County and very rarely encounter problems with any of the various types of visitors, including bikers. Please help make this proposal happen!

Julia Hoilien•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 183

Dear POSAC members, I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed Walker Ranch/Eldorado Springs trail. I have lived in Eldorado Springs for 28 years. My husband and I have raised our two daughters here. We are an active family that loves the outdoors as much as anyone. I am asking you to please halt the steamrolling process currently being used by staff and the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance. We are a small but mighty group that has put up with an overwhelming increase in visitor traffic in the last 3 years. If you don't live or recreate in or around this small community you would think that this is a great idea. What this is inviting in is actually a dangerous combination of overuse and abuse of a beautiful area. We risk fire, accidents along the roadways and health concerns. Your job is to not

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just take the staff input but more importantly to take the Eldorado community and the current users of a the parks input into consideration. I have read how they plan on mitigating after the approval and I'm not sure they will come to the table with us. They put our input on an equal measure with the the BMBA. I'm asking you to stop this trail connection and allow us to be part of the conversation to alleviate the already overwhelming issues with the park. Thank you, Julia Hoilien

Nancy Lackey•Boulder
1/23/2019• 182

I would like to convey my whole-hearted approval and excitement about the new Eldo-to-Walker multiuser trail. This trail will be such a wonderful addition to Boulder County's trail system. There are several majorly good things about this trail: 1 - it is a wonderful example of several agencies coming together to connect the public lands that the Boulder County taxpayers have set aside to enjoy; 2 - it will realign and construct trail that is for all users, mountain bikes as well as hikers will be able to enjoy this trail; and 3 - this will be a major connector from the plains to the mountains, which is a first for Boulder County. I and my husband are avid users of Boulder County trails and have been for many years. We are in our seventies and still get out 3-4 times a week. We welcome all users and actually think that this trail will help spread out the mountain bikers since there will be more local trails which are available to mountain bikers. Thanks you for you tireless work to bring this trail to us.

Justin Theriault•boulder
1/23/2019• 181

Please continue the Eldo-to-Walker trail project, the Mountain bike community will greatly benefit of having a new trail in the area. As the population in boulder rises and a great increase in mountain bikers in the county, we need to expand to keep up with demand and prevent our current trails becoming overcrowded. this reduces risk of collision and injury. furthermore, the current access points to walker are quite far away and increase the traffic on Flagstaff road which is dangerous in itself. if people can access the walker trails from Eldorado springs, it would reduce the amount of driving and traffic on Flagstaff. kind regards, Justin Theriault

Steve Sangdahl•Eldorado Springs
1/23/2019• 180

Eldorado Springs and the state park have been overcapacity for a number of years now. The confined and constrained area is maxed! The state park, by their own admission, can't manage the current situation let alone adding more mountain bikers into the mix. The park currently has no management plan and one is many years from having one. With over 50 miles of mountain bike trails in the Eldo/Marshall/Superior area there isn't a proven need for the proposed 4.8 miles of trail and the many impacts and conflicts this will bring. This trail has been suggested and reviewed for many years now. There are many reasons it has never been approved in the past. These reasons hold true today and even more so given the increasing population of the front range. Why now? The BMA is a very organized, well funded, single minded and selfish mountain bike advocacy group. They are pushing for the trail to be approved before all the problems are figured out. The trail will benefit only 10% of open space users. The other 90% will be shut down. This 90% are the ones who vote for open space and deserve to be heard. This will benefit the few at the detriment of many. Please do not approve this proposal. Thanks

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Joshua Lawton•Lafayette

1/23/2019• 179

After all these years of discussion about a multi-use trail connecting from just outside Eldorado Springs and Walker Ranch Open Space, we finally have the potential to make it happen. Many outdoor users of various types support this plan. As a mountain biker and trail runner, I would be overly excited to ride and run from my home in Lafayette all the way to the Continental Divide, mostly on trails. Having ridden from my house to Nederland several times via other routes, I must use busy roads with dangerous distracted drivers. This connection would be a gamechanger. The concerns for the parking in the local Eldorado Springs area are not to be discounted, but riders and runners who are of the fitness and eagerness to connect to Walker Ranch and beyond are much smaller than most assume. Limited parking within the state park and town of Eldorado Springs will only limit the number of users accessing directly from the mouth of the canyon. Most users will be starting at more eastern trailheads such as Fowler, Marshall Mesa, Dowdy Draw, or South Boulder Creek. Plus, there is an opportunity to work with other agencies to create better parking and transportation options for trail users and residents of Eldorado Springs. Consider how the parking and shuttle service at the Hessie Trailhead near the town of Eldora has made improvements in their similar situation. Could that system be improved? Certainly, but there are many lessons to learn while attaining the goal of connecting our plains to the peaks. Please continue the process of making reasoned choices and agreements with stakeholders in this process of making a trail connection decades in the making. Thank you. Joshua Lawton

Glenn Martin•Broomfield

1/23/2019• 178

With Reference to the Mountain Bike Trail extension between Eldorado Canyon and the Walker Ranch trails. As a 19 year member of a private group of riders who frequent both locations, I would voice positively that the mooted extension between locations would be of extreme benefit not just to the riders but to the community who find great solace in the experience of the foothills and the mountain range beyond. It would add to the existing experience and be a potential highlight for those on the mindset to challenge themselves on a greater scale than is available today. It would reduce some congestion and therefore improve safety on the Flagstaff hill for both motorists and cyclists. It would add greatly to the attraction to mountain bike enthusiasts both in the domestic USA and internationally - it builds the brand that Boulder and Colorado is world famous for. Its also good healthy exercise. Regards Glenno

Robert Richards•Boulder

1/23/2019• 177

The three-agency working group under the leadership of Boulder County staff recommended a multi-use, regional trail to connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch — the Eldo-to-Walker trail. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. I understand that the scope of this three-agency recommendation before POSAC and OSBT is regarding the alignment of the trail and nothing more. Nevertheless I want to express my hope that the Committee Members

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and Trustees will encourage their agencies to continue this successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the goal of solving the parking and crowding challenges that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the town of Eldorado Springs for decades. Possible solutions to the parking issues are shuttles and multi-use trails that allow people to hike, run or bike from Boulder directly into the park. Thank you for your support.

David Stokes•Longmont
1/23/2019• 176

My name is David Stokes, I've lived in Boulder county for 19 years and have been volunteering on our trails for 10 years as part of the Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol. I am writing to express support for the Eldo-to-Walker proposal. I enjoy long bike rides and carless recreation. Back in 2004, I tackled riding to the Heil Ranch trails from my house and fell in love with the idea of riding trails without having to drive to a trailhead. I frequently ride "super Walker", as local cyclists call it, riding Walker Ranch starting from Boulder. I've had a few close calls on Flagstaff, as many cyclists I know have. Being able to access Walker Ranch from Boulder, without driving, and while avoiding busy roads, would be wonderful. It's my feeling that concerns about parking and potential user conflicts shouldn't derail this proposed project. It's inevitable that "if you build it, they will come", that happens anytime additions are made to our amazing trail system. We have volunteers, e.g. the Bike Patrol, that actively work to mitigate conflicts, and you can bet we'll focus on this new trail if it happens. Thanks for your consideration.

SHANE SMITH•Littleton
1/23/2019• 175

Bike Access to the Eldo-Walker Trail is important to my family and I. Generally, those who show up to perform trail maintenance come from the biking community. In addition to maintaining the trail, we spend money on the local economy in which we visit and bring our friends with us as well. The opposition to bike access is often related to trail damage and erosion but those claims are false. After riding many trails that have been damaged by foot prints in the mud; I can tell you that bike tires actually benefit the trail by smoothing out those ruts cause by foot traffic. I ask that you genuinely give this some thought and keep our community in mind when evaluating the decision to allow bikes on the trail. Thank you for your time. Respectfully, Shane Smith Front Range Mountain Biking

Heather Bonewitz•Boulder
1/23/2019• 174

Please allow the construction of the Eldo-Walker Ranch connector trail. It will be an amazing and vital addition to the small number of the trails open to mountain bikes in Boulder.

Jack Ferrell•Golden
1/23/2019• 173

I support construction of a a connector trail from Eldo Canyon to Walker Ranch, and would want this trail to be open to bikes. I love riding Walker Ranch, and this trail would allow me less time in the car, and more time outside!

Lester Binegar•Boulder
1/23/2019• 172

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Please create this multi-use trail that will allow cyclists to connect to the high country. Driving up to walker via Flagstaff is something I never want to do again and this is just one great reason for this trail. As a member of the awesome community of Boulder Colorado, I want to write in about how important this trail is to both my personal desires and my career. This trail can and should be built and this is a great opportunity to solve the problems of the state park when it comes to traffic and parking. The key it to have a multi-use trail connecting the area east of Eldorado State Park so cyclists and trail runners can access the area without driving in. Options already exist for this to happen. Please Please Please allow this trail to happen for cyclists. I have made my career in the bike industry and serve cycling tourists from all over the world with my job at University Bicycles. Boulder needs this to remain relevant to these tourists who are a great source of revenue for many business in our city. Thanks for listening, Lester Binegar

Adam Bensman•Estes Park

1/23/2019• 171

Expanding our trail networks provides valuable educational and recreational opportunities for every single type of trail users. I support this development.

AJ Driscoll•Golden

1/23/2019• 170

I support the making of the trail and believe it should be open to mountain bikers. I think it would mostly be used for less aggressive through rides as a part of a longer adventure. It would be a great thing to bring to the area.

Christian Griffith•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 169

Attached Is a digital copy of the Eldorado Springs residents Petition in Opposition to the proposed trail. It has has now been signed by 95% of Eldorado Springs residents. We are concerned about additional increases in congestion, parking issues and emergency services access, the trail, if constructed will bring. The town points out that it has already experienced ~30% growth in visitation annually for the last four years, culminating in over 500,000 visitors to Eldorado Canyon State Park in 2018. In the petition, (see attached) over 95% of the town population have called for a halt to the approval process. The residents assert that the agencies involved in making the decision regarding the proposed trail must make a complete and transparent assessment of the impacts of the trail on the park, its ecology and current visitors, as well as directly address the concerns of the town that literally finds itself choking on the dust raised by cars waiting in long lines that stretch the distance of the town's one lane road most weekends. thank you for considering this important document. Christian Griffith

[eldo_petition_1.22.19.pdf](#)

David Ataian•Westminster

1/23/2019• 168

Good day. I just wanted to express my support for multi use trails to include mountain biking. I started riding 6 months ago and it has changed my life for the better. I am the happiest I have been in my adult life and I am in much better shape physically.

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Katrina Walsh•Boulder

1/23/2019• 167

I am an avid mountain and road rider as well as hiker and I feel that there are many existing options for all of the activities I just listed. I am completely against the Eldo to Walker ranch MTN bike connector trail for many reasons, many that you have already heard. To list just a few, there is way too much traffic in and out of Eldo state park and the town roads cannot handle the constant use. I live very near the fire station and when I head out for a ride on the weekends the flashing sign of 'park full' does not deter the cars from heading into the canyon. The bike lane on Eldorado springs drive is very narrow and heavily used by many, and with the speed limit of 45mph (cars then drive 50-55) it has become very dangerous. When I hike in the canyon it saddens me to envision 20-30 switchbacks across the beautiful hillside and know that it will significantly disrupt the wild life in the area. We all know that once a trail is open to mountain bikes hikers stay clear because of the safety risk. Please vote NO on the Eldorado Canyon to Walker ranch mountain bike trail.

Jim Normandeau•Boulder

1/23/2019• 166

I fully support the development of the Eldo-Walker bike access trail.

Helene Donocan•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 165

I am a resident of Eldorado Springs. I am also a mother of 3 young children who live, play, and ride the bus to school everyday. The traffic, congestion, illegal parking, and speeding through town for the PARK is at a tipping point. SOMEONE is going to get killed any day now. Please put a traffic, pedestrian safety plan, and wildlife crossing signs before OSMP approves the bike trail. Eldorado cannot handle any more wheels or traffic to the town. Our quality of life, health, and my children's walk to the bus stop are already at risk with the current conditions to State Park and surrounding OSMP trailheads. You, OSMP and board members will have blood on your hands from a small child or elderly pedestrian if you move forward with this trail without seriously addressing the impacts of Eldorado residents.

Jeff Mason•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 164

I believe that L397 the approval at this time of a Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain bike accessible connection trail would be a problem for the state park, the county and the city open space. The feasibility study gave cost estimates for the options but failed to address the required infrastructure changes that are needed. These changes can easily cost more than the given costs. Beyond this the impact to Eldorado Canyon state part for a new mountain bike trail will be severe. I am a mountain biker and know what trails look like after a couple years of riding. There is no extra money or resources allocated to monitor and shut this trail down due to adverse conditions just as the Dowdy Draw trail is often shut down. Finally there is no enforcement provided for riders who decide to take the 'best' ride to Eldorado Canyon start point which is along the Fowler trail - a ADA (American disabilities Act) approved trail. This trail connects to County open space trails which are heavily used by non-mountain bikers. See this link to understand this issue: <https://youtu.be/qVEyOf4jASI>. Note the number of other

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'non-biker' parties with and without children on this video. A full management plan for all of the resources involved needs to be generated before and not after the approval of this new trail.

Nic Boerio•Boulder

1/23/2019• 163

Please consider what the mountain bike community has said so far. There are already bike-free trails and trails that limit biking - which is great. There are currently no bike-only trails (which I hope can someday be considered to help improve safety), so I cannot understand why some are so concerned about this new multi-use trail.

Jason Ferrier•Boulder

1/23/2019• 162

Thank you for taking the time to work through the proposal for a multi-use trail in Eldorado Canyon that connects to Walker Ranch. As a cyclist that primarily rides off-road and lives in North Boulder, I am excited for the potential of better access to Walker Ranch without having to drive all the way up Flagstaff road where it is already overwhelmed with traffic, illegal parking, and tourists. The ability to make a very nice ride by taking the bus to South Boulder, riding up and through Eldorado to Walker and beyond will be much appreciated. Or even the opposite - start a ride from Walker and end up through Eldorado *without* adding to the excessive congestion by driving there.

Alex Urban•Fort Collins

1/23/2019• 161

To whom it may concern: I am for the usage of bicycles on this trail segment due to the idea that bicycles gets people outdoors and in nature. There are pros and cons to having bicycles, but the bicycling community is strong and is represented by willing workers and kind-hearted individuals who will put in time to build and maintain trails. I hope that you will grant access to bicyclists and share the great outdoors! Thanks for reading my words, Alex Urban

Tim Downing•Boulder

1/23/2019• 160

Thanks so much for your hard work and vision in continuing to move forward with the Eldo-to-Walker Trail. I am super excited at the prospect of being able to ride off-road from our city on the plains to the mountain landscapes in the true foothills. I know there is worry about traffic/parking congestion in Eldorado Springs, but I would like you to acknowledge there are many cyclists like me who will leave their car in the garage and ride an epic loop south through town, up to Walker, over Super Flagstaff and back home via Chapman. Big loops are the best! Great recreation can be carless! (And to get ahead of myself, I would be eager for future trail and dirt road connections to Ned and an RTD bus back home.) Can't wait to see what you come up with. Good luck!

Patrick Kalvels•Firestone

1/23/2019• 159

Please support bike access to this proposed trail system. The overwhelming majority of mountain bikers are respectful and polite. Our mountains should be accessible to ALL trail users, not just one group that wants them all to themselves.

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Timothy Lockhart•Boulder

1/23/2019• 158

Please consider the connection between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch. The mountain biking community has been waiting too long for riding options from town. Although this will still be a long ride from downtown Boulder to get to an actual trail, having the ability to ride from town (and avoid climbing one of the canyon roads) is what the cycling community wants. Boulder has always prided itself on being a bike friendly city but I firmly believe that this would be considered a past reputation. So many cities and towns have now surpassed Boulder with their trail access and quality of mountain bike trails. Its time for Boulder to become a leader again and support it's cycling community!

Eric Koehler•Boulder

1/23/2019• 157

POSAC Members: I am writing in support of the trail connecting Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch (Eldo-to-Walker) as part of a larger overall effort to complete the Indian Peaks Traverse. The trail connector is the lynchpin in completing 60+ mile, non-motorized, backcountry trail connecting Boulder to Winter Park. As a south Boulder resident, hiker and mountain biker, as well as the parent of a member of the Fairview mountain biking team, I believe the benefits to this trail are plentiful. I also believe that the concerns I've read from residents of Eldorado Springs are valid, but some solutions are available. In my opinion, the Eldo-to-Walker trail should not terminate in Eldorado Springs nor should it terminate in the Park. The terminus of the trail could be located either at Doudy Draw or the South Mesa Trailhead (with the attendant re-classification of some trails to allow biking, or potentially the creation of bike-only trails in this lower section. This would reduce traffic impacts to both the community and the park, and reduce potential auto-cyclist conflict on Eldorado Springs Drive. Thanks for your consideration. Eric Koehler

Chris Rice•Boulder

1/23/2019• 156

As a local hiker I support allowing bicycles on this connection. I have plenty of options if I would like to avoid bikes. As a local cyclist I support allowing bicycles on this connection. I'm sure it will get utilized and increase the enjoyment of cyclists. As a local first responder I support allowing bicyclists on this connection. It will reduce some cycling traffic over Flagstaff thus increasing safety. In my experience cyclists on trails aid in emergency response with communication to responders as well as providing the location of parties in need. Thank you, Chris

Rafael Guevara•Boulder

1/23/2019• 155

I believe that the proposal to have this trail would be a wonderful addition to the trails that we have in Boulder and will be a safer alternative to people using Flagstaff Rd. to access Walker Ranch. I have linked Chapman to Flagstaff Rd. and found that route very dangerous because of all the blind corners on the way to Walker. This will be a much safer route for endurance users. Thanks.

Nathan Hickle•Lafayette

1/23/2019• 154

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I don't have anything to add or suggest on the trail alignment - I read the report and am very satisfied with the amount of research and thought that was given to it. I would like to say that I am very pleased that this trail is being considered - it would be a huge step forward in progressing mountain biking in Boulder County and provides more opportunities to spread out the user base (decongesting). I am wholeheartedly in favor of the proposed trail - thanks for considering this!

Chris Harris•Boulder
1/23/2019• 153

It would be an asset to the bike community of boulder. Additionally it would cut down weekend car traffic on flagstaff.

James Elsea•Louisville
1/23/2019• 152

Please do this. Boulder county residents dont have a lot of mtb options close to the front range compared to counties like jeffco. This addition would add an epic ride lile the IPT but also make walker ranch more accessible. Currently walker ranch is difficult to enjoy due to the commute. Hiking options abound in the flatirons and other front range communities, but bikers are left trying to 'find' options. Please add another option. Do this trail.

John heathfield•Longmont
1/23/2019• 151

This eldo to walker connector will be super beneficial for people looking to make a long ride from lower elevations. I've lived in BoCo for 6 years and have only ridden walker ranch twice due to how far and high up you have to drive in order to access it. I'd love an option to park down in the flats and ride up eldo from Marshall Mesa to make a truly epic day without spending so much time in the car. Please please please build this connector and others like it. Thanks, John

Douglas Walter•Boulder
1/23/2019• 150

I am very much in favor of this project! This would greatly open up the local riding opportunities for my family! We currently do the existing route at least once per year.

James Reineking•Boulder
1/23/2019• 149

I just wanted to send my support for a bike friendly connection between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch. This trail would give me and other South Boulder residents the ability to ride to Walker from home and avoid going up Flagstaff and/or Boulder Canyon. As someone who visits Eldo regularly, I'm sensitive to the parking situation in the park, but feel this connector would give riders more options to ride from home or town and not significantly change the already congested parking lots in the park. thanks for considering.

Donald Elsborg•Boulder
1/23/2019• 148

Hello, I would strongly urge you to support the proposed trail from Walker Ranch to Eldorado Canyon. I am an avid and respectful cyclist who prefers to ride from home. A connection such as this makes it

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more feasible for me to access high quality mountain biking via my bicycle WITHOUT having to drive to the trailhead. This trail will allow me to make connections via Nederland, Chapman drive, and Boulder. It will also keep me out of my car given that I will have more access to rides from home. Most of the cyclists I know also would prefer to start their rides from home as opposed to driving to a trailhead. We live in a location with so much potential to enable cyclists to abandon their vehicles. Please help make this a reality by creating the Eldo to Walker bicycle friendly trail connector.

Michael Ahnemann•Boulder

1/23/2019• 147

Hello - as a local Boulder resident, mountain biker, father of a young girl who is getting into mountain biking, and co-founder of the website www.mtbproject.com, I would like to show my full support of the Eldo Canyon to Walker Ranch multi-use trail. Over the past two decades, I've gotten closer and closer to the mountain biking community, and have come to view the folks who ride mountain bikes not only as adventure seekers, but also as true trail stewards. Creating more opportunities to engage the mountain bike community and provide new riding opportunities will drive a new group of advocates and stewards to help create a sustainable system that further elevates Boulder as a remarkable place to live. The Eldo to Walker trail in particular, would create a novel opportunity to link a great trail system to our backyard, reducing the number of miles driven to and from the trailhead. This would be an incredible addition to the recreation opportunities in and around Boulder. Thank you for your consideration. -

Mike Ahnemann

Ian Wilson•Boulder

1/23/2019• 146

Hello, I just wanted to state my unconditional support for this trail and effort. I think it has been a long time in the making and will make the recreational resources noticeably better in the Eldorado canyon area. It will allow mountain bikers access from there in order to more easily access walker ranch as well as being an important step in the indian peaks traverse efforts. Please consider the facts that have been laid out which clearly show the support and interest for this effort. Its time that mountain bikers were given a shot and not relegated to second-class recreational status.

Lynne Foley•Boulder

1/23/2019• 145

I am a senior who hikes regularly on the trail in Eldo and have lived in Boulder for 40 years. I have had two hip replacements and use a walking stick. I feel that having mountain bikes on this trail will be a danger to me. My experience with bike riders is that they ride very fast (some out of control) and it is necessary for me to quickly step off the trail and it is often uneven or rocky. This is unsafe! I see other seniors, children, dogs and special needs individuals that use this trail. Please think about the aging population in Boulder County and do not connect this trail! I could go on about the parking issue but I know that you have heard that from many others. Thank you for thinking of us seniors. You will be one someday and will thank me!

Josh Teto•Lakewood

1/23/2019• 144

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I am writing to voice my support for a non-exclusionary trail to connect Walker to Eldorado Canyon. As both an avid mountain biker and biker, I know that the two can peacefully co-exist and feel nobody should be left off of this amazing trail. Thank you for your time.

Amanda Lau•Boulder

1/23/2019• 143

Having this connector trail will allow for safer and faster access from town. This will open up trails to more people. Please build this!!!

Troy Mandery•Longmont

1/23/2019• 142

After over twenty years of contemplation and promises I hope all agencies involved find a way to yes. All progress has solutions waiting to be discovered. Parking seems to be the largest issue around the new alignment of the multi-use trail in Eldo (IPT). If you listen to folks complaining then it sounds like the problem already exists and is begging a solution. Adding a user group that can park much further away and will have virtually no impact on the environment sounds like a slam dunk from virtually every aspect unless of course you have a personal agenda against said user group. Please stop finding ways to say no (the easy way) and find the way to yes.

Jane Palmer•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 141

I am totally against this. The park is already too crowded and people who try to enter the park park in our parking spots or across the entrance to our house. It has created a hostile and often unsafe environment for our children. This area does not need any more development

Jared Crockett•Loveland

1/23/2019• 140

I am very much in favor of this trail connection and specifically that it be multi-use, to include access for mountain bikes. Regional connectivity is a very desired community feature when it comes to trails. Bike access is also very important to me and many others like me.

David Kahn•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 139

I implore you to stop the proposed mountain bike trail from Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch, and I say this as an enthusiastic mountain biker. However I live in Eldorado Springs and frequently hike this trail currently on foot, and have for more than 25 years. And I feel strongly that mountain bikes do not belong on this trail for safety reasons. Anyone who has been on this trail on weekends is aware that it is heavily used by large multi-generational groups of visitors who are often not familiar with the area. These groups are often picnicking nearby, and use the trail because it is the closest available. They often range in age from grandparents to small children. They will be sitting ducks for mountain bikers moving at high speeds downhill. There will be frequent injuries. Rocky Mountain Rescue volunteers will hike up to treat the injured. There will be law suits. This can be prevented by a common sense decision to locate a mountain bike connection elsewhere. Thank you.

Linda Behlen•Boulder

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1/23/2019• 138

I support the formation of the Eldorado Canyon - Walker Ranch Connection. This is a very important amenity for all residents of Boulder County. Eldorado State Park is A STATE PARK! It belongs to the people of Colorado for all to enjoy. The memo states that CPW is planning on infrastructure to address increased traffic to the hamlet of Eldorado Springs. Shuttles and other improvements should solve the stated concerns. The public lands owned by Boulder City government and Boulder County and the state are PUBLIC LANDS for all residents of those jurisdictions to enjoy. Often it seems that persons purchasing property in proximity to public lands come to think of these lands as their own private preserve. The public lands belong to the citizens of Boulder City, Boulder County and The State of Colorado. This is a well thought out plan. The State Park was in existence prior to many of the Eldo. property owners taking up residence there. They knew a state park was their neighbor. With the increase in population of Colorado it is to be expected that increased pressure should be put on state parks and other public lands. Eldorado State Park is not the private preserve of the residents of the community of Eldorado Springs. Likewise, the Boulder County Commissioners and the POSAC must represent the interests of the entire population of Boulder County, and act in the best interest of the entire community. I support this plan. I feel the benefit to the many overshadow the concerns of the few. Thank you

Adam Sher•Boulder

1/23/2019• 137

The opposition to the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain bike connection based on congestion in Eldorado Springs and over use of the facilities at the State Park there are both disingenuous and discriminatory against people who enjoy using mountain bikes for recreation. Just because there are a lot of people who like to hike, climb, fish, picnic, etc in Eldorado Canyon State Park and "got there first" should not give those people priority of rights over people who like to ride mountain bikes and would also like to enjoy this area that way. That is simply not fair and discriminatory against mountain bikers. Moreover, there are many ways to manage and regulate visitors to Eldorado Canyon State Park that can be used to avoid congestion, such as limiting certain uses to certain days of the week, so that hikers would come out on a Saturday (but not the folkofoll Sunday) and mountain bikers would have access on Sundays. These simple and reasonable tools are used successfully at many parks on the Front Range and there is no reason to believe that it would not work well here too. This connection is a critical off road cycling link between the plains and the foothills, so please do not ban mountain biking here; rather allow mountain biking and put in appropriate safeguards to protect the Eldorado Springs community.

vanessa crittenden•Boulder

1/23/2019• 136

Hello, I have been a hiker for 45 years, a climber (in eldo) for 25 years and a mountain biker for 15 years. I understand the pros and cons of the eldo-walker trail and the pros far outweigh the negatives. Please support this trail. Mountain bikers and mountain biking are a huge part of what makes Boulder a thriving outdoor adventure community. Mountain bikers are the least likely individuals to park in eldo (for years parking has been an issue due to climbers, pool goers and weekend picnickers.) Don't punish

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mountain bikers for the pre-existing parking issues. Most of us would be happy to ride to the trailhead.
Thank you for listening - Vanessa

Sanford Student•Boulder

1/23/2019• 135

I am strongly in support of this connector. I think that it would be a fantastic addition to Boulder's multi-use trail infrastructure and that the benefits the connector would provide far outweigh concerns. As a mountain biker and Boulder resident I recognize concerns about crowding, parking, etc. but believe that this extension's value lies in large part in the access that it affords people riding from town or completing the Indian Peaks Traverse, which does not start at Eldorado Canyon and would not create any more demand for parking in the park. I also believe that advising users against parking in Eldorado Canyon on sites like mtbproject is an effective, low-effort way to combat this issue. There is little risk of overuse by mountain bikers because climbing the trail will require a level of fitness prohibitive to many users who would rather ride somewhere with bike-specific features, which I do not believe this trail is intended to have, or are not sufficiently skilled to ride Walker Ranch, which I have never seen crowded and is an advanced trail. Generally, riding in Boulder County I have found that the most crowded trails are those that require the least fitness, a category that this connector would not fall into. I believe that calls to exclude bicycles from the connector are based in anti-bicycle bias, not fact, and that viable solutions to each major concern about this project can be found at <http://www.boulderblueline.org/2019/01/19/issues-and-solutions-for-the-eldo-to-walker-trail-and-the-indian-peaks-traverse/> . Despite the fact that the trail will be very physically challenging, this project is immensely meaningful to the mountain bike community and it would be deeply regrettable to allow a vocal minority of anti-bicycle zealots to drown out enthusiasm for this project.

Robert Wood•Boulder

1/23/2019• 134

As a multi activity trail user I support a mountain bike trail from Eldorado Canyon to Walker. Boulder needs more mtb trails to reduce the congestion from more users. I also enjoy trail running and hiking with my family. More bike trails would reduce the amount of riders on any trail.

Aaron Clark•Louisville

1/23/2019• 133

As a 20+ year Boulder Co community member, runner, cyclist, climber, skier, family man, and 15 year professional environmentalist. I am VERY supportive of the connection to Walker Ranch. I can remember this being discussed since 1999. It's time to move forward. This not only creates a great environmentally friendly trail experience and riding opportunity from the Boulder to Walker Ranch, but connects the towns of Boulder, Nederland and Winter Park with the last missing link for the multi-use regional trail, the Indian Peaks Traverse. It would take people off the road and reduce car use for many trail users. We all appreciate the effort required to coordinate the staffs of three agencies to reach a recommendation and I ask that you stand strong and steadfast at making this happen. You all deserve our heartfelt thanks! I know it's not easy but nothing worthwhile is. Thanks

Len Thomas•Denver

1/23/2019• 132

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I urge the decision makers to vote favorably on allowing mountain bike (non electric motor) on the proposed Eldorado connector trail to ensure this significant user group can enjoy the extraordinary passage from the plains to the mountains.

Hans Green•Boulder

1/23/2019• 131

Let's keep improving our great mountain biking trail system with the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection. I have been a volunteer coach for the Boulder High School Mountain Bike Team for 6 years and have seen the program grow from about 30 riders to over 120 this year (and 27 volunteer coaches). The Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team has seen similar growth. These girls and boys are learning to value the rewards of hard work and perseverance through mountain biking. They are also learning the importance of land stewardship and shared use through interaction with other Open Space users and volunteer work on Boulder's trail system. This kind of experience is only possible because of the excellent, mountain bike accessible trails, close to Boulder. Mountain biking is a growing, healthy, family friendly, sport that makes our community richer. Please make this connection happen. Don't just spend years and piles of money on studies and consultants. No plan will please everyone but we can all compromise with solutions like limiting access to certain days of the week and requiring parking away from congested area.

Thomas Barth•Boulder

1/23/2019• 130

Hello, I've been following the Eldo-Walker multi use trail issue. I think it's great that a feasible multi-use trail has been identified. What I don't understand is why capacity problems are by default associated with opening the park to bikes. Yes, I see that adding users will create capacity problems, but this should be independent of the user group. Some may ask, but if we build a multi-use trail, how can this be separate from user capacity? Simple. Build that trail and then alternate allowed user groups until the capacity mitigation can be resolved. If there are hiker/climber only days, then create biker only days. I completely disagree with the idea that "capacity mitigation efforts are in place before the trail is opened to biking". It should be "capacity mitigation efforts are in place before the trail is opened to any and all users. Until then, it will be restricted in a fair way to limit use.

Pam McCollum•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 129

I am an Eldorado Springs resident. I read the extremely well thought out statement by Roger Briggs and I agree that the costs outweigh the benefits of this proposed trail. Anyone who has witnessed the already overwhelming amount of traffic coming through the Canyon can see the obvious problems that exist and would be greatly exacerbated by adding this trail--unsustainable amount of traffic, unsafe conditions and environmental degradation. Administrative costs and problems would multiply as well. There are many places for people to ride their mountain bikes in the county without endangering this beautiful Canyon. Please vote NO on this. Thank you. --Pam McCollum 303-809-3813

Geoff Mills•Thornton

1/23/2019• 128

I am very much in support of the Eldo-Walker connection trail.

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Catherine Tuttle•Boulder

1/23/2019• 127

I am a mountain biker, a trail runner, and a hiker. Boulder trails are very over congested right now and there is some animosity between these user groups. Opening the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection would be a huge boon to all of the afore mentioned user groups. We need more trails, not less, and the need to be open to all users, including mountain bikers. Capacity problems need to be solved not by targeting bikes only. Bicyclists are citizens, tax payers, and members of this community. We should not be the first to lose access. We are just as important as other trail users. Why not allow alternating days, with for hikers and bikers, until capacity problems are mitigated? Thank you

Katrina Engelsted•BOULDER

1/23/2019• 126

I think that the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch would be a great way to bring together two great trails. It would be a good way to support the community and offer more trails to recreate and explore.

Tony Walsh•Boulder

1/23/2019• 125

A few comments: 1. I do not think the mountain bike trail should move forward without first completing the Master Plan for Eldorado State Park that addresses the current issues with parking and overcrowding. 2. I am not sure if there is a precedent for allowing mountain bike trails in Colorado State Parks but if not we should not start in Eldorado State Park. 3. Rather than link to Walker through Eldo there may be another way like Chapman road with a new off road link to Walker.

Kurt Aronow•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 124

Hi, I'm Kurt Aronow, and I live at 177 Artesian Drive in Eldorado Springs. Once, I rode a bicycle from Texas to Alaska on a route that included a thousand miles of mud—so I can appreciate bicycle connecting routes. I've also been running, hiking, and climbing in this area since 1990. I oppose the proposed mountain bike trail from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch because of parking and congestion problems, safety concerns (on the trail and on the road through Eldorado Springs) and the loss of what is now a pristine trail. Tonight, I want to talk about hiking on the Eldorado Canyon Trail. This is probably the driest hill trail near Boulder in the winter because of its southern aspect. When you hike up from the trailhead in Eldorado Canyon State Park, depending on the time of day, you may pass large families with small children and dogs. Then, you might also be passed by strong hikers heading to Walker Ranch or by rock climbers headed up to the Rincon and Cadillac Crags. The trail goes uphill, but the switchbacks make it somewhat easier than the trails up Green Mountain or Shadow Canyon. One early morning run, I saw a bear just up from the trailhead. I've also seen mule deer, bull snakes, bees, butterflies, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, and heard (but not seen) peregrine falcons. After you pass the turn-off that the climbers take to the crags (about a mile up), you'll contour around to the north and the west through the City of Boulder's Western Mountain Parks habitat conservation area. On weekends, the crowds begin to thin out after you pass a rise in the trail with an overlook of the country to the west and begin descending to a small gully—and then climb back up and around to finally get to the high point of the trail. By this time, you're in rolling, beautiful terrain with large Ponderosa pines.

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Here, it usually seems that my cares have dropped completely away. You might see only a few other hikers or runners as you now descend down all the way to a bridge at South Boulder Creek where you can join up with the Walker Ranch mountain bike loop. During this descent, you'll see more and more wildlife as you approach the riparian corridor in Boulder County open space. Mountain bikers will completely change this experience. Instead of having cares drop away, you will continually be looking around so you don't get run down. When a mountain bike does approach, you'll simply have to duck into the brush because effectively, mountain bikes will always have the real right of way—just like horses. If an additional trail is carved up the hillside in parallel with the first mile of hiking trail, it will wreck the experience of being out in this pristine area and will feel like more of a city experience. Once the hikers and mountain bikers are sharing the same trail, you will no longer be able to find solitude here—and this is only so the mountain bikers don't have to drive up Flagstaff to get to Walker Ranch. I suggest looking to connections through Chapman Drive for a dirt route from Boulder to the Indian Peaks—and not tearing up this existing glorious trail. Thank you.

Suzy Nguyen•Broomfield

1/23/2019• 123

I am 100% in support of this trail and hope that it will be built ASAP. I am in full support of the BMA position as stated below. Thank you for your consideration. BMA POSITION STATEMENT FOR ELDO-TO-WALKER MULTI-USE TRAIL January 11, 2019 The three-agency working group under the leadership of Boulder County staff recommended a multi-use, regional trail to connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch — the Eldo-to-Walker trail. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance would like to thank the staff of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their hard work and willingness to collaborate. This trail recommendation is the culmination of several extensive public processes, including a unanimous decision by Boulder City Council during the West Trail Study Area, as well as Boulder County's Walker Ranch Management Plan, the Boulder County and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans, the 2016-2026 Colorado State Trails Plan, and the state's Colorado the Beautiful program. We are gratified that four year effort has led to a recommendation to provide a multi-use trail connection from the plains into the mountains, an amenity that currently does not exist in Boulder County. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. BMA understands that the scope of this three-agency recommendation before POSAC and OSBT is regarding the alignment of the trail and nothing more. Nevertheless we want to express our hope that the Committee Members and Trustees will encourage their agencies to continue this successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the goal of solving the parking and crowding challenges that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the town of Eldorado Springs for decades. Possible solutions to the parking issues are shuttles and multi-use trails that allow people to hike, run or bike from Boulder directly into the park. BMA members have been engaged in this project from the beginning and the resources that our organization has successfully employed in other areas will be available to help make this regional trail connection and its implementation a success. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance is primarily a land stewardship organization, and we will continue working to find win-win solutions to any challenges that

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arise. We invite you to join us in making the trails in Boulder County better for all users. Visit us at bouldermountainbike.org to find out about volunteer trail building days and other volunteer opportunities.

Joe Miller•Superior

1/23/2019• 122

As a Superior resident and avid mountain biker, I often spend time on Marshall mesa and in the dowdy draw area. This connector would be an excellent addition to the south Boulder riding area. Any other park on the front range with access into the mountains requires a 27 min drive south to white ranch or 30min into the canyon to Betasso (which already has limited access). This park connector would not only represent access, but for people like myself would provide a close opportunity that wouldn't even cause to spend an hour driving round trip (+1 environment). Additionally, this would be a monumental opening for endurance mountain bikers who seek a 'pavementless' route all the way to winter park. Finally, if this connector opens, I think it would be to the benefit to the state park. With the ride in costs being that they are, I'd easily be one of the many to purchase a state parks pass without hesitation. Please consider opening the connector to mountain bikes!

Damon Kelley•Arvada

1/23/2019• 121

As a Colorado native this has been a hope I've had for decades, I hope they build it. I've been watching the meeting notes and photos with the planned trail. I suspect co,plants regarding lack of parking near the Eldorado State Park Ranger station. Other options are available, how about no vehicles with bikes so the hikers and rock climbers don't have to compete with bikers. Let them (us) ride from further east such as near highway 93 and make it a paid lot like the other Boulder County parking lots along Hwy 93.

Joel White•Superior

1/23/2019• 120

I am writing to encourage you to support a trail connection between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch. This is a vital missing connection between lower Boulder County and the higher elevation trails like Walker Ranch, 68J jeep road and Nederland area trails. This trail would allow riders to ride trails from the Dirty Bismark / South Boulder area through Eldo and all the way to Winter Park. This can eliminate people driving to trailheads, which seems to be the main issue with putting a trail connection in. The traffic being pass through would also minimize the crowds as it isn't an out and back. Riders, hikers, and runners would pass through but then have a myriad of options for getting back to Boulder. Please don't let a few vocal people who don't want anyone to access "their" park unduly influence your decision. Think of the greater whole and what amazing opportunities that it would open up for generations to come.

David Rosen•Boulder

1/23/2019• 119

I am in favor of a mountain bike connection between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch. The ideal would be for two connections so it can be ridden in a loop. There are a lot of areas for hiking and running in Boulder. This would be a great opportunity to allow for a long ride from town in Boulder. This would help people looking to bike from having to get in their cars. In my experience I have seen that

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mountain bikers, runners, hikers and dog walkers can all get along. Mountain biking seems to be skewing toward young people these days. Creating more and better opportunities for young people to use our open space will encourage them to become good stewards of our open space.

Susan Wint•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 118

As an Eldorado Springs resident, I am strongly opposed to the Eldo to Walker Ranch mountain bike trail. We local residents already deal on a daily basis with illegal parking in already overcrowded private parking areas (including in our sole designated private parking space in front of our homes), significant delays driving in or out of the canyon due to back ups at the pool/state park, unmaintained roads with ever enlarging potholes, dust, mud, and associated conflicts from the already overcrowded situation in a town that can not reasonably accommodate the huge increase in visitors that would use the new mountain bike trail. The construction of this trail would be unfair to residents of the town of Eldorado and to the existing historic user groups including hikers and climbers. As a mountain biker myself I see the attraction of the trail, but it is not worth the cost to the residents of the town, the environment, or the existing user groups. Hikers will be rare on the Eldo to Walker mountain bike trail as they are now on the Dowdy Draw. I used to hike the Dowdy Draw, now I only bike it as walking and dodging bikes is frankly unpleasant. For non Eldo residents, having to take a shuttle to go hiking, climbing , or picnicking would greatly diminish the experience. The long term ramifications of this trail to the town of Eldorado Springs and the historic use of Eldorado State Park would be irreversible. Please consider another location for a Walker Ranch connector and abandon the current proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Hoilien•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 117

POSAC members, I am a 27 year resident of Eldorado Springs. My husband Jeff and I raised our two daughters here and have enjoyed all that the community and surrounding area offers. I have seen the park grow from a quaint state park to one that is completely overused to saturation.. The community of Eldo and the park can't absorb an additional group of users who will certainly distract from the beauty it has to offer. The town residents suffer from multiple issues that you are certainly aware of. Additional human action on bikes is not nor should be the plan of action. The natural beauty of this area as well as the wildlife that inhabits it could be a plan of action. I envision a park system with trails and streams that continue to teach our children the habitat of fish, peregrine falcons, eagles, bobcats, fox and bears to name a few. We may not see these animals on a daily bases but they rely on our stewardship to protect their habitat just as we, the town of Eldorado Springs, are asking you to protect our habitat. We are at a crossroads in this project. Will you as a board honor all that this canyon is or will you allow a user group to go into areas that can't speak for themselves nor have been asked their views. You are the stewards that have been entrusted to honor not just the human viewpoint but the wildlife of Eldorado Canyon. It is one of the few remaining natural areas for many to learn from and respect. Thank you,
Julia Hoilien

Helen Cartwright•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 116

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The recently conducted feasibility study for this project identified significant problems with placing this amenity in this particular location. Eldorado Canyon State Park and the township of Eldorado Springs simply do not have the capacity to accommodate this additional use. It is foolhardy to even consider approving this project until real, practical and feasible solutions are provided to these problems of excessive visitation. The Eldorado Canyon Trail does not exist in isolation, it is part of a wider ecosystem that includes a whole community of people whose quality of life would be diminished. My reading of the feasibility study is that it clearly shows that this mountain bike trail is not in any way feasible, no matter how desirable it is to the special interest group that is pushing so hard for it.

Tor Holck•Boulder

1/23/2019• 115

To whom it may concern: I fully support the Eldorado Canyon to Walker ranch connection. The trail would greatly improve the life's of cyclists and hikers alike. I find it difficult and annoying to only be able to run a certain distance up Eldorado Canyon and I also find that when biking at Walker ranch it would be a lot more convenient, as well as a lot more fun, if it was bike accessible in a manner that didn't involve riding up the highly dangerous Flagstaff road. I strongly support this connection. Thank you, Tor Holck

James Shisler•Longmont

1/23/2019• 114

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Eldo to Walker trail. As a mountain biker I am very interested in seeing new trails opened for mountain biking. I am especially interested in seeing the Indian Peaks Traverse completed, of which Eldo to Walker is a very important piece.

John Burke•Eldorado Springs

1/23/2019• 113

I'm a homeowner in Eldorado Springs near the entrance to town right after CO-170 ends. Have proudly owned this home since 1992. I am whole-heartedly opposed to the creation of this bikers trail as it only adds to an already overwhelming level of traffic through Eldorado Springs throughout the spring, summer and fall months. I am constantly faced with out-of-towners parking illegally along the road by my home. I've had to confront out-of-towners literally urinating on the side of my house. The traffic and dust is just out of control, and the creation of this trail only makes an already unmanageable situation even worse. Eldorado Springs has unfortunately become a literal zoo on the weekends. This is a firm NO for the Walker Ranch trail, it's not that I object to recreation and outdoor activities but this is just a really bad idea for all Eldo residents.

Alli Fronzaglia•Boulder

1/22/2019• 112

My name is Alli Fronzaglia. I'm the co-founder of Boulder Hiker Chicks, a Boulder-based hiking group comprised of hundreds of local women with an online community in the thousands. I'm also an Audubon-trained naturalist and an active OSMP volunteer since 2013. I am also a member of the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. I write to you today as a member of the community and frequent trail user.

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Like many others, I have serious concerns about the construction of a new trail extending from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch. Even though this trail is being dubbed a “multi-use” trail, that is very misleading. A trail connection for passive recreation already exists between these two areas. The 3.5-mile Eldorado Canyon Trail connects to the Walker Ranch loop near the point known as The Falls. An additional trail deemed “multi-use” is clearly unnecessary for anyone other than bikers, so let’s call it what it is: a mountain bike trail.

That said, mtn bikers represent only 10% of trail users according to recent city findings and already have access to 33% of OSMP trails and 85% of Boulder County trails. In addition, mountain bike access for Walker Ranch from the city already exists via Boulder Canyon & Flagstaff Rd.

Eldorado Canyon State Park is already a highly congested place in the warmer months (when mtn bikers are mostly likely to be biking). If you haven’t been to Eldorado Canyon on a Saturday in July, let me paint the picture for you: It’s filled with bumper-to-bumper cars, hordes of climbers who spill out onto the road, large families with small children exploring and picnicking, and countless hikers. If recent population and tourism trends continue (and they will), this will only get worse. I can’t imagine adding anything else to the mix.

Of course there’s no limit to the number of trails we could construct for pure fun, but at what cost to the land, the wildlife, and other trail users? We cannot lose sight of what makes Boulder Boulder: a commitment to thoughtful land management & conservation that aims to minimize human impacts on open space. In staying true to this, we cannot put the desires of any one user group above all others. We cannot take risks with sensitive habitat in the name of “more fun for 10% of users.”

I implore you to slow this process down and, before determining WHERE the trail should go, do a more in-depth study of whether we need this trail at all. We are fortunate to have so many trails for a variety of recreational activities in and around Boulder. We are truly spoiled in the best way possible. But we cannot fall prey to a “more is better” philosophy without any consideration for the short-term and long-term impacts.

Thanks so much for reading.
Alli Fronzaglia

Josephine Sterr•
1/22/2019• 111

I am DEEPLY concerned about the increase of traffic and the decrease in parking that will occur if this trail goes forward. I would like a published detailed description of how these aspects will be managed before this is approved.

Betina Mattesen•Nederland
1/22/2019• 110

Thanks for the Tolland Ranch information.

Please be aware that there are several decades worth of illegal mt. bike trail building in the remote areas of Boulder County. Many are now being used by motorized dirt bikes who want single track too. A 3 year effort with the Forest Service has produced no improvement in the vast areas that we’ve inventoried (we would like signage, closures and education about the Motor Vehicle Use Map and Law).

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A County area with illegal use and trail building (both mt. bikes and motorized dirt bikes) is Nugget Hill in Lefthand Canyon. I've discussed this a few times with Ranger Bevin Carithers who mentioned the possibility of a signed gate. I checked on it recently. No gate and plenty of dirt bike tracks (now covered by snow).

My concerns about the remote reaches of Tolland Ranch are a continuation of this trail building habit off of the main trail and potential motorized use. Management and enforcement here will be very difficult.. Many user built trails on County land are now sanctioned (near Caribou Ranch, Mud Lake and County areas by Ridge Road Nederland) without any public review that I'm aware of. When I read the Mud Lake Management Plan I learned that the Sherwood Creek riparian areas and wetlands were suppose to be protected. There are now user built bike trails in these sensitive areas on both sides of the Peak to Peak so that didn't happen.

How will you protect habitat and natural resources in light of the vandalism and abuse that has long been the reality of western Boulder County?

I know that you are compartmentalizing your County piece of the proposed Indian Peaks Traverse Trail (vs Ecosystem Management) but I say will say it for the record: the proposed Continental Divide crossing is an incredibly archaeologically sensitive and channeling the crowds here would be irresponsible.

Thanks.

Betina Mattesen

Illegal Motorized Trails Task Force

Forest Watch

Nederland

Jason Vogel•

1/22/2019• 109

I write to you today as the President of the Indian Peaks Traverse Coalition (IPT Coalition), a dedicated group of hikers, trail runners, conservationists, backpackers, equestrians, and mountain bikers of both Boulder and Grand Counties. Our mission is to support the development and ongoing management of a 60+ mile, non-motorized, backcountry trail connecting Boulder to Winter Park. The Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch N1-N2-N4 trail alignment provides the last missing link needed to build this iconic, regional trail.

We would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to the staff of the working group of BCPOS, OSMP, and CPW for their collaboration and persistence over the past 4 years. Their hard work and dedication has identified a feasible alignment that minimizes environmental impacts while enabling the Indian Peaks Traverse to exist.

First, and most importantly, please keep the momentum going! We believe that the three-agency collaboration is key to addressing the issues that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the Town of Eldorado Springs for decades.

As appointed stewards of our public lands, we understand that you have a unique and important role to play in the final decision regarding the Eldo-to-Walker trail. While we believe that staff has found the best alignment (north over south), we have also heard about other concerns that we feel are important to address.

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The IPT Coalition recognizes these legitimate concerns, such as capacity, parking, and user conflict, and we have summarized our policy recommendations in a recent article in a local publication, which was co-authored with our Regional RTD Representative, a former board member of the state park climbing organization and a former long term resident of Eldorado Springs. We hope you will take the time to read this article as you consider providing feedback to staff at your 2/13 meeting.

<http://www.boulderblueline.org/2019/01/19/issues-and-solutions-for-the-eldo-to-walker-trail-and-the-indian-peaks-traverse/>

On behalf of the IPT Coalition board of directors,

Jason Vogel

President

Indian Peaks Traverse Coalition

Carrie •Boulder

1/22/2019• 108

Super excited to recommend the connection through Toll property for access to Walker Ranch from Eldo.

As a Boulder native, here 53 years and an avid lover of everything outdoors, I am in full support of the connector.

In addition, I have been a volunteer at Colorado Mountain Club Boulder for over 12 years, leading trips, international trips, instructor, leadership, and marketing chair. Also, on the IPT board representing CMC. The possibilities are endless when this connector trails approved. We are looking at the environmental impact with the sheer number of people that visit our open space, 6.4 million a year. With this connector that opens the door to find solutions to the overcrowded conditions to our open space and to delve in deeper to find sustainable - wholesome solutions.

Looking forward to a positive response!

Best regards,

Not a mountain biker-Carrie

Janet Robinson•

1/22/2019• 107

Can you disclose to me who paid for the feasibility study, did BMA contribute any funds ?

Can you tell me who will supply the \$660,000 for the proposed trail ?

In terms of the public comments was it limited to one comment per person or could an individual submit multiple comments. Do you have a record of how many comments each individual submitted. i.e. Could I have submitted 10 comments from my email address?

Thanks for your help,

Janet Robinson•

1/22/2019• 106

In the interests of transparency I have some questions...

Who paid for the Feasibility study ?

Where will the \$600-\$800,000 come from for the trail ?

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Did you check to see how many responses came from each individual, could I have submitted 50 responses during the comment period ?

Do you work full time on this proposal or do you have other planning projects ?

Do you know how many paid employees the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance has ?

Are you a member of the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance ?

I appreciate your help with this.

Brian Curtis•Boulder

1/22/2019• 105

Hi POSAC Members, I understand that the topic of the proposed Eldo-Walker trail connection will be discussed during your next board meeting. As you know, the Eldo-Walker bicycle trail connection is identified in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, the Walker Ranch Management Plan, and the City of Boulder Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw and West Trail Study Area (TSA) plans. The connection also is identified as one of “the Colorado 16” (16 in 2016) priority trails in the 2016-2026 Colorado State Trails Plan and Department of Natural Resources Colorado the Beautiful program. Despite some vocal opposition from a minority of specific land-use advocates, I'm hoping that you will continue to support the Eldo-Walker connection as a mixed-use, multimodal recreation trail for benefit of all of Boulder County (and Colorado) residents to enjoy. With such support, you can help ensure that the trail is designated for use by many different types of recreationalists -- including bike riders -- so that the connection can be enjoyed by a majority of users, rather than opposed by a minority of detractors. Thanks for your support! -Brian

Wendy Sweet•Boulder

1/22/2019• 104

Dear POSAC members, The three-agency working group under the leadership of Boulder County staff recommended a multi-use, regional trail to connect Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch — the Eldo-to-Walker trail. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance would like to thank the staff of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their hard work and willingness to collaborate. This trail recommendation is the culmination of several extensive public processes, including a unanimous decision by Boulder City Council during the West Trail Study Area, as well as Boulder County's Walker Ranch Management Plan, the Boulder County and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans, the 2016-2026 Colorado State Trails Plan, and the state's Colorado the Beautiful program. We are gratified that four year effort has led to a recommendation to provide a multi-use trail connection from the plains into the mountains, an amenity that currently does not exist in Boulder County. A network of regional connections that allow people to bike from home without having to get into a car are becoming more and more important. Approval of the Eldo-to-Walker trail will complete a critical link necessary to create an iconic trail experience that we can all enjoy from our back doors. BMA understands that the scope of this three-agency recommendation before POSAC and OSBT is regarding the alignment of the trail and nothing more. Nevertheless we want to express our hope that the Committee Members and Trustees will encourage their agencies to continue this successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the goal of solving the parking and crowding challenges that have been plaguing Eldorado Canyon State Park and the town of

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Eldorado Springs for decades. Possible solutions to the parking issues are shuttles and multi-use trails that allow people to hike, run or bike from Boulder directly into the park. BMA members have been engaged in this project from the beginning and the resources that our organization has successfully employed in other areas will be available to help make this regional trail connection and its implementation a success. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance is primarily a land stewardship organization, and we will continue working to find win-win solutions to any challenges arise. We invite you to join us in making the trails in Boulder County better for all users. Visit us at bouldermountainbike.org to find out about volunteer trail building days and other volunteer opportunities. Thank you, Wendy Sweet President of the Board of Directors Boulder Mountainbike Alliance

Deb Trevor•Lafayette

1/22/2019• 103

I am writing to unequivocally support the Eldo to Walker trail connector. I firmly believe that the agencies involved can work together to form a comprehensive plan for mitigating any perceived or actual impacts on the parking in the town of L387Eldorado. Thank you for your work and consideration!

Kimberly Lord•Boulder

1/22/2019• 102

I am writing in support of the Eldo to Walker Ranch trail connection. It would be great to see another trail that is available to mountain bikes. For a community the size of Boulder, we have very limited places to mountain bike. This would be a great addition. Thanks.

Tony Apuzzo•Boulder

1/22/2019• 101

POSAC: I would like to register my support for the Eldo-to-Walker trail improvements, including the proposed opening to mountain biking. I personally feel that the traffic concerns are overblown as the proposed trail does not seem like it will be so spectacular that it will cause mass migration to the trailhead. However, I do think it will supply some much needed extra miles for long rides and a new way to recreate in the area. My personal expectation is that most MTB access will actually be from the Walker Ranch side where people will add some miles as an out-and-back from their regular rides of the existing ~8 mile loop, or will use the new trail to create optional out-and-back routes from one of the existing Walker Ranch trailheads (the most likely being the existing main lot.) The steep climbs on both sides of the trail will eliminate virtually all "shuttle" traffic as it will be pointlessly time consuming. As part of this process, please consider opening the Fowler trail to biking so that it is possible to ride from the Dowdy Draw area to Walker Ranch without using paved roads. As a 25 year resident of the City of Boulder, I have been looking forward to this connection being a viable trail for mountain biking for as long as I can remember! Thank you for your consideration, Tony

Lester Pardoe•LYONS

1/22/2019• 100

OMG this trail would be great for the high school cycling kids, as it will open up so much terrain to them that they currently can't reach w/o driving to. It will also keep them off of Boulder Canyon to get to Betasso at rush hour (after school) High School mtbing is huge, I believe the largest school sport in

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Boulder with 6-7% of the Boulder HS students are in the club. These kids give back, 70+ kids did trail maintenance last fall, from both Fairview and Boulder High. Support the kids and keep them outside not behind screens! Eldo town has a valid point about parking, but a trail already exists for hikers and climbers (and their parking issues), and I don't feel mtbers are going to be driving to Eldo to park. The point of the trail is to provide a connector from one set of trails (Marshal Mesa/Doudy Draw to Walker), not a destination trail by any stretch of the imagination, just a link to allow riders who are already at Marshal Mesa/Doudy ride to more trails. These folks are already riding/parking to get to Marshall Mesa, the point is to allow these folks to link to other trails. With parking already an issue a biker will happily park further away and ride in, and this will also keep cars off the road up Flagstaff, as riders can ride there. Isn't allowing bike access vs driving to trails a good thing?

Andrew Davis•Lafayette

1/22/2019• 99

Again, There really never is a need to keep human powered items out of anywhere. The bicycle is centuries old. You should be ashamed of yourselves for standing in the way of any human powered anything, anywhere. Bikes are good, adults are behaving horribly... the outdoors is all we have left. Leave it the F@\$# alone. Thanks, AD

Lorri Fulkerson•Boulder

1/22/2019• 98

Dear POSAC members, I have been living in Boulder for 25 years and an avid mountain bike enthusiast. I utilize open space trails every week, whether it be to bike to work or just to enjoy a long mountain bike ride on the weekend. I always bike from my front door. I am writing to encourage POSAC to recommend completion of the ELDO-to-Walker connector trail. The process has been inclusive to date and there is clear support for the trail. Please endorse the north side of the canyon trail at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting. Thank you, Lorri Fulkerson, MD

Jim Mapes•Austin

1/22/2019• 97

Greetings POSAC! I wish I could be with you this Thursday as you deliberate the next step in the long sought Eldo to Walker multiuse trail. No other project in recent memory has captured my imagination like this trail connection has. I'm giddy with excitement at the prospect that this trail will someday soon be open to cyclists. The opportunity to ride or hike from the alpine to the plains on a continuous trail will be one of the crown jewels of Boulder County. In my opinion the three agencies have found a reasonable way to achieve the connection with acceptable resource impacts and the real potential for a fantastic user experience. I recognize that there are significant fears from Eldorado Springs residents regarding traffic and parking issues. I'm confident that solutions can be found and that surely the positives outweigh the negatives for the entirety of the Boulder County community. I urge you with no hesitation to recommend to the BCC that this project move forward. I look forward to the day when POSAC can take a field trip to this trail and experience together the journey from Walker Ranch to Eldorado Canyon! Best, Jim Mapes

Cheryl Roth•Boulder

1/22/2019• 96

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As someone that lives in Boulder and recreates daily on open space, I support the Eldo-to-Walker multi-use trail connector. My interest are somewhat unique in that I ride mountain bikes, hike/run and enjoy the trails on my horse. I have also enjoyed the open space trails with my dog (he is deceased). I believe that with some education and enforcement we can all enjoy our beautiful outdoor places. I urge you to please continue the hard work and agency collaboration needed to make this a reality. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim Kastengren•Boulder

1/22/2019• 95

I am a longtime resident and my family uses parks and open space regularly for both hiking and biking. I am very much in favor of the Eldo to Walker multi-use trail, as well as any other trails that will make biking to trails more desirable than driving to trails. I am also in favor of increasing access to existing trails for bikes so that there is more incentive to not drive to trail heads. Thank you.

Jeremy rogers•Niwot

1/22/2019• 94

Hello, thank you for hearing and put on the El Dorado to Walker Ranch connector trail system. As a long time boulder county resident who has seen numerous open space initiatives pass only to have them use restricted to pedestrian traffic only, I strongly support this recreational improvement in our trail system that will bring balance to the number of mountain bikers to pedestrian traffic. I personally think the decision should be based on environmental tolerance only and not who shows up at meetings with the loudest participants. I will continue to go down open space initiatives if the pattern of continued designation as pedestrian only continues buy this group of pedestrian only retirees while the rest of us like me are working during these meetings. Let's make these user decisions based on what makes sense and is fair to the distribution of taxpayers that are mountain bikers versus pedestrian. I am both.
Best, Jeremy Rodgers

Karen Goubleman•Boulder

1/22/2019• 93

Please support the Eldo to Walker multi use trail. This will allow many more people to enjoy the trail and nature getting exercise, while also helping to reduce parking problems.

Scott Herrin•Boulder

1/22/2019• 92

As a Boulder resident and member of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, I am in favor of the proposed Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail and BMA's position on this project. Thanks for everyone's hard work on this.

Greg Mears•Boulder

1/22/2019• 91

I'd definitely ride my bike from town to use this connector trail to Walker! Too bad the West TSA process didnt include a trail along Mesa to connect to Eldo. Please approve and don't worry about parking. This will not be a destination trail. It's a connector trail only.

Devin Quince•Longmont

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1/22/2019• 90

We need to approve and complete this trail, as it will benefit all trail users.

Joel White•Superior

1/22/2019• 89

Greetings, I want to encourage you to help create the long missing connection from Eldorado State Park to Walker Ranch. This vital link provides a tremendously beneficial connection from lower Boulder County up to Walker Ranch and even on to Nederland. By helping to create this trail, you are opening up a lot of opportunities for people to leave their cars at home and ride away from distracted drivers and fast moving vehicles to a serene mountain experience. Trail runners and hikers can now create epic loops. By creating these connections it also helps to distribute some of the traffic that currently has no choice but to come back out of Eldorado State Park once inside. This connection is long overdue, please help us achieve a vision that we can all utilize in the future. Regards, Joel White

Jeremy Gebben•BOULDER

1/22/2019• 88

I am super excited about the Eldo to Walker connector being opened to bikes! I read that many Eldorado Springs residents are concerned about parking, which is already problematic in the area. Personally, I think most bikers will ride in, either from Boulder or Marshall or one of the other nearby open space parking areas. The road is already a popular and safe bike route, but having an all dirt bike trail into the park would reduce the likelihood of bikers driving into the park even further.

Steve Gardner•Longmont

1/22/2019• 87

I support the Eldo to Walker connection for bikes. I have lived in Boulder county since 2002 and I'm tired of waiting for this connection to open. Parking and congestion are already a problem and will need to be addressed regardless of bike access. Open the Fowler trail to bikes so we can ride in.

Andy Burgess•Boulder

1/22/2019• 86

I am so excited about the prospects of opening up more of our beautiful front range to some of the most responsible trail stewards around - mountain bikers. I am a cyclist and realtor, and have had many prospective clients choose to live down in Golden instead of Boulder due to easier access to front range trails open to bikes. There are many wonderful examples of mountain towns that have embraced mountain biking and see a strong economic benefit every year from them. I would like Boulder to be one of those towns, but it is still very far from it.

Betsy Williford•Arvada

1/22/2019• 85

Hi I am writing to express my strong support for the Eldo Walker connection! I am a mountain biker (fatbike actually) and I love to ride from home but do not feel safe riding the roads. I am in such strong positive favor for this connection because with it I could connect trails (rocky flats to dirty Bismarck / Marshall Mesa / Flatirons Vista / Spring Brook to Eldo and with the connector could further that up to Walker and beyond to Nederland... so many wonderful possibilities. I have also figured out how to

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connect to the SoBo trails using the US-36 bike path. I really believe that connecting the trails from lower up to Walker would benefit so many user groups looking to expand their range. We really need this in this area!!! And as far as people getting to and accessing these trails there are countless options without even parking at Eldo Canyon. All of those options can and should be put into consideration for favor of the connector.

Colin Hutten•Boulder

1/22/2019• 84

Please pursue a trail for mountain bikes from Walker through Eldorado Canyon State Park.

Ian Campbell•Boulder

1/22/2019• 83

Hello, This is a request to support the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail project. As a Boulder county trail user for both hiking and mountain biking I am in favor of building new trails like this proposed connector. In addition, I also support adding additional trails for people to connect into Eldorado Canyon to help decrease parking and congestion issues. Thank you, Ian Campbell

Max Aguiar•Boulder

1/22/2019• 82

As a Boulder native I support more trail access for mountain bikers in the front range foothills. As you know, there are a multitude of trails that are open to hikers only, including all of the Chautauqua/Gregory canyon/flagstaff system, bear mountain, Sanitas/Dakota Ridge, Betasso two days a week, and more. Each of these systems has many options that are open to hikers only, while I can count on one hand the trails that are open to mountain bikes. Please consider expanding access for all respectful trail users!

gregg bagnì•lafayette

1/22/2019• 81

please open up eldo to walker multi use trail !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Parker Crowe•Denver

1/22/2019• 80

This region has many small trail networks but we lack in long distance routes accessible to mountain bikes. If this Eldo-Walker connector is built, I would plan to use it only on long days, without parking anywhere nearby. In addition, the IPT concept is brilliant. Due to the difficulty and length, I doubt this connector will be a heavily used trail, but more of an "aspirational ride" that will be a huge positive to the area even if traffic is low. In addition, users will be experienced. In my estimation all reports of bad trail etiquette are caused by novices who don't know how to interact politely, and experienced users on this trail will use it for the same reasons hikers hike.

Puneet Pasrich•Boulder

1/22/2019• 79

As a hiker, mountain biker, and outdoor enthusiast I am glad to read of the culmination of many years of hard work in creating a solution that will allow mountain bikers the ability to ride from home to Eldo on

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their way to Walker Ranch. What a fun adventure that'll be! Thank you for your support in making this trail connection happen. Regards, Puneet Pasrich

Kate King•Boulder

1/22/2019• 78

PLEASE approve this north alignment for the Eldo to Walker connection!!!! The trail as is is not a positive experience and as a trail runner who runs from my house out to the park, I would love to be able to love this trail more!!!! I understand some of the concerns, but if the current trail is eroding and this does not have a big environmental impact, I do not see a harm in creating this trail. Thank you!

Daniel Steuer•Boulder

1/22/2019• 77

Hello, I write in support of the proposed Walker-Eldorado trail. This trail is a crucial link for regional connectivity and would greatly enhance regional recreation opportunities. As for me, I often ride my bike from my front door to Marshall Mesa area. However, when I plan to ride Walker, I drive up Flagstaff, as neither the grade nor car traffic makes it a viable biking option. I would love to be able to bike to Walker from my front door, riding mostly dirt! Please make this happen. These are the kind of trail connections that are sorely lacking for City of Boulder residents. Regards, Dan Steuer

Ben Griffin•Boulder

1/22/2019• 76

Hello POSAC members - First of all, thanks for all your efforts to maintain and preserve open space in our community. I'm writing to urge you to approve mountain bike access for the Eldorado to Walker trail. It is imperative that more trails be made available to mountain bikers in the area. The growing demand for more MtB trails in Boulder County is completely undeniable at this point. The lack of MtB trails in the County is causing dangerous MtB congestion on current trails, as well as increasing tensions between MtB's and other users. This trail also makes sense practically, and will increase access and support for one of our community's most beautiful open spaces. Please approve the Eldorado to Walker trail for MtBs as it will serve the desires of your constituents and become a valuable asset to our outdoor community. Thanks, Ben Griffin

Martin Newmark•Louisville

1/22/2019• 75

Please create a trail between Eldo and Walker Ranch that is open to mountain bikes. Thank you!

Peter Jansky•Boulder

1/22/2019• 74

I support the recommendation as made by the agency. I do not see parking concerns as a big issue for the mountain biking community as most that I have spoken to will park elsewhere (or leave their car at home) and ride to the trail head. I would also recommend not allowing e bikes and dogs on the trail and possibly limiting it to bikers only.

dave chase•Lyons

1/22/2019• 73

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It's about time we got an Eldorado Springs to Walker Ranch connection that is legal to bikes - THANK YOU bigly. Please let's get thru this mire of bureauracy quickly and painlessly. It's just a trail, not a nuclear arms agreement. Anyone concerned about parking be it hikers, bikers, climbers, etc can easily use alternative forms of transportation. Isn't that what regional connectors are all about? Thanks again. Nothing is ever as easy as it seems but after 20 years of hard work on everyones behalf, thanks for working out this final piece.

David Weinstein•Boulder

1/22/2019• 72

I strongly support the Eldo-to-Walker connector trail. Living in Boulder I look forward to being able to ride my bike to Walker without having to ride Flagstaff road or drive. This will be so much safer and more enjoyable. I feel the county, city and state parks have done a fabulous job working together to determine the best balance of recreation and conservation. The bottom section of this new trail will be separate for bikers and hikers, which will help avoid conflicts, as most hikers only use the first portion. I know there is concern about additional traffic congestion, but in the long term I think this trail will be used mostly by locals like myself that will be riding from home and therefore won't contribute to that congestion. Also, the parks have said that options to help with traffic congestion, which has been needed for some time, will be implemented as part of this work. I look forward to helping the parks build this new trail for everyone's enjoyment.

scott hicar•lyons

1/22/2019• 71

Submitted my support for the Eldo/Walker connector trail. I've seen online where after all these years and plans negative reaction to something that I just don't believe will be that impactful, in terms of additional crowds or outdoor users in that area. Been a trail user my whole life, seems like rampant NIMBY'ism. Please continue to honor the commitments made to establishing some sort of bicycle friendly access to the mountains from the boulder area as this ability to journey from the front range to Walker and hopfully on to Winter Park would be wonderful.

Kevin Bracy Knight•Boulder

1/22/2019• 70

I am writing in support of the Eldo to Walker connection as part of the Indian Peaks Traverse trail connection to Winter Park. I serve on the City's Open Space Board of Trustees so I am aware of the challenges of a trail reroute and the compromises involved in working with several agencies and the public to come up with a route that can best satisfy all stakeholders. An extensive, four year, process has already been conducted to determine the feasibility of this trail along the (now) recommended northern route. Expert staff of all three agencies agree that, not only is this route feasible, but that it represents the lowest possible environmental impact of any route connecting Eldorado State Park and Walker Ranch. Here, we have an opportunity to improve something rundown (the already existing trail between Eldo and Walker), and in the process be inclusive. In addition, we have the chance to potentially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and risk of accidents considerably by offering an alternate connection than driving on a road to the Walker Ranch Open Space. I have been involved in the Eldo to Walker process since the West TSA nearly a decade ago. Rebuilding this trail to be more sustainable is an

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eventual necessity. Opening it to mountain bikers to make it a through-hike/through-ride option for people to get to and from Winter Park will be a transformative change for the people of Boulder County, Colorado, and the US. There is, and apparently always will be, controversy any time a new trail allowing cyclists is proposed in our area. I urge your board to see through the controversy to really consider the benefits of such a trail. People fear change and there are many people in our community that are instigating a campaign of fear around this, and any attempts to improve recreation through management. At the time of the West TSA, the Eldo to Walker connection was the product of 18 months of challenging conversations over how and where people may enjoy our open spaces. Boulder City Council voted UNANIMOUSLY, not just to approve the Eldo to Walker connection, but to build it as soon as funds were available. I urge you to join in partnership with City Council in supporting this project so that Boulder County, City of Boulder, and the State Parks can work together to manage this vital resource into the future.

Jeff Welch•Denver

1/22/2019• 69

Hi POSAC, I'm writing to express my support for a multi-use trail connecting the Eldorado Canyon area to the Walker Ranch area. My understanding is that a preferred alignment has been chosen and I support the decision and encourage the relevant agencies to move forward with the project. As an avid mountain biker, construction of this trail would encourage me to visit Boulder more often, bringing increased economic activity to the area, as well as provide a valuable benefit for the local community. I strongly believe that downsides to this trail construction - increased traffic, parking challenges, and trail maintenance - are all challenges that can be managed. Thanks, Jeff

Carrie Simon•Boulder

1/22/2019• 68

Dear POSAC, I have lived in Boulder for 53 years and an avid lover of everything outdoors! In addition have been a Colorado Mountain Club Boulder volunteer, instructor, trip leader, International trip leader and marketing chair. I love the idea of having the connector from Eldo to Walker Ranch. As a board member on the IPT representing CMC B, we are in contact with several agencies and looking at the environmental impact as well. With 6.4 million visitors on OSMP the connector is a great idea to eliminate the use of private property and disburse outdoor enthusiast. We will hopefully have one central trail and eliminate any feeder/social trails to lessen the impact on our natural environment. Change is hard and a lot of information out there (what I have heard) is fear based, the unknown. Please look at this with logic and the environment in mind and replace that with fear when making that decision. So many great opportunities exist if the connector is approved, for one a multi-use trail from Boulder to Winter Park. The possibilities are endless, looking at a sustainable means on how to travel around, in, and through Eldorado State Canyon. Best regards, Not a mountain biker-Carrie

Willi Wilson•Boulder

1/22/2019• 67

I wanted to quickly give my thoughts on the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connection. I DEEPLY support a mountain bike friendly connection here. I support it not just because I enjoy new trail but more so because it creates a vital link that will allow me to leave my car at home. We are truly lucky

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to live right against the foothills of the Rockies because of the proximity to recreation and the positive and healthy lifestyle it affords Boulder citizens. However there is a huge lack of trails that are easily accessible to the average cyclist without using a car to get there. To me this is a massive flaw in the open space plan. Priority should be given to trails that can relieve road/parking congestion by allowing riders to park in town or ride from home. Boulder Mountain Parks will likely never see MTB trails leaving potential access points to a few small areas that are further reduced when you take into account those that could actually provide a suitable link to other trails. This is a MASSIVE opportunity to generally strengthen the open space plan. This would even create a link that would allow access to West Mag trails with minimal road travel. I by no means want Mountain Bike access everywhere in Boulder county but this is likely the best opportunity to relieve congestion and open an important link that's available to cyclists. Thanks for the consideration. Strongly in favor Willi Wilson

Jon Maule•Louisville

1/22/2019• 66

I've been dreaming about this connector since moving here in '99. I can understand it's hard for some to swallow the "need" for additional trails and while new trails won't (by themselves) solve user conflict it'll certainly help.

Amanda Stone•Arvada

1/22/2019• 65

The Eldo to Walker connector trail is a great idea and a critical linkage for both foot traffic and bikes between south Boulder trails up to Walker Ranch and beyond. It will help alleviate both car and bike traffic on Flagstaff Road. It will allow runners and mountain bikers to connect to the large network of trails, such as Marshall Mesa, Flatirons Vista, Dirty Bismark, etc to those higher trails. While there are understandable concerns regarding parking around Eldorado Canyon state park, there are a plethora of options for parking around the trail network that are outside of the Eldorado Springs drive area. This also opens up options for riders living in Boulder, Superior, Lafayette, or other nearby communities to not have to drive at all to get to Walker Ranch. I used to live in South Boulder and enjoyed riding my bike directly to the Marshall Mesa TH to ride the trail network without having to drive my car. Adding the connection to Walker Ranch from this existing network would open up the route possibilities to many riders and add more challenging ride options in an area that is primarily focused on beginners. This is a welcome opportunity to make a critical trail connections for multiple trail users. This project needs to be completed.

Joshua Nacht•Lyons

1/22/2019• 64

I fully support the the Eldorado to Walker connector trail. There are very few areas in which bikers can connect open space trails in Boulder County. Bikes are a no-carbon way to have a tremendous amount of fun and exercise. This connector would avoid people driving all the up Flagstaff the to Walker trailhead, reducing traffic on that road, and drastically lowering carbon emissions. There are many hiker only trails, forcing an increasing umber of bikes onto a limited number of trails, increasing trail impact and user conflict. Please respect the growing mountain bike population who pays significant taxes in Boulder County and open this trail! Thank you, Joshua Nacht

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Fred Luke•Broomfield

1/22/2019• 63

Thank you very much for making this trail happen. I live in Broomfield. I have a state parks pass and would frequently mt bike to eldorado, connect to walker ranch and beyond.

Ethan Clarke•Lakewood

1/22/2019• 62

I would like to share my support for a multi-use trail option connecting Walker Ranch to Eldorado Canyon. I believe all trail users would benefit from this connection and will manage to coexist and cooperate to keep the environmental impact to a minimum. Please vote for all of our outdoor users! Thank you.

Keith Johnson•Lyons

1/22/2019• 61

Hi. I am very excited about the eldo walker connection. I have been waiting for this for 20 years. I know there is concern about more traffic and parking in the canyon but I feel this is not really going to be a problem. About 10 years ago the same concern happened in my home town of Lyons about the picture rock trail. Ultimately traffic and parking was what the locals brought up as why the trail and trailhead should not be there. Ultimately after a few years the locals realized it was not an issue and ultimately embraced the trail. The eldo walker connection will be a great thing for the community and better for the environment because less driving. Also bikers are very flexible to where they will park. Let's make this happen. Thank you, Keith

Megan Elphingstone•Boulder

1/22/2019• 60

I am writing in support of the Eldo to Walker Mountain bike trail. I've lived in Boulder for 25 years, and I hike and mountain bike. I would love the option to bike to Walker Ranch practically from my neighborhood. I think it's a great idea and I fully support it. I know a lot of work went into making these plans and I would like to see them come to fruition. My son is a mountain biker who frequently volunteers to do trail maintenance in support of his passion and it would be great if he had more options for places to ride. We raise our children to be considerate mountain bikers, always giving the right of way to hikers and horse back riders. Our family represents what is great about mountain biking in Boulder, and another trail would also be a great thing.

Brad Gilbert•Select

1/22/2019• 59

I fully support the Eldorado to Walker ranch trail - it would be a great addition to the Boulder Trail System

Mike Paris•Golden

1/22/2019• 58

Please allow bikers on the eldo/walker connector trail, being able to ride marshal Mesa to eldo to walker ranch will make one of the best rides on the front range. Please don't exclude one user group from this trail. I use both of these parks, hiking, biking, trail running and kayaking, Mike Paris

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Nathan Morgan•Superior

1/22/2019• 57

To Whom it May Concern: I am completely for incorporating a trail that connects Eldorado Canyon to Walker ranch that would include access for both hikers and mountain bikers. It would be a fantastic recreational benefit for all and reduce the amount of trail-head traffic both on Coal Creek Road and Flagstaff Road. Lets make this happen! Regards, Nathan Morgan 720-441-1242

Mike McGarry•Superior

1/22/2019• 56

Hello - just want to express my support for the Eldo - Walker connection trail for mountain bikers. I've been hoping for this trail for years - living in Superior it would open up some epic rides. While there may be debate about the route, amongst the mountain biking community, there is massive support for this initiative - regardless of route. Please do all you can to make this dream ride a possibility!!! Mike

Anthony Schubert•Boulder

1/22/2019• 55

I would like to voice my support in favor of the Eldorado-Walker Ranch connector trail. I believe all the potential access and traffic issues can be solved in an intelligent and fair fashion. The trail will provide a massively improved recreation experience for those wishing to access Walker Ranch and areas further to the West.

Alli Salaman•Lafayette

1/22/2019• 54

I'm writing in support of the Eldorado to Walker connector trail. I'm terrified to ride or run on roads and often have to drive to trailheads. I prefer any opportunity to use connector trails to extend the length of my adventures and avoid driving altogether. I'm currently able to go from East Boulder County to Marshal Mesa without biking or running on a road, but I'm unable to get up to Walker unless I drive. Please allow the connector to be built. Thank you, Alli Salaman

Vanessa Witte•Boulder

1/22/2019• 53

Hi there, I'd like to submit comments in regards to the IPT. I am an avid runner and ultramarathoner, and am part of multiple running groups - most notably the Boulder Trail Runners. This group is quite likely the largest trail running group in boulder, and has been around for decades. We are a bedrock in the running community in Boulder. I have been an admin and run leader for the last couple years. Buzz Burrell, one of the founders of BTR, first expressed details of the IPT to our members via email last year. When our members heard of this idea, we received overwhelming positive feedback. Multiple members expressed their enthusiasm for such a trail. I've heard feedback that your organization has received negative comments in regards to IPT, which has somewhat astounded me. Not one single runner I know has expressed negativity in person or via email about this trail, and I have sent emails about it, talked to runners, and been at the organizational meetings. I will be reaching out to Buzz and the other run leaders to confirm the IPT has the full support of the BTR trail running community. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions or concerns. Thanks! Vanessa

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Matt Pufall•Boulder

1/22/2019• 52

Hello! Please approve the Eldo-to-walker trail. Currently one must either drive (which is bad) or ride up Flagstaff(which is dangerous with many cars, and a huge day out) to ride at Walker. As a city committed to the outdoors, Boulder should be making making more car-free recreation from our doorsteps. Yes, traffic and parking in Eldo must be addressed, but that is true _even without considering mountain bikes_! Bikes will add a small number more., and can be located on satellite parking. Thanks! Also, please consider a trail from walker to boulder canyon or Chapman dr, for safety and north boulder access. We're an outdoor city, we can make this work!

Brandon Rock•Westminster

1/22/2019• 51

Hi, I would just like to say that the eldo - Walker connector trail, with mtb access, would be a fantastic addition to the boulder area trail network. This only spreads out the mtb crowds by giving another option, reducing conflict, and is going to attract endurance/wilderness focused riders. Ignoring or eliminating this option to bikes is a sure fire way to continue to increase conflict and frustration with the limited mtb trail access in boulder county. Thanks

Clare Tone•Boulder

1/22/2019• 50

My understanding is that the Eldo-walker ranch bike trail feasibility study only compared a north route and south route and did not evaluate a 'no action' option based on the following from a county presentation: "With no new trail connection, the No Action option would not achieve the desired objectives of the project that have been codified in public planning and policy documents guided by public engagement." Please direct me to the documents that explain how/when and where the 'objectives of the project have been codified'. I would like to see the documents your team is referring to.

Tim Goodacre•Boulder

1/22/2019• 49

Please build the trail. I love mountain biking interesting single track, and I don't like having to drive to trailheads for access. Thanks, Tim

Robert Kershner•Boulder

1/22/2019• 48

I would like to write in support of the Eldorado to Walker connector trail. This new trail is critical to allow safe access to Walker Ranch and upper foothill trail systems. Our daughter rides with Fairview High School's Mountain Bike Team and we are concerned during every training ride that the street riding the team is forced to do to access trails places them at risk. Most notably is the times they must ride up Flagstaff road to access Walker Ranch. This trail would allow the Fairview and Boulder High teams to safely access the better trails off Walker Ranch loop. Team training rides only happen on weekdays and only two days per week during the fall mountain bike season. They would ride to the trail from their schools on bike paths and would not contribute to any additional parking issues. Both schools have

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indicated a willingness to volunteer time to provide trail maintenance. Please consider the vital role the Eldorado to Walker trail will play in improving the safety of our Boulder High School and Fairview High School mountain bike athletes. The two top mountain bike programs in the state of Colorado!
Thank You. Bob Kershner

Laura Wisner•Boulder
1/22/2019• 47

As President of a Boulder-based women's cycling team of over 200 members, mother of a Fairview High School mountain bike team rider, and avid cyclist, I'm writing to give my support in favor of completing the Eldorado-to-Walker Ranch trail. I'll give succinct reasons for my viewpoint and a suggestion to mitigate parking issues: Pros: This leg of the trail will allow cyclists to ride from Boulder to Winter Park, an incredible journey that will give positive publicity to both Colorado and Boulder County, staking our claim as a recreationalist's paradise Less vehicle traffic will travel through Boulder and up Flagstaff Road, as those who will ride Walker Ranch as a destination will begin their bike ride in town versus having to drive to Walker Boulder-based cyclists will bike to the trailhead versus driving and parking. Many cyclists already opt to bike to a trailhead versus driving, such as cycling up Canyon to get to Betasso and riding north to Heil Ranch. Eldorado is so accessible by bike paths and trails already that serious cyclists - those who will most likely be the predominant users of this trail - will opt for bikes, not cars, to get to the trail. It's the local culture to ride to ride, not drive to ride. Parking: Communication and promotion of parking in the dirt lot on the NW corner of Marshall Drive and Highway 93, at Flatirons Vista lot, or in the Marshall Mesa lot can alleviate parking pressure in the town. This is a beautiful recreational concept, yet the unknown is certainly scary for the residents. If we can bring more people to Eldorado Springs on non-polluting, quiet, slower-paced, more neighborly-minded transport such as bikes, perhaps residents will see the benefit more clearly. Thank you for allowing input on this trail.

chris thorson•boulder
1/22/2019• 46

I understand that there is an effort underway to open up a trail to connect eldorado springs to Walker Ranch trailhead for mountain biking. While I will not be able to attend the upcoming discussion live, I would like to voice my opinion is support of this new trail. As a long-time boulder resident and active mountain biker, having a trail such as this would allow me, and my boys, to easily access the walker ranch trail without having the burden of driving up and over flagstaff mountain. With all of our mountains so close to Boulder, I think it's silly that in order for us to access most of our trails we have to get in a car, burn gas and waste time. Why do all of that when part of the fun could be to simply ride up to the trail. Something that I would otherwise rarely do because it would involve a long and dangerous road-ride over flagstaff. Please open this extremely valuable trail resource to the community! Thank you Chris Thorson

Peter Marlowe•Boulder
1/22/2019• 45

Dear Committee members, I am writing today to voice my support for the India Peaks Traverse trail project. As a long time resident of boulder I have been excited and enthusiastic about the possibility of accessing walker ranch and our public lands further west without needing to drive or ride over flagstaff.

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Both of those options are problematic and there needs to be another alternative. This regional connector trail fills a great need in the boulder valley for access. I have made the trip over Rollins pass from Boulder to Winter Park several times, the most harrowing part of the trip is the going over flagstaff. The new IPT trail would fix this issue and make trips like this more accessible and safer. While the proposed trail alignment going through Eldorado springs is not ideal and there are better options for where to put the needed trails, this is a great step forward and long over due. Thank you for your time, Pete Marlowe,

Roger Briggs•Boulder

1/22/2019• 44

Dear POSAC Members, Would you kindly read the document I have attached? Thanks, Roger Briggs
Dear Esteemed and Trusted Decision-Makers, January 22, 2019

I am Roger Briggs, a 67-year old Boulder native, writing this to you on behalf of the many citizens of Boulder County whose voices have not been heard on the matter of the proposed Eldorado-Walker connector trail. I have spent the last several months talking with and listening to many people in our community, including staff and management from both Eldorado State Park and OSMP, as well as residents of Eldorado Springs and surrounding areas, climbers, conservationists, hikers, mountain bikers, and the BMA (I make that distinction because there are many mountain bikers, including myself, who do not support the goals or tactics of the BMA).

I have compiled and summarized what I found on the two pages following. This information is not opinion or speculation. I have run it by many people, including staff at ECSP and OSMP, and asked, do I have this right? Have I missed anything? Have I exaggerated anything or been unfair? I believe it's good information and I urge you to look at it carefully.

There has been much detailed analysis of the 4.8 mile trail in isolation, but I now ask you to zoom way out and look the big picture, outside the boundaries of the public lands you are responsible for.

From

that perspective, I would like to make several broad points and pose some questions that have bothered me and many other citizens.

- Would this new trail attract significant numbers of new visitors to the Marshall-Eldorado-Walker corridor? The map on page 3 addresses this question. It is an inventory of the mountain biking opportunities in the Denver area. It clearly shows that the Buffalo Creek area offers the best mountain biking opportunity for people in the Denver area, and this I know from personal experience. But if you look at the other data you see that the Superior-Eldorado-Walker corridor comes in at #2, far surpassing anything else – but it's a lot closer than Buffalo Creek for most people. So, just imagine you are a mountain biker who lives in Denver thinking about where to go next weekend or after work. This will be an attractive choice. We must see this mountain biking area that the proposed trail would create as serving the entire Denver metro area and not just Boulder or Boulder County. As a mountain biker it is also clear to me that riding the Walker Ranch loop from Eldorado Springs or points east would become the most iconic ride in the Front Range (mountain bikers, please tell me what would compare). **CONCLUSION:** This 4.8 mile trail would create a big attractor for mountain bikers in the Denver area, bringing many new visitors to the entire Marshall-Eldorado-Walker corridor.

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- The State Park and the OSMP trailheads to the east (Doudy Draw, Mesa Trail, and Marshall Mesa) are already beyond capacity on many weekends. How could we possibly build something that would attract even more people into this area? A mere five years ago this may have seemed reasonable, but we've all seen the most recent explosion of people wanting to recreate on Open Space lands. Look at Chautauqua, Eben G. Fine, Sanitas, Doudy Draw, South Mesa Trail, and Eldorado Canyon. We do not need to be attracting more people into any of these areas!
- I compiled the pros and cons of building this trail, and summarized this on page 4 as "Cost/Benefit". This trail would benefit the mountain biking community and no one else. Everyone else would pay in some way or another. How could a fair and objective decision-maker be in favor of moving forward with this when the cost/benefit ratio is so skewed? The community should hear the justification for that. How can we make a decision about public lands use that is good for 20% (a generous estimate for the number of mountain biking visitors) and overwhelmingly bad for the other 80% of visitors, plus the unfortunate people who live and work amidst this?
- This trail would have overwhelmingly negative impacts on Eldorado Canyon State Park – for the non-biking visitors and for the management. I have spoken at length with the Park Manager and other staff and, though they are not complainers, it is clear that adding lots of mountain bikers to the Park would bring nothing but additional burdens, headaches, and very real safety issues (see #6 under "Costs"). We've heard from CPW – for some reason they seem to like this - but not much from the Park. So, I am speaking up for the Park – I've been going there for 55 years. This is overwhelmingly bad for the Park, and creates significant safety concerns, and this by itself should be enough to put the Eldorado-Walker bike trail to rest.
- Speaking of the Park, we should not forget that Eldorado Canyon is a world-class rock climbing destination with huge historical significance in the development of climbing. The climbers from around the world who want to experience Eldorado, as well as locals, will have a diminished experience when they have to ride a shuttle bus or make a reservation to climb there. Who is speaking up to protect this treasure we have in Boulder County that is unique in the world?
- I just learned that pretty much the entire town of Eldorado Springs has now signed a petition against the trail (apparently one person favored the trail and 4 did not want to be involved). Does this matter?
- More than anything I am disturbed by how this process is playing out. The BMA has been working on this behind the scenes for maybe 20 years, but the first time I heard about it (and pretty much everyone else) was last summer. Since then, we citizens have been reading articles in the paper saying that the three agencies have jointly recommended the route, and the longtime dream of the BMA will now become a reality. What?! A recent article by a proponent says we must stop stalling the decision. If anything we need more time, because the public is just starting to wake up to all the repercussions of this trail. The BMA clearly does not want good information out there – they want to get this through before the rest of us understand what's happening. Please do not allow that to happen. A recent piece by a Camera Staff Writer cites a survey finding that 76% of people support the trail and "several" respondents expressed concerns. We can be certain that 100% of the BMA membership knew about this survey and

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expressed their opinions, while hardly anyone else knew about. And then these results are cited in the newspaper as meaningful data? The article also states that the new trail would make “slight realignments and trail enhancements” to the existing trail, while in reality the plan is to construct 20 to 40 new switchbacks in pristine habitat. The misleading information goes on, and it seems to be endorsed by representatives from OSMP and BCPOS.

- I also hear that the BMA was “promised” this trail by the City of Boulder when other trails they wanted were not approved. Why such entitlement? After looking more carefully at the West TSA report and City Council minutes, it seems that the City committed to looking seriously at the possibility of this trail. That has certainly happened. But please look again at the cost/benefit analysis - this is the bigger picture if we want to look honestly and completely at all the repercussions. Proponents like to say that we can find solutions to this train wreck of problems, and that this is an opportunity to solve some of the existing problems. Unfortunately, the root problem is that the population of the Front Range is exploding and everyone wants to recreate. A shuttle bus to Eldorado Canyon for non-biking visitors is no solution - it’s the price the rest of us have to pay so that mountain bikers can have their trail. I am a mountain biker and would love to ride this trail, but for some reason I am opposed to it. That reason is that I could not live with myself knowing that this small entertainment that was good for me was bad for a whole lot of other people. They matter, and for me that is far more important. There is no such thinking on the part of the BMA, but I expect that from the decision-makers who work for everyone.

- Here is what is most troubling to most of us regular folks – the BMA is a well-organized special interest group, funded by businesses that profit from mountain biking. The rest of us who visit Open Space lands have no such power or influence. I must admit that I feel very raw about this right now because of what is happening at the Federal level of our government. Special interests with money now control the U.S. Congress, and our democracy is imperiled. I am shocked and saddened to see something resembling this at our local level, because really that’s what this is. Special interests with money have dominated the process and the people have been left out. From all I’ve learned, there is widespread opposition to this trail, and approving it would be completely disrespectful, and a true disservice, to a majority of the people you represent and serve.

My plea to you on behalf of the ordinary citizens: if you can’t simply vote this down and put it to rest forever, please slow down and really listen to what the community is saying. I think you will find that virtually no one who visits, lives in, or works in the Eldorado area wants to see this happen except for a subset of mountain bikers who care only about what is good for them. Public lands should serve the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and building this trail would be a gross violation of that principle.

[eldo_walker.briggs.pdf](#)

Chelsea Beebe•Arvada

1/22/2019• 43

I do not support any additional trails in El Dorado State Park. I value land preservation for wildlife and think that the addition of more trail in this area will further fragment the landscape and negatively affect

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large ungulates, song birds, and small mammals. Furthermore, there is already in extremely high concentration of mountain biking trails throughout the Front Range that are already over crowded. This idea of dispersing use is not effective, especially in this canyon where parking is at capacity, and traffic is a problem. Increasing use in this area will have negative effects throughout. The demand for long connecting trails only benefits very small user group and the cost/benefit of constructing this trail is too low to warrant its completion.

Steven Natali•Denver

1/22/2019• 42

I am deeply in favor of the building of the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail ! Every year, Colorado gets a little bit better, and this will make Boulder County even more incredible. Steve Natali

Greg Alaniz•Superior

1/22/2019• 41

Sounds like other users might be more organized than the MTB crowd. Please approve of the eldo to walker connection. I think we can all get along and share.

Adam Perkins•Boulder

1/22/2019• 40

I am in favor of bike access on the Eldo-Walker connection to create access between Winter Park and Boulder. This would be phenomenal access for bikers. Thank you, Adam

RICHARD COOK•Boulder

1/22/2019• 39

Dear POSAC Members, I wanted to write and voice my strong support for a multi use Eldo to Walker connector trail, including bicycle non-motorized access. As a Boulder homeowner and family we enjoy all the uses on our open space. Bicycling, hiking and running from Eldo to Walker would be an excellent connection and consistent with Gov. Hinkenlooper's 16 in 2016 vision for trail connectivity. While the Eldo-to-Walker trail is of interest to many of us, I also endorse it because it is an important segment needed to develop the Indian Peaks Traverse (IPT), a 60+ mile, non-motorized, back country trail connecting communities: Boulder to Winter Park. The Front Range to Rocky Mountain National Park. Multi use trails contribute to quality of life, livability and local economies. Such trails are consistent with conservation values, forestry, watershed and wildlife when best practices are applied and trails are built to current sustainable standards. This is substantiated by numerous trail systems in practice and peer reviewed academic research conducted by IMBA and others (Dr. Jeffrey L. Marion, USGS. et al). The three public lands agencies and stakeholders involved are uniquely qualified to implement this trail project with a world class result, as envisioned by the former Governor and trails enthusiasts of all types. Thank you for your due diligence in the scoping and public process. I wholly endorse a multi use alternative for Eldo to Walker as a community benefit and for the future generations who will enjoy it. Kind regards,

Cody Stephenson•Fort Collins

1/22/2019• 38

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This trail addition would be a huge benefit to the area and would reduce traffic and congestion for other trails in the area as well.

Kayleen Castelli•Denver

1/22/2019• 37

Completing the Indian Peaks Traverse is an incredible opportunity for our community. Please approve the Eldo to Walker segment!

Gerardo Brucker•Longmont

1/22/2019• 36

Hello: Unfortunately I will miss the public meeting to discuss the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail at the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) meeting this Thursday. However, I wanted you all to count in my vote of enthusiasm to move forward and approve/complete this exciting project. I am an avid mountain biker part of a large community of friends dedicated to the sport. Walker Ranch is already one of our usual routes....but this new connector will definitely expand our options and let us enjoy this beautiful area much more fully. As a member of the Mountain Bike Alliance, a dedicated Mountain Biker and a local photographer of everything Boulder County I wait in anticipation for this project to start. Gerardo Brucker 2214 Harvard Ct Longmont, CO 80503 (303) 859-8000

Patrick Freeman•Broom

1/22/2019• 35

Please consider approving this project. Hikers and cyclists alike deserve world class trails and this project represents a giant leap toward that goal.

Doug Radi•Boulder

1/22/2019• 34

To the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee Members, I'm writing in support of the Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. I've been quite impressed on the collaboration of the agencies involved and the completeness of the evaluation and recommendations made for the connector trail. This trail would be a major improvement for both trail and recreational access to those of us that live and work in Boulder. It would significantly improve safety and access to Walker Ranch for runners and bikers alike and has the potential to keep more cars off the road as trail users would rather spent time outdoors than driving to trailheads. I understand there is significant concerns regarding parking in the area of Eldorado Springs and the state park. This is already a problem that needs to be addressed and needs solutions regardless of the new connector trail. Soutions like shuttles and stream side trail expansion would address this issue. Plus, as far as mountain bikers are concerned, I know many of us in the area would much rather ride to the trailhead. I don't know any mountain biker that will wait 1-2 hours for parking at the state park. Rather, we would drive to another park to ride. Mountain bikers are not likely to exacerbate the parking issue (nor are trail runners for that matter as they wil. run to the trailhead). I urge the committee to approve the final recommended plan and get to work on solving the parking issue. This would be a huge upgrade for trail access to Walker Ranch. Respectfully submitted, Doug Radi

Valerie Soraci•Boulder

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1/22/2019 • 33

I would LOVE to see the Eldo - Walker trail go through. My son and I are avid hikers and backpackers and use our Open Space trails regularly. If there's going to be a trail from the front range to Winter Park, we need this trail first. And I do believe as someone's who's lived in Boulder for over 20 years we need more thru hikes starting in the Front Range. So many times we drive drive drive all over this remarkable state to find thru hikes, wouldn't it be amazing to have a trail start here? If that's going to happen, we need the eldo - walker trail. And as someone who actually LIKES mountain bikers, I'd love to see another trail supporting them. The parking can be overcome by adding a joining trail to this one or shuttles and the environment benefits from having it where it's been suggested, too. Please support this addition to our amazing trail system. It might not feel like we need it, but I think we do. New trails are our way into the Open Space we pay so much to protect.

aidan marlowe • boulder

1/22/2019 • 32

My name is Aidan Marlowe I am fifteen years old and part of the Fairview mountain bike team. I think it is great that the Eldo-Walker trail is being talked about and a plan is being made for it. But the current plan could be a little better thought out. The town of Eldorado springs doesn't want more traffic in their town from people wanting to use the trail via the north route. The north route also has 1,000 feet of elevation gain in one mile of trail, that's a 20% grade. The maximum grade for interstate highways is only 6%. this route is pretty much impossible to climb on a bike and hikers will be less like to use such a strenuous trail. Over all I think that this course of action is not only unsatisfactory to all but also irrational. With proper planning I think that this could be a great addition to Boulder's vast trail network.

Jeff Yegian • Boulder

1/22/2019 • 31

Please support the Eldorado to Walker mountain bike connector trail. I'm an over 50 rider who would love to have this trail option. The extensive public process and collaboration that's led to this preferred option should outweigh a few loud voices who seem to oppose any trails for mountain biking. Thank you for your service to the community. Jeff Yegian

John Desmond • Denver

1/22/2019 • 30

I support agency recommendation of multi use trail

Colin goldstein • Boulder

1/22/2019 • 29

I think it would be great to have a trail for Mt bikers in Boulder as has been proposed. Not everywhere on evwey trail But it waould be great if i could ride from eldo to hall or thereabouts . Thanks

Jeff Rathbone • Niwot

1/22/2019 • 28

Please build mountain biking trails from Eldorado Canyon to Heil Ranch,

Philip Schreiber • Boulder

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1/22/2019 • 27

Dear POSAC, I am very much in favor of the Eldo to Walker connector trail that has been proposed by Parks and Open Space. I have been at every open house meeting thus far, but am unable to attend tomorrow night's (Jan 23) meeting. I am a volunteer bike patroller, an avid mountain biker, climber, and whitewater kayaker, 3 activities that I participate in regularly when visiting Eldorado Canyon SP. My wife and 2 girls are also mountain bikers. We look forward to the time when we can all bike together between Walker Ranch and Eldo Canyon. I understand that some of the residents of Eldorado Springs due to congestion inside the park. I propose that the SP make a bike access pass available at a discounted rate for those of us who wish to bike to the SP from another nearby lot (Marshall Mesa). This will help offset some of the congestion and encourage less driving, and shorter lines at the entrance station. Thanks for listening to the Boulder community which has long sought such a trail system. Thanks for investing in younger generations and a growing population that seeks mountain biking as their passion!

Jim Disinger • Boulder

1/22/2019 • 26

As has been shown in many ways, it just is not feasible, appropriate, or necessary to build this new trail just for bikes and e-bikes. Hikers, birders, climbers, photographers, backpackers and others have use of this corridor now. This quiet human and wildlife use would be terribly disrupted by opening this area to mechanized vehicles. This intense impact on plant and animal communities is completely unnecessary as access from Boulder to Walker Ranch is currently available by several currently well-used and maintained roads and paths including Flagstaff and Chapman Roads. There is already a road through the park at a much more suitable grade and location. This new trail alignment has been determined to be unsuitable for biking, hiking, an ecosystem protection. All planning for a bike or e-bike trail through the state park should be discontinued at this time and this time and money spent on much needed maintenance if the existing hiking trails.

Nathan MacArthur • Golden

1/22/2019 • 25

I am thrilled at the possibility of the Eldo to Walker connector trail. As a Boulder resident for my entire life until recently moving to nearby Coal Creek Canyon, I have always been excited at the prospect of additional mountain bike trails, particularly trails that expand the locations it is possible to reach while riding on dirt. This would create the ability to ride mountain bikes from other areas (Nederland, Coal Creek) into Boulder without riding on more dangerous routes (highway 93, Boulder Canyon). I believe that the hiking and biking communities would both benefit and it would be a great addition to Boulder's trail system.

Brent Halsey • Boulder

1/22/2019 • 24

I am enthusiastically in favor of the multi-use Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail. I mountain bike Walker Ranch a handful of times every year. A couple of those times, I will bike from my house up Flagstaff Rd to get there because my time is limited (I have two young daughters). The Eldo-to-Walker Connector Trail would let me bike to Walker with a safer and more enjoyable route. I have volunteered many

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hours with BMA building trails and would happily volunteer time to help make this trail happen. Assuming the trail happens, I hope efforts are made to encourage people to arrive by bike or foot versus a car. Currently, it's cheaper for three people to arrive by car than bike. Let's reverse this to encourage human powered arrivals. It would help reduce congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thank you for your time and work. Brent Halsey

Jim Bowen•Boulder

1/22/2019• 23

Thank you for all your work! As a former Denverite, and 44 yr. resident of Boulder, I'm now a 63 yr. old hiker, runner, and cyclist. I value more multi-use trails where I don't have to drive a car to enjoy the trails. In NoBo I can run, hike, or ride to Boulder Valley Ranch, the Res, soon similarly on a trail to Heil Ranch from Boulder, (thank you!) and would like to do the same west of Eldorado. Why not consider shuttles, similar to Brainerd's or Chautauqua's, for the Eldo parking problem? It's been a problem for decades, nothing new. Encourage non fossil fuel access discounts please, and discourage combustion engine driving/parking to/at Eldo.

L.R. Laggy•Boulder

1/22/2019• 22

To whom it may concern: As an avid mountain biker based in Boulder, one of the features that seems to be lacking is a way to bike into the mountains without a lengthy pedal on the road. The Eldo-to-Walker multi-use trail would be a huge step in that direction! I hope that all agencies involved will continue to work together towards an agreeable alignment of the trail as well as addressing the challenges that are present in Eldorado Canyon. A sincere thank you for the work done so far. This is why I (and so many others) live in Boulder. Cheers, L.R.

Morgan Lommele•Boulder

1/22/2019• 21

Hello, I am writing a letter in support of the preliminary preferred alignment for an Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch multi-use trail connection that recommended the North Route. This trail will certainly be enjoyed by mountain bikers, but also by hikers and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Many mountain bikers enjoy riding at Walker Ranch, but almost exclusively drive to access those trails. A connector from Eldorado Canyon would provide a car-free alternative to use a trail to access Walker Ranch. I encourage POSAC to think through ways to address the resource management challenges that arise due to a potential new use in progressive and sensible ways, rather than restrict any future recreation due to existing parking, access and congestion challenges. Recreation needs and desired experiences on our public lands are always shifting. This is an ideal project to meet the need of a growing base of your constituents who are restricted from riding many of Boulder County's trails due to unfounded prejudice against the sport of mountain biking in the name of preservation. Thank you for your service. Morgan Lommele

Joseph Secor•Boulder

1/22/2019• 20

I support the Eldo to Walker trail for mountain bikers This is a very good thing for Boulder. I Plan to ride my bike there as mostly biker's like to leave from their house and not use cars to get to the trails.

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Boulder does not have enough trails force people to drive to Golden or Nederland for a medium advance trail Thank you Joseph Secor

Charles Morris•Arvada

1/22/2019• 19

I am a West Arvada resident, long time mountain biker and hiker and frequent visitor to Walker Ranch and many other BOCO and JeffCo trails. I want to express my support for the Eldo to Walker trail connector. I believe this initiative will provide easier access to trail users with more variety and incentive to enjoy the Colorado outdoors. I believe in the benefits for our health and well being that are associated with these outdoor activities. Please support this initiative.

Steven Phillips•

1/21/2019• 18

I am writing to strongly support the proposed Walker Ranch / Eldo trail. As a hiker, trail runner and mountain biker, I long for better connectivity between the various lovely open spaces and parks surrounding Boulder. The Walker / Eldo trail would go a long way toward improving such connectivity, and brings the fantastic goal of the Indian Peaks Traverse closer to happening in my lifetime. I have biked from Boulder to Winter Park and back myself, cobbling together a complicated and convoluted route of my own, and I believe that a clear and official version would be a world-class asset for Boulder, a jewel in its best-outdoor-recreation-city-in-the-US crown.

Currently, it often feels as if the mountain biking and running trails around Boulder are designed for users to drive their cars to a trailhead, recreate in a self-contained area, then drive back home. This seems anachronistic, especially when looming global warming should encourage us all to leave the car at home. Instead, a better mindset would be to enable the use of trails to get to trails, and the use of one park or open space area to access others.

-- Steven

anthony gannaway•boulder

1/21/2019• 17

Thanks for accepting comments on this trail. While, as a hiker, I doubt I will ever use it, I am impacted by the lack of parking in that area. Parking inside Eldorado State Park fills very quickly on summer weekends with overflow going into Doudy Draw parking and Mesa Trailhead. The road side parking has been banned so the next nearest is at Marshall Mesa Trailhead or Prairie Vista, both of which fill quickly with their own trail users. I strongly suggest you address weekend parking in this area before considering opening the new trail. A possible short term fix may be to simply ban cars with bike racks from all the adjoining parking lots on weekends and have rangers enforce the rule. This would leave the closer parking spots for pedestrians. Cyclists could park further away and cycle in (though you would still need more parking spaces wherever the designated bike parking are is). I recognize this would impact people with bike racks who want to walk on a particular day, but quite frankly, the parking in that area is so bad the chances of getting a parking space after say 10am is almost nil. Kind Regards Tony Gannaway

Janet Robinson•Eldorado Springs

1/21/2019• 16

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Dear Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, I'd like to Thank you for your service. Regarding the Eldorado Canyon - Walker Ranch proposed mountain bike connector trail.... At first I thought it was a sick joke, a new mountain bike trail in Eldorado Canyon State Park! A State Park which is at capacity most weekends by mid morning from March until October, a State Park that cannot manage its current user levels creating massive congestion in the town of Eldorado Springs and has no plans to implement any changes in the next few years. In Fiscal year 2017-2018, 512,619 visitors were recorded in the park, which is 48 percent higher than two years prior. I then read the elaborate 143 page feasibility study for this proposed trail, it's comes with a price tag of \$660,000, then I realized the influence of the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance (BMA) which has been aggressively promoting this new trail. It is important to note that there is already a connector trail between Eldorado Canyon and Walker Ranch, so why do we need a new trail ? The BMA wants the trail since the existing trail does not allow mountain bikes. A \$660,000 trail that a single user group, mountain bikers will benefit from. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the existing trail, in fact 45,354 people enjoyed using it last year. Studies have shown that when hikers and mountain bikers share a trail the hikers leave, it's not much fun hiking and being stressed out about the next group of mountain bikers hurtling towards you. The trails at Doudy Draw are a good example of this. The Eldorado Canyon State Park trails are heavily utilized with 176,7333 trail users in 2018 yet the Park has only two uphill hiking trails, Rattlesnake Gulch which already allows mountain bikes and the Eldorado Canyon Trail. If this \$660,000 trail is built for mountain bikers there will be no bike free hiking left in Eldorado Canyon State Park except the short stream side trail and a short section of the Fowler trail. It is evident that resources are limited At Eldorado Canyon State Park, the State Park website states " We are short staffed due to State Budget Cuts And A Limited Park Operating Budget. Office." Amazingly there is not even a recycling bin at the most popular trail head the Fowler/ Rattlesnake Gulch which experienced a staggering 58,249 visitors in 2018. The trash cans are full of with use plastic bottles and cans. Until Eldorado Canyon State Park has a successful plan, staffing and budget to manage current usage it would be a poor use of resources and completely irresponsible to build the proposed Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch mountain bike trail. Sincerely, Janet Robinson
Eldorado Springs

Mike Browning•Boulder

1/20/2019• 15

I am writing to express concern about the new proposed Eldorado-Walker Ranch Connector Trail that will be the subject of a public hearing before you on January 24, 2019. I have lived in Boulder for over 35 years and enjoyed hiking trails in both the City and County open space lands and Eldorado Canyon State Park. I have also climbed extensively in the Park.

The Feasibility Study regarding the possible routes for the trail acknowledged, but failed to study the feasibility and cost of solutions to the many problems that a new bike trail would cause, including parking congestion in the Park, the Town, and the existing open space parking lots and residential streets east of the Town. The Park is already being loved to death and is closed to existing users on almost all summer weekends and many nice summer weekday evenings when parking reaches capacity. Adding an entirely new user group will greatly exacerbate these problems. Delaying determination of how these issues will be dealt with until after a trail alignment is approved is putting the cart before the horse and will lead to bad and premature decisions. All relevant aspects of the feasibility of introducing

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a new user group into an already over-taxed area must be carefully considered before decisions are made, not afterwards when the problems have already been created and expectations have been raised. The process must be slowed down and solutions to these problems found before more money is spent on trail design and biker expectations raised to the point of no return. To do act now would be fiscally irresponsible.

Moreover, introducing bikers on a steep, winding and popular hiking trail will cause safety concerns for the many hikers, some with small children and dogs, who currently use the trail. It is likely that hikers and runners will abandon the trail, as they have many other trails that they have historically enjoyed. Allowing bikes on the many relatively flat and broad trails in the County that have good sightlines may work, but bikers and hikers do not safely mix on steep narrow mountain trails. The proposed trail will also result in 20 to 40 new switchbacks being carved in to the hillside and will impact over 20 acres already designated by the City as a Habitat Conservation Area.

Please vote to slow down this process until all of the trail's impacts have been fully studied (not just the alignment) and a determination made as to if and how all impacts can be addressed. Otherwise, the County will be dealing with the resulting problems for decades. A few more years of careful consideration will be well worth it.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Michael F. Browning

Eileen Monyok • BOULDER

1/20/2019 • 14

Dear POSAC Members: I am writing to request, that as part of the Eldorado/Walker Ranch trail planning, there is simultaneous planning and implementation of a great deal of parking and infrastructure to handle the coming additional large volume of park users. Parking at Eldorado Canyon State Park (Eldo) is already a frustrating nightmare on weekends. As a rock climber and hiker, unless I arrive at Eldo early in the morning, I am forced to retreat and go elsewhere, because parking is at capacity.

It is common knowledge that the Eldo/Walker Ranch trail will be immensely popular with the mountain biking community, attracting numerous bikers on weekends from Boulder and Jefferson Counties, as well as Denver. Once parking in Eldo is full, the bikers will then be parking and over-filling the trailhead parking lots for South Mesa, Doudy Draw, Marshall Mesa, and South Boulder Creek (West) trails. The hikers wanting to hike these trails will then be forced to drive around in search of other hiking options. This additional driving and searching is wasteful, aggravating, and greenhouse gas producing. The additional planning and implementation for Eldo parking and infrastructure does not need to cause any delays in the trail project, if the work is done simultaneously. Even if there is a delay of a month or two, it will be time well spent to prevent the frustrating consequences of the alternative. The mountain biking community, as team players in the recreation community, would surely be understanding and supportive of a positive outcome with additional parking and infrastructure. The mountain biking community has pledged their understanding and patience in yielding to hikers and equestrians on the trail. Certainly, they can apply these qualities of patience and understanding to any short delays that would yield a better outcome for all recreation stakeholders.

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The time to plan and implement the additional parking and infrastructure is now. The time is not after the trail is built and open, and cars are lined up and circling while they search for parking in Eldo and the other popular south of Boulder trailheads. I have read through the project website. It discusses the Eldo/Walker Ranch trail options in detail, but it provides no detail on solutions to the parking and overcrowding problem. Let's not put the cart before the horse. Let's start planning and applying solutions for the parking and overcrowding now.

Susan Smith•

1/19/2019• 13

which path/trail is the one used by the school marm as she would go back down to eldo on the weekends

at many of the walker ranch events, i've heard tell that the teacher would stay there at walker ranch during the week and go back to her home in eldo on the weekends - via some trail/path

Jean Aschenbrenner•Boulder

1/19/2019• 12

I apologize that I did not speak up sooner about the eldo-walker ranch multi-use trail. I am an avid hiker. I HIKE. I am not on social media. I do not read the newspaper. So I did not know about the plan. I am adamantly opposed to putting a multi-use trail through Eldorado Canyon State Park. Eldorado State Park is a FINITE resource. The road and trails are sandwiched between steep hillsides and the stream. There are special resources here which are not available elsewhere - picnic places where kids can play in the stream, world-class rock climbing. A bike trail could go elsewhere.

I have seen low-income family groups gather in the picnic area along the creek near the visitor center. I used to be angry because parking was all used up and I could not go in to rock climb. Now the bikers, who can afford expensive mountain bikes, will edge out these families. It does not make sense to add more demand for this special, over-crowded space. A bike trail could go elsewhere.

It is emphasized that this is a multi-use trail, not just for bikers. I am sorry, but I HATE hiking on multi-use trails. I am too polite and too scared so I constantly step out of the way. It is not a relaxing hike. Bikers go fast, so there are more interruptions from them than from other hikers. The hiking trail to Walker Ranch is pleasant and quiet. There are other places to put a bike trail.

The argument states that there will be no significant additional impact on wildlife since the hiking trail already exists. I find it hard to believe that the increased amount of use when there are bikers, and the fast speeds, will not affect wildlife more. Further, the construction process will disrupt wildlife. I paid taxes for open space to protect the wildlife but somehow the wildlife is being forgotten.

Please consider the many users who benefit from the special aspects of Eldorado Canyon and do NOT put in the proposed multi-use trail.

Sincerely,

Jean Aschenbrenner

Janet Robinson•

1/18/2019• 11

will an environmental impact study be done prior to any trail being built. This is an incredibly fragile semi desert environment which will not recover very quickly from being disturbed.

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Laura Tyson•

1/18/2019• 10

I think what was confusing and misleading is that the Summary of Online questionnaire responses and the Compendium of Written Correspondence did not include all of the online comments or written correspondence- just that of the second public comment period. I believe that many residents of Eldorado Springs believed they just needed to state their opinion once, and that it would be taken into consideration in the materials that were given to the public as a summary of comments. I see that there were 13 opposed emails during the initial period (and only 5 pro emails), and I wonder if those people knew that they needed to do the second online survey as well for their voice to be heard.

In the future, I would discourage an interpretation of online survey results that is simply a matter of counting 'pro' and 'opposed' votes. When I looked carefully at the public comment responses, while 75% were 'pro', of those who took the time to comment, 60% of the words used were arguments against the trail. This is significant because most of the pro comments were about preferences for the north or south routess, rather than well thought out argument for the existence of either trail.

One more question. Did the feasibility study get visitor use statistics for the state park for years since 2005 when the City of Boulder Visitor Master Plan first suggested looking in to the feasibility of the trail? I couldn't find it in the document, but that seems like an important piece of information. John, do you have those figures?

Thanks for your time,

Laura Tyson

Roger Briggs•Boulder

1/18/2019• 9

As much as I would love to ride the proposed Eldo-Walker connector trail, I am very concerned about the negative impacts it would have on many people in our community. The attached document summarizes this and is the result of conversations with OSMP staff, ECSP staff, Eldorado Springs residents, climbers, hikers, bikers, conservationists, and BMA. Please consider this in your decision-making and please remember that these are public lands that must serve the greatest good, and not a small special interest group. My sense is that the vast majority of Open Space visitors are not in favor of this but have not been able to voice this.

[cost.benefit.eldo_walker.pdf](#)

Anna Tagawa•Boulder

1/17/2019• 8

I am very concerned about the proposed Eldo- to Walker trail and hope that you will not support this construction. This trail (N4) would be built on 20 acres currently designated as HCA and I want to see the environment and wildlife protected there, not mountain biking. PLEASE do not allow construction of a multi-use trail which would ruin the hiker experience. A very important set of data to consider is that almost all of the county open space trail system is open to bikers, as is over one-third of city open space trails. However, only 27% of county open space users and 10% of city open space users are bikers.

Please preserve the trails for passive users and the habitat for wildlife and plants. There are other issues,

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including capacity and parking, that strongly indicate that this trail should not be built. I hope you will not support going forward on this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Tagawa
Boulder resident

Janna Gustafson •
1/17/2019 • 7

As a neighbor of Eldorado Springs, I invite you to come for a visit. Please drive through Eldorado State Park all the way to the Ranger visitor station at the end of the road. This will give you insight in preparing yourself for the upcoming discussions concerning adding cars carrying mountain bikes to this road.

Thank you,
Janna Gustafson

Janet Robinson • Eldorado Springs
1/17/2019 • 6

As a hiker, climber, mountain biker and resident of Eldorado Springs I do not support construction of the Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch connector trail which is being aggressively promoted by the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance.

The published feasibility study clearly states that that the trail would “adversely impact Eldorado Canyon State Park capacity and visitation, access and parking, trail and facility sustainability, visitor conflict and enjoyment and emergency access and response.”

The estimated cost for this trail is \$360,000 to \$810,000.

The Eldorado Canyon State Park is already stretched beyond capacity most weekends from March to October, to build a new mountain bike trail in this crowded, congested park appears to be irresponsible.

Janet Robinson.

Janet Robinson • Eldorado Springs
1/17/2019 • 5

I appreciate your response.

A lot of Eldorado residents are very concerned about this mountain bike trail, it really only benefits the mountain bikers while bringing even more congestion and chaos to the Eldorado Canyon State Park. Many of us hike and walk our dogs in the state park daily especially during the Summer so we have a lot of concerns, the State Park is just not equipped to manage any more visitors. 2018 was remarkable regarding the sheer number of visitors.

We’re a small town, just 100 houses so we definitely feel out numbered by the aggressive promotional tactics of the Boulder Mountain bike alliance, we’re worried about our kids, dogs and elderly neighbors who just want to enjoy the state park without being on alert all time for bikers. We’ve submitted our comments but we don’t feel heard.

Hopefully our voices will be heard before any decisions are made.

Thanks again.

Janet

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Laura Osborn•Boulder

1/11/2019• 4

As a Boulder County Parks and Open Space volunteer for the past twelve years at the Meyer's Gulch portion of Walker Ranch, I wish to state my misgivings in regard to the proposed bike trail between Eldorado Springs State Park and Walker Ranch.

Due to over-crowding and the parking limitations at the State Park, many bike riders will park at the Walker Ranch or Meyer's Gulch trailheads on Flagstaff Road. Meyer's Gulch has approximately 39 spaces available for trail users. Families, elderly and nature lovers are the main visitors to Meyer's Gulch. On the weekends, these spaces fill quickly. Parking is prohibited along Flagstaff Road. As there is a connector trail to main Walker parking lot from Meyer's Gulch, mountain bikers would potentially impact the ability for others to visit this trailhead. Once this trail is established, the impact on the entire Walker Ranch area will be significant. Not only would commercial groups use this area, as they do all areas on Flagstaff Mountain. This trail would attract users from the nearby towns outside Boulder County, including the Denver area. The impact on Boulder County residents and current user groups would be quite detrimental.

Construction of the new multi-use trail would significantly impact hikers. If the multi-use trail is approved, the County should consider closing the trail to bikes on specific days. This would enable hikers to have a safe and enjoyable experience on designated days. For this reason, Boulder County's Betasso Preserve currently closes the trails to bikers on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The proposed N4 trail could significantly impact wildlife and vegetation on approximately 20 acres of land which is currently designated as a Habitat Conservation Area. Bikes are restricted to the main trail and are prohibited on the four fire roads at Meyer's Gulch mainly for this reason. Over the past 12 years, I have noticed a decline in observations of wildlife such as Dusky Grouse, bears, bobcats and other sensitive species. I attribute this decline to the increase of user groups on the Meyer's Homestead Trail. Constructing a new trail through an area which has a long history of shielding animals from humans will negatively disrupt most species within the HCA.

Laura Osborn

Betina Mattesen•Nederland

1/10/2019• 3

I had incredible bird sightings on the high cliffs while on the City portion of the Eldorado Trail the other day. I always hike with binoculars. People often ask me what I've seen and seem to tune in more to what's around them. I feel like they're a good reminder that the natural world is more than an outdoor gymnasium. Contemplative connections with nature - Vitamin N - are essential for us all.

It's hard to imagine this tradition of quiet hiking and wildlife appreciation not being destroyed with intensive Denver-Boulder bike use, especially on the levels being predicted.

I don't hate bikers - I pedal around on my bike too - but it's not my religion. But I think biking's impact on public land is the new extractive industry. It is funded by companies flocking to CO selling very expensive mechanized and motorized bikes. Many Boulder County bikers have been irresponsible in building unsustainable trail systems motorized dirt bikers now love. Temperament tends to be entitled and petulant. When I wrote in a forum that a proposed trail might degrade habitat someone responded "oh

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no, all the baby animals are going to die". A rec planner I know said they can't take no for a answer. And, of course, the culture is rogue and some enjoy making and poaching illegal trails. In Boulder we had "The Angry Ranger" Trail on Flagstaff through golden eagle nesting habitat.

I do expect you to set an example and promote environmental literacy and a good land ethic for those who lack it. Bikers may thank you when they're older and discover something important to them on the beautiful, high, quiet Eldorado Trail that they didn't catch from the seat of a fast bike.

Thanks.

Betina Mattesen
Illegal Motorized Task Force
Forest Watch
Nederland

Brigitte Tawa•Boulder

1/9/2019• 2

Hi ,

My name is Brigitte Tawa and I live on Prado dr by Eldorado spring dr for the last 12 years.

I am writing to you for I will not be able to attend the meeting in January and I have just been informed of this project.

I hope you will take the time to read my email and answer me.

I am very concern about this junction because it is going to create way more traffic on Eldorado spring dr which is already an issue on the week ends and the town of Eldorado springs does not have the parking facility to accept more traffic at all. It is already always an issue especially in the summer and the park is always full.

How are you going to solve this?

I do not see any plan on parking addition in the proposal. I wonder anyway where you would do it for the canyon is very narrow.

I feel for the people of Eldorado springs who will have to deal with even more traffic.

I don't understand why it is that urgent to make that connection. We have already plenty of bike trails around the city and county. Plus it does have an impact on the quality of the trails and would require even more maintenance.

Could you let me know if the city and county even thought about all this?

I realize how much the biking community here has a power but it is where the city and county should take in consideration every body and not just the biking people.

Unless you are thinking of establishing a shuttle from 93/Eldorado spring dr to the canyon to eliminate the over load of traffic, I don't see how you are going to find space for all those cars.

I am looking for your answer.

Please let me know if there are also other way for me to heard on that project.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Brigitte Tawa

Tim Hogan•Boulder

12/10/2018• 1

Friends,

I had been out of town for the past ten days when I sat down to examine the recent information and submit comments yesterday, Dec. 9th. Much to my chagrin, I discovered there was little more than a minimal survey. I have spent some time today searching for emails to whom I might submit more substantive comments. I hope these might be admitted into the record.

Regarding mountain biking, a recent Patagonia catalog wrote: "It's hard to imagine a better region than Colorado's Front Range for any cyclist to cut his or her teeth. The cycling communities there are deeper than anywhere in the country, maybe the world." I include this here to emphasize the untoward pressure such a community places upon OSMP/BOCO lands; a pressure on full display at recent open houses and in the compendium of initial public comments on the Eldo-Walker project.

Mountain bikers are always ready to trumpet their willingness to share the trails with runners and hikers, equestrians and dog walkers, but the fact of the matter is once bikes are allowed on a trail these other users are pushed away and the routes become a single user bike track. From the southern grasslands and Doudy Draw, to the northern foothills and the route being engineered through the HCA on Joder, to the miles of trails available to bikers on County Open Space and on USFS lands throughout the Boulder District, our public land agencies have been more than accommodating to riders. Add to this the amenities provided by the city and county in the form of bike parks and an extraordinary system of bike paths, and one can only ask: What more does the cycling community want?

It appears the southern route has been taken off the table. On the other hand, the northern alignment lies proximate to one of the least travelled Habitat Conservation Areas in the Boulder Mt. Parks, the area on the west side of Bear and South Boulder Peaks. Increasing use on the southern boundary of the HCA will lead to increased fragmentation and impacts on wildlife. The current trail traverses steep, south facing slopes, necessitating excavation and rerouting to accommodate the increase in visitor impact. Over time, multi-use trails require increased management and maintenance. Equestrian use on the current trail is relatively light, but anticipated bike use could easily increase the need for maintenance many times over. As alluded to above, I fear the introduction of riders will result in the trail becoming largely a mountain bike route as hikers, equestrians, and runners are driven away by the constant need to be looking over their shoulder for bikes moving at startlingly rates of speed. The mountain bike community is dismissive of this claim, but it has occurred on public lands across Boulder County, as near to the proposed route as Doudy Draw and its environs.

While I am relieved the southern route appears to have been set aside due to ecological and economic costs, I am wary of the northern route. This alignment has been looked at numerous times over the years, and dismissed for a variety of reasons. If it was easy it would have been done a long time ago. Not only is the route itself problematic; it seems it might very well become a magnet for riders from around the Front Range flooding Eldorado State Park, exacerbating congestion at the west end of the park. While some locals might ride from town, one can only imagine the line of cars from riders coming from Denver and elsewhere.

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While my sense is the No Action alternative is being used as a “baseline,” I hope it will be seriously considered as an option if the social and ecological impacts become insurmountable. Not all public lands can accommodate all user groups, nor should they be asked to do so.

Thank you for your consideration ...
