



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503
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NOTICE OF POSAC PUBLIC RETREAT

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) will hold its annual retreat on Saturday, February 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Goodhue Farmhouse, located at the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm, 2005 S. 112th Street. POSAC members and Parks & Open Space staff will discuss projects, goals, and policies. The retreat is open to the public starting at approximately 9:45 a.m., following an executive session.

The retreat will not provide an opportunity for public comment.

Members of the public who would like to attend the retreat should contact Renata Frye at rfrye@bouldercounty.org so staff will have an accurate count.



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**Agenda for POSAC Retreat
February 09, 2019
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Goodhue House at Rock Creek Farm**

Suggested Timetable:

- 8:45 a.m. *Coffee and pastries*
- 9:00 a.m. 1. **Real Estate Priorities Executive Session**
Presenters: Janis Whisman & Eric Lane
(This discussion will be closed to the public)
- 9:45 a.m. 2. **Wildlife Policy**
Presenter: Therese Glowacki
- 10:30 a.m. 3. Coffee Break
- 10:45 a.m. 4. **Prairie Dog Management**
Presenters: Jeff Moline
- 11:30 a.m. 5. **Diversity & Inclusion**
Presenters: Ernst Strenge
- 12:00 p.m. *Short break and reassemble for a working lunch*
- 12:20 p.m. 6. **Cooperation & Planning with Municipalities**
Presenters: Janis Whisman & Jeff Moline
- 1:00 p.m. 7. **Proposed Revised POSAC Bylaws**
Presenter: Eric Lane
- 1:30 p.m. 8. **Adjourn**



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Real Estate Priorities

PRESENTERS: Janis Whisman

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

This topic involves confidential real estate negotiations, and so it will need to be held in executive session. A member of POSAC will need to make the following motion to enter into executive session:

I move that POSAC enter into executive session in accordance with CRS 24-6-402(4)(a) for the purpose of discussing confidential real estate matters and negotiations relating to potential open space acquisitions.

During this executive session, POSAC members should ask any questions they may have about specific properties that are of interest to them for potential future open space. Property-specific questions cannot be addressed during the later agenda topic on Cooperation & Planning with Municipalities, because that topic will be open to the public, where confidential negotiations cannot be divulged.



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Wildlife Policy/Management

PRESENTER: Therese Glowacki

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

There are several documents that guide our wildlife policy:

1) The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan

Open Space Element

Environmental Resource Element:

Species of Special Concern list: guides our conservation and restoration goals

2) The POS Mission Statement

2. To preserve and restore natural resources for the benefit of the environment and the public.

3) Policies

Cropland Policy, Water Resources Policy, Prairie Dog Habitat Element of the Grasslands Policy

4) Property Management Plans

These outline Conservation Areas that are closed to the public for wildlife resources. These also mention other wildlife habitat on properties that should be enhanced, managed, or avoided. In our management plans of all foothill and mountain properties, we mention that hunting may be used on ungulates if habitat damage is occurring.

5) Wildlife Policy

We do not have a Wildlife Management Policy, though it is on our Short Term Priority list for the department.

Elk

- CPW is charged with managing wildlife in the State of Colorado, POS manages the habitat.
- CPW notified us that the numbers were starting to increase and the elk appeared to be stationary in the summer of 2013. Then we had the flood, which set back any POS staff discussion of immediate action to take.
- CPW had already begun recommending hunting as the North American Wildlife Management model they employ to reduce habitat damage, and because POS management plans identify it as an option.
- Political will is an obstacle when a problem is not yet in the forefront of the public's mind.
- CPW and POS collared elk and did counts to start tracking movements and numbers for better information and justification of any recommendations.
- POS started with the most acceptable management: hazing and we continued to monitor elk movement and growth.
- The public process took 6 months.
- Public education, surveys and open houses were all part of the process.

Prairie Dogs

- We developed our plan in 1999 and have revisited it 5 times since then, always modifying it to find a balance between preserving the prairie dogs in Boulder County on county open space, and preserving valuable agricultural land. The policy was always modified to help both ends of the spectrum, such as:
 - 1) Donating prairie dogs to ferret and raptor recovery centers.
 - 2) Allowing tenants to control prairie dogs on their leased land.
 - 3) Removing phostoxin (aluminum phosphide) from our lethal measures and adding CO2 machines.
- We continually improve our prairie dog treatment. I will present more figures at the retreat.

How to get ahead of this in the future? Here are issues we are seeing:

Elk are starting to be year-round residents at Heil Valley Ranch (60-80)

Other High Priority Species we are working on, starting with Conservation Plans:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Northern Leopard Frog | • Arapahoe Stonefly |
| • Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse | • Northern Goshawk |
| • Burrowing Owl | • Black-tailed Prairie Dog |
| • American Marten | • Black Footed Ferret |
| • Abert's squirrel | |

Attached is our 2017 Wildlife Report showing all the wildlife projects we are working on in order to meet all the policies, goals and objectives outlined in our various guiding documents.

Wildlife

2017 Accomplishments:

- Post-flood monitoring of Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse populations on BCPOS completed a fourth season.
- Stream monitoring efforts collected pre-restoration data on fish and invertebrates in St. Vrain Creek.
- Wildlife staff continues work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to manage the Rabbit Mountain elk herd, including initiating a limited hunting program in the fall of 2017.
- Sylvatic plague vaccine was distributed at the South County Grasslands and Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain to support our goal of reintroducing black-foot ferrets.
- Volunteers contributed 2582 hours to wildlife monitoring programs and habitat improvement projects.



STAFF

Susan Spaulding
Senior Wildlife
Biologist

Dave Hoerath
Wildlife Biologist

Mac Kobza
Wildlife Biologist

Tim Shafer
Wildlife Biologist

Michelle Durant
Wildlife Biologist &
Volunteer Programs
Coordinator



Photos clockwise: Black-tailed prairie dog following relocation; Volunteer Natural Resource Monitors in the field at Rabbit Mountain; Elk herd crossing 55th Highway 36; Staff identifying fish following a survey of St. Vrain Creek



What We Do...



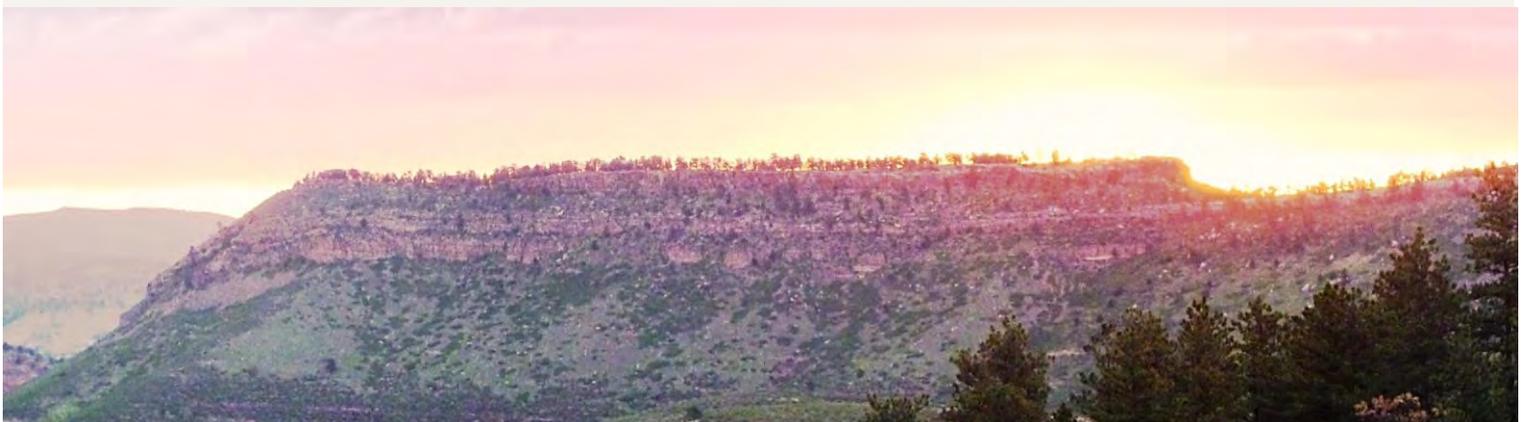
Conduct surveys to understand the wildlife resources on open space lands and incorporate the information into project planning and management.

Work cooperatively with other programs and wildlife agencies to plan, manage, and create healthy wildlife habitat.

Develop and support programs that increase understanding, appreciation, and participation in monitoring wildlife and improving habitat.

OUR MISSION :

County wildlife biologists work towards the conservation of wildlife resources on open space in a practical and responsible manner. We rise to the challenge of managing public lands increasingly impacted by effects of urbanization, fragmentation, and recreation, and address wildlife conflicts in response to agriculture needs and neighboring property owners.



Rabbit Mountain Elk Herd



Our long-term goals for this project are to achieve some reduction in the overall population and to establish a migratory pattern to ameliorate habitat and private land

The elk herd in the Rabbit Mountain area has grown in size, resulting in a level of damage and impacts to public, private, and agricultural resources that requires management action. After an extensive planning process including expert and public input, a review of management options and tools, and consideration of timeframe, a draft plan was completed. In August 2017, the plan was presented to the Board of County Commissioners, who approved limited hunting as a management tool in the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk and Vegetation Management Plan. Hunting is but one tool, along with fencing and hazing to help us achieve long-term success. The three-year plan outlines goals for reducing impacts to natural resources on open space, impacts to private landowners and crops, herd population numbers, and migration concerns.

We worked closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and our Resource Protection staff to implement a safe and successful 2017 hunt. We closed Rabbit Mountain on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in the fall to provide a safe, quiet environment for the hunters to be successful, while directing recreational users to other places on those days. Wildlife staff continued the vegetation monitoring on open space; this year in the core use area. We helped CPW trap elk and replace radio collars in February and March to track the herd movements and to study the impacts of the limited hunting. In 2018, we will assist CPW with replacing more collars to continue gathering information.



Stream Biomonitoring



The stream monitoring program continued in 2017 with the wildlife crew, Department staff, Longmont staff and CPW collecting fish and insects at 10 Open Space properties on the St. Vrain. We did not collect 2 sites this year due to bridge work at Hall 2, and stream work at South St. Vrain. This year's monitoring serves as before-restoration benchmark (i.e. Ramey and Gage), as well as post-restoration baseline (i.e. Peschel). Several stream projects will begin next year. We will compare and track the response of fish, aquatic insects, in-stream habitat and water quality as progresses.

Figure 1: Counts of fish collected from BCPOS locations along the St. Vrain, upstream from Airport Road. This year, the ratio of native fish far exceeded the count of non-native fish (both game, and non-game, including brown trout). However, all fish counts were far less than in 2016. The reason for this is not immediately clear, but will be part of an analysis staff will be conducting using the environmental and habitat data also collected during fish sampling.

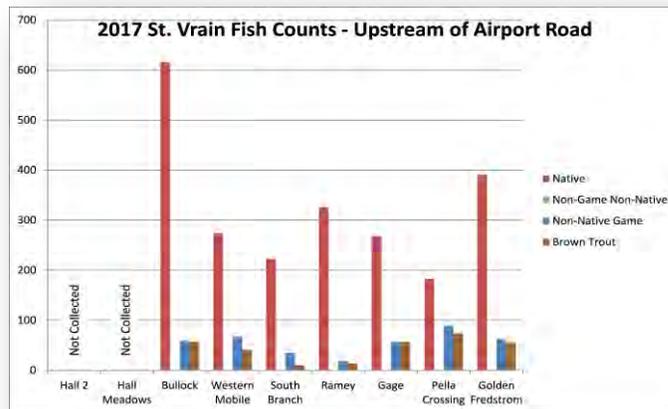
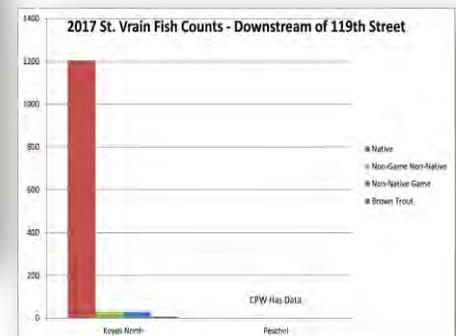


Figure 2: Fish sampling from Keyes North and Peschel Open Space. CPW did not release data from Peschel in time for this report. These sandy, diverse habitat sites consistently produce the most native fish on the St. Vrain.



Denver CBS4 News interviewed staff at Gage Open Space about the post-flood monitoring results in the St. Vrain.



Exploratory sampling was conducted on the South Branch channel of the St. Vrain. This is a known Plains Topminnow habitat, and a rare mussel was discovered here in 2016.

- 20 species of fish collected and released, for a total 3,936 captures across all sites*.
- 11 species of native fish, such as longnose dace and johnny darter, accounted for 89% of all fish captured.
- 8% of all captures were brown trout, a large non-native game fish, totaling 316 fish. Brown trout have a harmful effect on native fish, and have been responsible for recent declines in several state-listed native fishes.
- 8 species of other non-native fish and gamefish, like mosquitofish and largemouth bass, totaled 134 captures (3% of all fish).

* Awaiting Peschel data for final reporting and comparison to 2016. Also, Hall 2 and Hall Meadows were not sampled. However, it appears we collected half the number of fish in 2017 from the remaining sites.

We have continued our efforts to implement native fish passage, as well as stream habitat improvements, through our Stream Restoration construction projects that began in the St. Vrain in the fall of 2017. We look forward to continued benefits to the environment from these revegetation, reconstruction and recovery actions for native fish and other aquatic life.

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Post-Flood Monitoring



Long-term post-flood monitoring of PMJM continued in 2017 with year 2 of 3 for mark-recapture studies of known populations on St. Vrain Cr. We will be able to estimate density and survival of these populations, helping us track trends over time and monitor the status this threatened species as riparian ecosystems respond to the 2013 flood.

- Two 8-day trapping sessions.
 - 6,400 total trap nights (total available traps for the 16 days of trapping)
 - 1,964 small mammals captured, total
- 2014 – 2015: presence/absence study across all drainages in the county.
- 2016 – 2018: mark-recapture studies on St. Vrain Cr. populations.

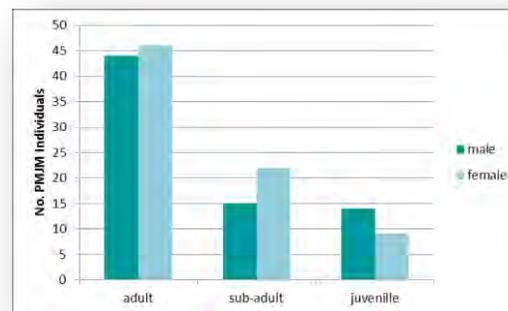
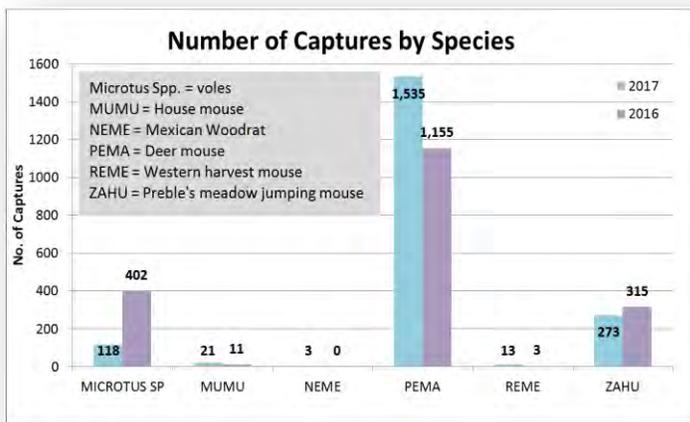


Figure 2: PMJM captures:

108 unique individuals captured

Female Adult = 47
 Female Sub-adult = 5
 Female juvenile = 3
 Male Adult = 48
 Male Sub-adult = 4
 Male juvenile = 1

Figure 1: Species captures

- Bakeman Meaney St. Vrain Study (2005): 34 total PMJM captures over 2000 traps nights. (30 unique individuals) 17 PMJM caught per 1,000 trap nights.
- BCPOS: 43 PMJM caught per 1,000 trap nights captured in 2017. (273 total PMJM captures, 108 unique individuals)



Prairie Dog Management and Conservation



Prairie dog conservation and management continue to be high priorities for BCPOS's wildlife staff. This species is an integral part of a functioning grassland ecosystem. Prairie dog colonies provide necessary habitat for several other species including burrowing owls and black-footed ferrets, both of which are priorities for our program.

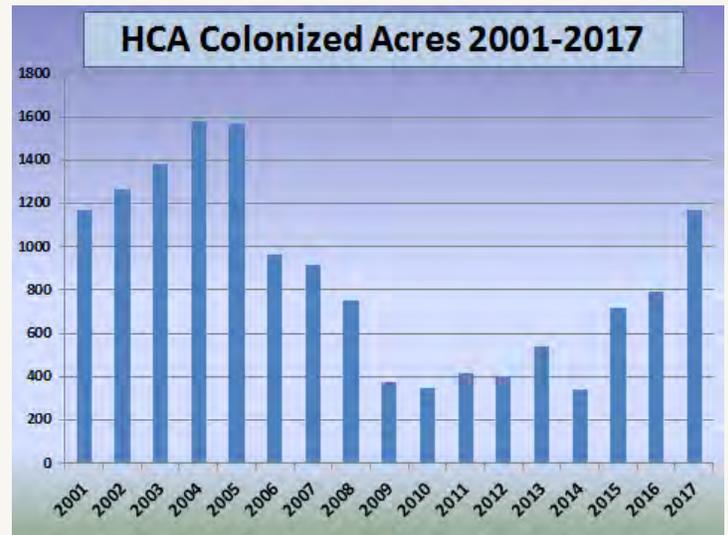
2017 Colonized acreage

Our colonized acres of prairie dogs increased 14% over 2016 on our Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs). HCAs are areas where we prioritize prairie dog occupation. Our HCAs currently support 1,171 occupied acres which accounts for 28% of the total HCA acres.

Relocations

In 2017, we continued our efforts to relocate prairie dogs at our Lindsay property.

- As part of this effort, 20 prairie dog nest boxes were installed at our Lindsay property in 2016. We relocated a total of 86 prairie dogs from our Monarch Park property to Lindsay in August of 2017.



Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction Efforts

To provide suitable conditions for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction, select prairie dog colonies receive plague abatement.

- Active prairie dog colonies were dusted to control fleas and prevent sylvatic plague at the South Central Grassland and Rabbit Mountain.
- Sylvatic Plague Vaccine (SPV) was distributed on a total of 1000 acres at the South Central Grasslands and Rabbit Mountain. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is developing the vaccine, and assisted us with distribution. We are grateful for this partnership and the increase in tools to prevent plague in our prairie dog populations, bringing us closer to our goal of reintroducing black-footed ferrets.



Long-Term Monitoring



Wildlife staff and volunteers collect a variety of natural resource information on an annual basis. Some of these long-term monitoring efforts include inventorying and measuring flow of springs, monitoring for the presence of Species of Concern like northern leopard frogs, and recording the nesting success of over a dozen raptor species. Annual monitoring efforts would not be possible without the dedicated help of citizen scientists, volunteer wildlife monitors, and the support of partnering organizations and agencies.

- Staff completed six Breeding Bird Survey transects at Heil Valley Ranch, Hall Ranch, Lagerman Reservoir, Reynolds Ranch, and Betasso Preserve. Three of the six transects gathered data on avian communities prior to or after forestry treatments.
- Staff and volunteers monitored 7 species of raptors and 27 nest sites, tracking the success and failure of nest attempts and contributing to a statewide database.
- Waterfowl volunteers monitored 37 water bodies at seven major aquatic habitat areas. Their monitoring effort contributes to a long-term dataset collected since 1992. Field surveys were completed in October 2017 as the project moves towards data analysis.
- In partnership with Boulder County Audubon Society, volunteer bluebird monitors tended to 100 nest boxes on Heil Valley Ranch, Betasso Preserve, Walker Ranch and Bald Mountain.
- In partnership with Boulder County Nature Association, volunteers and staff surveyed active prairie dog colonies for burrowing owls, and monitored six burrowing owl nest attempts.
- Wildlife camera surveys at Hall Ranch and adjacent foothills properties were completed in 2017, and the photo data was made available online as a crowdsourcing volunteer program titled Critter Snap.



In 2017, wildlife volunteer programs were supported by the efforts of 84 volunteers contributing 2301 hours in the field. From 2014-2016, wildlife volunteers contributed many additional hours to provide data and field observations for multiple, ongoing flood restoration efforts.

An additional 152 volunteers contributed 281 hours of habitat work on 7 project days.





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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Prairie Dog Management Update

PRESENTERS: Jeff Moline

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

This agenda topic arises from a request from Gordon Pedrow:

“I would like to see a retreat topic regarding Prairie Dog Management as it relates to Boulder County's obligation to be a Good Steward of OS lands acquired to preserve agriculture within the county. In the last few months, POSAC members have received small bits of information regarding the topic but I believe we need a more comprehensive update on the matter since neither of the recent briefings have been satisfactory. (Bottom line of the information recently received is: we are losing ground managing the dogs but we aren't changing our practices). Prairie dog management is bound to become a bigger issue in the future and POSAC needs to be informed so that a reasoned recommendation can be provided to the Commissioners.”

Introduction

After several years of concerted effort, BCPOS staff recognized that the current prairie dog management program was not successfully providing long-term control of colonies on NPD (No Prairie Dog) areas. Additionally, it became apparent that status quo management actions would not prevent continued expansions of colonies on agriculturally-leased lands. Last year, staff subsequently examined this issue and studied several scenarios for addressing it. The remainder of this memo includes information prepared for internal discussions about this topic in the latter part of 2018. More detailed information will be provided at the retreat and additional staff will be available for questions and discussion.

Background: The Prairie Dog Habitat Element of the Grassland and Shrubland Management Policy

The Prairie Dog Habitat Element reflects the balanced perspective that the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department uses to conduct its land management program. The plan supports the protection of natural areas for wildlife habitat while also maintaining croplands for the continuity of local agriculture. It also includes guidelines for working with adjacent landowners.

The background and context for this varied management of Boulder County Open Space properties and landscapes comes from overarching, county-wide plans and policies such as the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) and the Cropland Policy. While these advisory documents can have seemingly divergent visions, in combination, they allow the department to reach a wide range of goals relating to the stewardship of open lands—the protection of natural areas and values along with the promotion of the county’s agricultural heritage and economy.

The current Prairie Dog Habitat Element represents the culmination of 19 years of adaptive ecosystem management—the strategy that the department uses to ensure its activities are effective, efficient, and successful. Through regular monitoring of prairie dog colonies, staff’s field management experiences, and the continuing review of applicable research, the department has made adjustments to its strategies over time and has recommended modifications to the plan. Public comment and stakeholder feedback has also informed and improved the plan, and that input continues to play an important, on-going role in the department’s management of grassland and agricultural resources.

The plan describes the strategies for maintaining viable prairie dog populations in lands managed primarily for natural values and processes. For the properties that the department designates as cropland, the plan directs staff in the proper methods for removal and control. Additionally, the element provides the overall strategy for managing prairie dogs on open space in the long term and it serves as a decision-making guide for property-specific management plans. To accomplish this, the Prairie Dog Habitat Element classifies county open space properties into three categories. The first designation constitutes areas of contiguous grassland habitat of sufficient size, called Habitat Conservation Areas (HCA) where colonies are encouraged to thrive; the second category is Multiple Objective Areas (MOA) which can support prairie dogs along with uses such as recreation on trails, livestock grazing, etc. The final type are No Prairie Dog (NPD) areas that are not appropriate as habitat by virtue of their land use—typically agricultural cropland. The active management of these agricultural, NPD properties is consistent with our department’s Cropland Policy.

Current Prairie Dog Management Situation

At this time, the county has prioritized two clusters of HCA open spaces for prairie dogs, the South County Grasslands (county properties southwest of Superior, north of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge) and the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain. The size of these areas allows for the continuation of natural processes (predation, for example) that help keep populations in check and land resources (such as soil and vegetation) healthy without the need for extensive management activities. In addition, because of their size and location, the colonies on these sites present a lower risk for encroachment onto neighboring private lands. Ultimately, these efforts to increase and improve prairie dog colonies in these large, contiguous blocks of habitat with sizable prairie dog colonies may yield the opportunity to reintroduce black-footed ferrets.

As opportunities arise, the department conducts relocations of prairie dogs; in the past three years, staff and contractors relocated a total of 433 prairie dogs to the South County Grasslands on open space properties. However, there are not extensive tracts of suitable, unoccupied habitat in the HCAs; and, with plague mitigation projects, the existing colonies

on HCAs are naturally expanding. Thus, while limited relocations may continue, they cannot form the basis of control for NPD lands.

Meanwhile, the department has not succeeded at controlling prairie dogs on NPD sites. In 2017 there were 680 acres of colonies on NPD lands, primarily lands leased to tenants for agricultural operations. Even though county staff has prioritized these areas for management (since these lands were purchased and designated for agricultural uses), current prairie dog control efforts are not able to fully remove the colonies. The continued impact on these lands has led to rent reductions and to a management backlog for staff—returning to the same properties year after year.

Management Alternatives

In an effort to address the current situation, the county explored several alternatives that would allow the department to more effectively remove prairie dogs from NPD lands. In the end, BCPOS considered two primary options: 1. continued current staffing levels with control allowed during the moratorium period and 2. retention of the moratorium but increased staffing effort during the remaining nine months of the year.

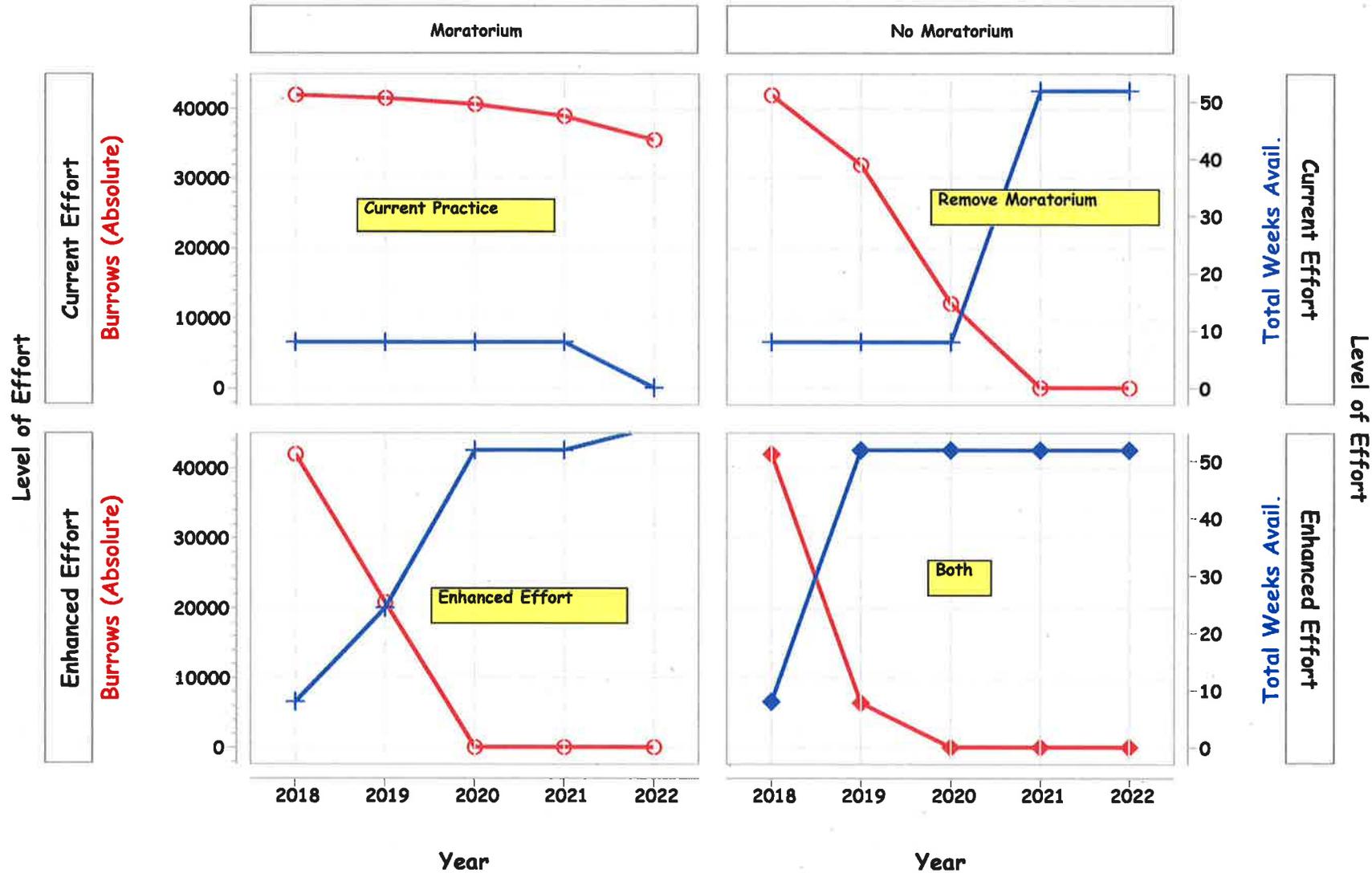
In comparing the two alternatives, a review of the existing plan element for guidelines on removing prairie dogs from NPDs using lethal means is helpful. The policy currently includes a moratorium on lethal control from March 1 through May 31, consistent with state wildlife regulations regarding the trapping of prairie dogs. While the department has been successful managing prairie dogs on some NPD properties with the moratorium, others have been treated for many consecutive years. In part, this can be attributed to the March-May cessation during which prairie dogs have time to reproduce and raise pups, thereby dramatically increasing the number of prairie dogs that must ultimately be removed and, thus creating the need for a greater control effort. Once cleared of prairie dogs, an NPD property is much easier to maintain for the benefit of increased agricultural production and, ideally, the control work can be conducted by the tenants themselves instead of staff.

Staff designed simulation models based on years of experience on real NPD properties in order to study lethal control scenarios that varied the effects of both the moratorium and staff effort. This modeling exercise created four options that were then compared for their consequence on the number of prairie dogs controlled and the number of burrows controlled over time. The graphs contained in Attachment 1 depict the results. As expected, for a given amount of management effort, control is more effective if it can be performed over the entire course of a year, including during the moratorium time frame. On the other hand, the second alternative, which would increase the staff effort (“enhanced efforts”) during the nine months outside the moratorium months, actually achieves control faster than using current staff levels for twelve months. The graphs also illustrate the ineffectiveness of the current management program on this NPD property group. Thus, additional staff effort can produce a reduction in NPD populations even without lifting the moratorium. And, the management change will result in the overall death of significantly fewer animals over time. However, this second option does have a greater cost in order to fund the extra effort (staffing and equipment).

For this year, the latter, second alternative was selected as the direction for prairie dog management. Results from this year will be reviewed to determine if the program will be successful in the future.

Effect of Four Different Options (on *Burrows* and *Time*)

Moratorium



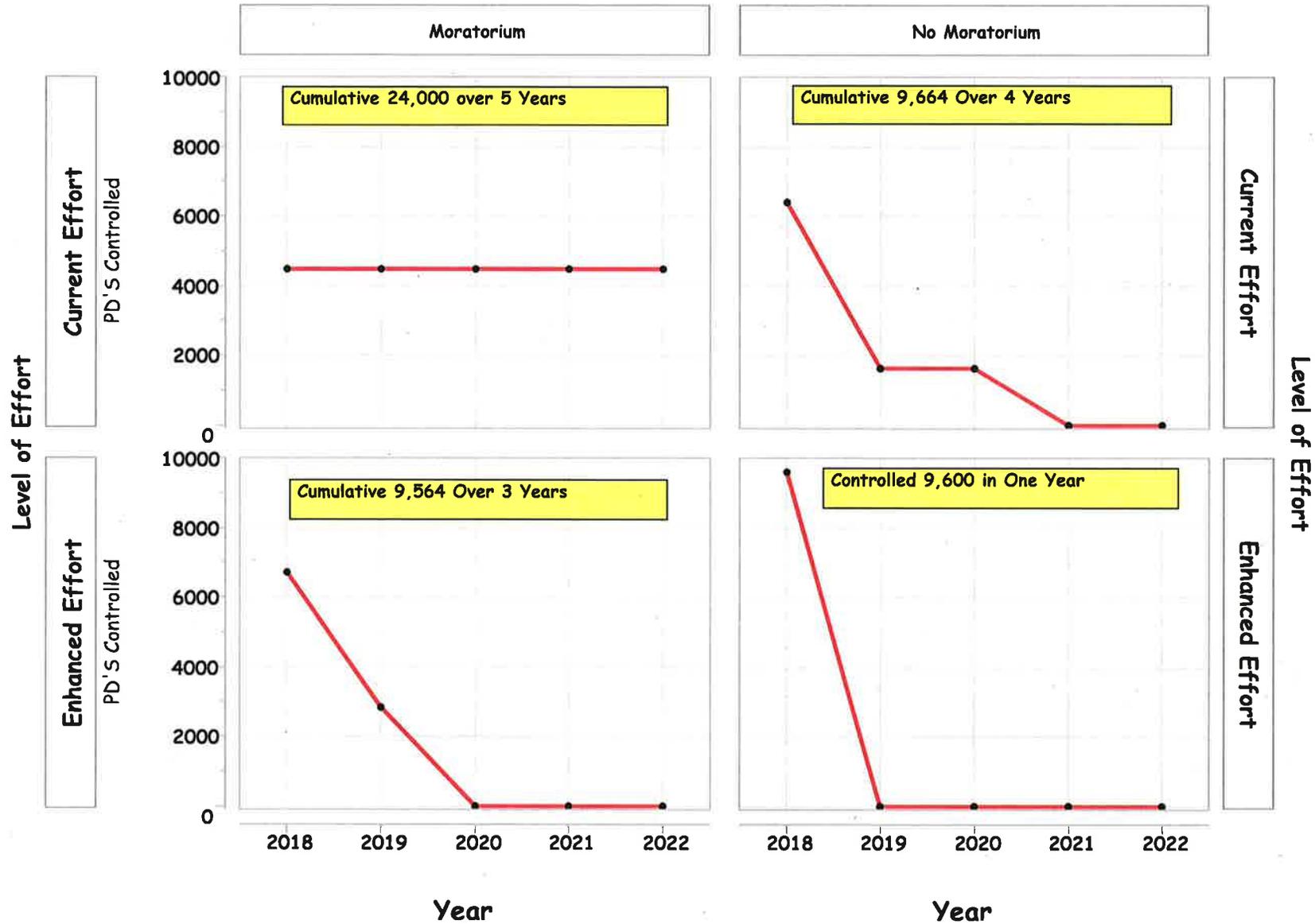
Left Scale: ◆ Burrows (Absolute)

Right Scale: ◆ Total Weeks Avail.

Effect of Four Different Options *(on Treated Animals)*

Overlay Plot

Moratorium





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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: BCPOS Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion Strategic Plan

PRESENTER: Eric Lane (Director) and Ernst Strenge (Senior Planner)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Boulder County Parks & Open Space will be preparing a Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion Strategic Plan (CRISP) over the coming year. The primary purpose of the CRISP is to bring a cultural responsiveness and inclusion lens to *all* that we do with the public at Parks & Open Space and to find strategies to increase our effectiveness at engaging groups that have been historically underrepresented in the planning, use, administration, and management of county open space. The ultimate goal of the CRISP is to make positive cultural responsiveness and inclusion changes in all that we do in our engagement with the public that are both real and lasting.

We are currently in the process of hiring a consultant, Joining Vision and Action (JVA), who will help us seek innovative and creative ways to meet the goals of the CRISP. The specific tasks that we've asked JVA to complete are:

1. Identify and gain a better understanding of the many diverse communities within the county, particularly those that historically haven't been as engaged with Parks & Open Space, as well as other non-county users.
2. Initiate engagement with select community groups and leaders.
3. Assess current departmental practices as they relate to cultural responsiveness and inclusion.
4. Develop improved and creative ways to better serve and engage our most underrepresented communities through the formulation of a strategic plan that has specific actionable and measurable strategies and approaches.

The Department anticipates the CRISP will include at a minimum:

1. A cultural responsiveness and inclusion **vision** based on where the department currently is and where the department would like to be in the future.

2. A definition of “community” based on current and future county demographics, including determining the most **underrepresented communities** within Boulder County (i.e., those who Parks & Open Space may not be fully engaging at present or who do not currently engage with the department).
3. An assessment of current public-facing **departmental practices** involving cultural responsiveness and inclusion within all department work groups.
4. **Opportunities and ideas for improving** our cultural responsiveness and inclusion and the ways we engage underrepresented communities.
5. Short and long-term **goals** and **strategic action items** for improving cultural responsiveness and inclusion.
6. An **implementation plan** with specific **measures of success**.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the CRISP and our anticipated results.



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Cooperation & Planning with Municipalities

PRESENTERS: Janis Whisman and Jeff Moline

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

This agenda topic arises from this question by POSAC member Jim Krug: “How much cooperation and planning between cities in the county on Open Space issues is currently going on, and how much cooperation between the cities and the county Open Space folks is occurring?” (Underlining has been added to distinguish the two parts of the question.) Staff will answer these questions by describing cooperation and planning on new acquisitions, as well as cooperation and planning on other open space topics.

Janis Whisman will first describe how the county coordinates with cities to implement the cities’ annual requests for open space acquisitions. The style of coordination described below in the section on County-Municipality Cooperation applies similarly to potential acquisition conversations that county and city staff have with one another, except that potential acquisition conversations have been held largely on an as-needed basis. Looking forward, county staff aim to increase both the frequency and regularity of our coordination with city staff on new acquisitions. In addition, sometimes the County Commissioners invite county real estate staff to join them for the Commissioners’ annual conversations with city councils when new acquisitions are a topic of those conversations. Janis will also describe what we know about how cities are coordinating with each other to plan for open space acquisitions.

Jeff Moline will describe how the county cooperates and plans with the cities on other open space topics, such as future trail needs. While the county is not likely aware of all the discussions between the cities themselves, the county often performs the role of coordinator and leader in projects that involve multiple jurisdictions along with the county. The section below provides some background on this topic and provides some context for further discussions at the retreat. Finally, one other important consideration for POSAC is that in the past the county has organized and hosted meetings with all the open space boards in the county. Members who attended those meetings indicated that they were a valuable way for the various boards to understand the priorities and issues of the various programs, and to learn about opportunities for the agencies to work together on joint initiatives.

County-Municipality Cooperation

Boulder County has a long-standing tradition of engaging with municipalities in many different ways. In particular, joint efforts on land use and open space issues have been very

prominent over the years—the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) has been shaping the land use trajectory between the cities and the county for the last 50 years. More recently, the “Super-IGA” refined and solidified the understanding between the municipalities and county with regard to where future growth and annexations could occur. It’s within this context of joint understanding and planning that BCPOS cooperates with the cities and their open space programs.

One of the things that allows the open space programs to collaborate so easily with each other is the staff relationships that have developed between the organizations over the years. For example, the Lafayette, Louisville, and Longmont open space programs have all been (or are currently) managed or directed by former BCPOS employees. Numerous employees have either worked at the county and subsequently joined a municipal program or vice versa. In agencies with discrete work groups in fields such as enforcement, trails, or wildlife, those staff peers communicate and collaborate on a diverse array of items from organizing conferences to sharing GIS resources.

Similarly, the ties between county and municipalities frequently extend into agreements, IGAs, and MOUs where we formalize opportunities to work together. In cases when we jointly own properties, we designate clear guidelines for which agency should control which aspect of land management—playing to each other’s strengths. For example, BCPOS often manages agricultural use on jointly-owned properties while the towns are tapped for addressing trail maintenance. Thus, we have a continuous and high level of engagement and cooperation between our program and that of the cities of Boulder, Lafayette, Louisville, Longmont, and Superior. Additionally, we have worked with Lyons in the past and will in the next several years as we determine the future of the flood buyout properties in that area. We have undertaken joint trail planning with Erie in the past with the “Eastern Link” segment of the Coal Creek Trail and currently with the RTD Trail project (a.k.a. UP rail trail).

While our work with the mountain communities is less formalized (none of them have staffed open space programs), we do engage with them when opportunities arise. This has been particularly true for Nederland as we have connected with them around the planning for the West Magnolia area. Additionally, while not strictly municipalities, we also partner with the adjacent counties, especially Broomfield, Jefferson and Larimer, in an assortment of efforts from joint purchases of properties to finding ways to unify visitor messaging in order to help Front Range residents understand open space rules and etiquette no matter which agency’s property people are visiting. Lastly, but importantly, BCPOS participates in a number of forums where staff can network with our colleagues in partner agencies, especially the Regional Roundtable and the Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA). The Regional Roundtable is a quarterly gathering of Front Range open space agencies to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest and share ideas about solving problems collectively. COSA is an organization of open space professionals from local, public programs working cooperatively to share information, create public awareness and foster partnerships needed to protect and preserve the special places of Colorado.

Specific examples of recent collaboration will be described at the retreat, but here is a short list of some of the more prominent work that is being conducted jointly by the county and involves at least one municipal partner.

Boulder Area Trail Mobile Application: county-led effort that includes all the municipalities
Rocky Mountain Greenway: City of Boulder, Broomfield, Jefferson County, etc.
Eldorado Walker Feasibility Study: City of Boulder, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
104th Street Trail: Lafayette, Louisville,
Toll Trail: USFS, Nederland
St. Vrain Greenway: Longmont, Lyons
Flood Recovery Projects: Boulder and Longmont
RTD Trail: Boulder, Erie

DRAFT Proposed Revised POSAC Bylaws

January 16, 2019

POSAC BYLAWS

I. DESCRIPTION

- A. The name of this advisory board is the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC).
- B. POSAC is an advisory committee appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County to provide advice to the Board of County Commissioners and Parks & Open Space department regarding Parks & Open Space plans, programs, and actions.¹

II. PURPOSE

- A. Provide a forum for public input regarding open space land acquisitions, dispositions,² the capital improvements plan (CIP), and management plans and policies.³
- B. Provide strategic non-binding advice and information to the Board of County Commissioners and Parks & Open Space staff, and, occasionally, the Boulder County Planning Commission. The committee does not make binding decisions on behalf of the county.

III. MEMBERS & PARTICIPATION

- A. The membership of POSAC will consist of up to nine (9) at-large members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. These members should reflect a balance in geography, population, and interest.
- B. All POSAC members serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners may terminate the service of any member at any time for any reason in its discretion.
- C. POSAC will adhere to the conditions adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, included in Boulder County Personnel & Policy Manual Section 1, Number 1.6.
- D. If a member of POSAC no longer resides in Boulder County or resigns from the committee, the Board of County Commissioners will appoint a replacement. All replacements will serve for the unexpired term of their predecessors. POSAC may continue to function with unfilled seats, if necessary, so long as a quorum of a majority of the remaining members is present at a meeting to take action.
- E. Attendance: POSAC members are expected to be present for all regular monthly meetings and any special meetings. At the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, POSAC members missing three (3) consecutive regular monthly meetings or four (4) meetings within a calendar year may be replaced. Members are to inform staff of an absence at least 24 hours before a meeting. For the purposes of this section, the term “meetings” will not include special meetings or field trips.

¹ As stated in Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Open Space Element, OS 4.01.

² If purchased with open space tax revenues, as set forth in every open space tax resolution.

³ As stated in Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Open Space Element, OS 4.04.

IV. TERMS

- A. Member terms will be three (3) years. To the extent possible, terms will be staggered to maintain membership requirements.
- B. Term limits will be nine (9) consecutive years in accordance with Boulder County Personnel & Policy Manual, Section 1, number 1.6.

V. OFFICERS

- A. POSAC will elect from among its members a chair and vice-chair at the first meeting of each year.
- B. Duties of each of the officers are:
 - 1. Chair: The chair will preside over all meetings of POSAC and will be the official spokesperson for the committee.
 - 2. Vice-chair: The vice-chair will preside in the absence of, or at the request of, the chair.
- C. Parks & Open Space department staff will serve as the secretary for POSAC.

VI. MEETINGS

- A. Regular meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month, except in November and December, when meetings will be held on the third Thursday. Generally, meetings will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street Mall. Special meetings may be called at any time by the chair, Boulder County Commissioners, staff, or by a vote of POSAC members. Regular and special meetings are open to the public and will be held only after required notice.
- B. Field trips may be offered on occasion for general open space information purposes or to gather additional information on issues to be considered. Field trips will be open to the public and conducted only after required notice.
- C. Study sessions of the committee may be held as necessary at the request of the staff, the chair, or Board of Commissioners. Study sessions will be held for information purposes only and no votes will be taken. Study sessions may be held in conjunction with other county advisory committees or the Board of County Commissioners. Study sessions will be open to the public, however there will be no public participation unless specifically requested by the committee. Study sessions will be conducted only after required notice.
- D. Executive sessions may be called by a majority vote of the membership present at any meeting for the purpose of discussing any of those matters set out in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a) and CRS 24-6-402(4)(b). POSAC will take no formal action at such sessions. All executive session discussions are confidential, but will be recorded in instances where recording is required by law.

- E. Subcommittees may be appointed by the chair from POSAC membership from time to time to work on special projects and report their findings at regular meetings. Upon completion of the assigned task, the chair will dissolve the subcommittee.
- F. Staff will prepare the meeting agenda and mail or email it together with the minutes of the previous meeting and any other supporting materials or information to the members at least four (4) business days preceding the regularly scheduled meeting.
- G. A quorum at any meeting of POSAC will consist of a majority of the currently appointed members. Any action by those present, provided there is a quorum, constitutes an action of POSAC. In the event a quorum is not present at any meeting, the members may adjourn and reschedule the meeting for a later date with required notice.
- H. Public participation will ordinarily be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker per item. In cases where there are many people signed up to speak, members of the public may be limited to three (3) minutes. Pooling of speaker time will be allowed. All speakers wishing to pool their time must be present, and time allotted will be determined by the chair, not to exceed a total of ten (10) minutes. Speakers will be requested not to repeat items addressed by previous speakers other than to express points of agreement or disagreement.

VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- A. Business, including presentations, discussions, motions, and voting, will be conducted in an orderly manner, generally following Robert's Rules of Order. The committee may choose to vary from Robert's Rules of Order for the sake of simplicity and convenience so long as there is a consensus from the committee about the process to be followed and the process followed is clear and orderly.
- B. Actions taken by POSAC shall be voted upon by motion, with motions being deemed approved if a quorum of the committee is present and they receive a majority of the votes cast. Each member of POSAC may vote on a recommendation proposed by motion to be made to the Board of County Commissioners. A roll call vote will be taken on all votes if not unanimous. No proxy votes are permitted.

VIII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & CODE OF ETHICS

- A. A member will recuse him/herself from discussion and voting if an actual or potential conflict of interest exists, per Section 1.6 in the Boulder County Personnel & Policy Manual.
- B. A conflict may result where a member has a personal or private interest in a matter proposed or pending before POSAC; where a member stands to gain or lose financially as a result of a position taken by POSAC; or where a member believes he/she cannot fairly and impartially discharge his/her duties.
- C. POSAC members will be required to sign a Conflicts of Interest Acknowledgment.

[ADD BOCC SIGNATURE BLOCK]