

May 3, 2013

Dave Hallock  
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RE: Boulder County Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative

These comments pertain to the public outreach effort of the Boulder County Regional Trails Master Plan Initiative. I have been a student of the Boulder County landscape for several decades and have a unique perspective, being involved with trail planning and natural resource inventories. During the 1980s and early 1990s I wore the hat of county trails planner, running a process similar to the current initiative with involvement from the public and the public entities currently involved.

## **Background**

The current mountain landscape has been shaped by a number of factors relative to trails and land conservation, including:

- **The Mineral Belt:** The presence of the Colorado mineral belt stimulated the settlement of Boulder County, beginning in 1859. For the most part, the presence of minerals in Boulder County does not occur much further north than Jamestown. South of Jamestown the landscape has become more heavily settled as more land was removed from the public domain and went from mining camp and mining claim to present day town and rural home site. Numerous mining roads were also created and have influenced present day roads and trails. The northern third of Boulder County's mountain landscape is much less fragmented in terms of ownership, residential development, trails, and roads and includes large blocks of land less influenced by human settlement, such as the North St. Vrain Canyon, much of the South St. Vrain Canyon, what is now North Foothills Open Space, and a portion of Rocky Mountain National Park.
- **Creation of National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park:** Probably the first large-scale efforts at land conservation in Boulder County were the creation of what is today Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park in the early part of the twentieth century. These actions firmed up the presence of public lands in the mountains. During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a number of trails, roads, and other recreational improvements. The creation of the Indian Peaks Wilderness limited the types of recreation allowed in far western Boulder County while becoming a magnet for increased recreational use.
- **City of Boulder and Boulder County Open Space Programs:** These programs protected the next wave of public lands and established the trail system template for much of the plains and foothills. Relative to the mountains, these programs protected the mountain backdrop and foothills. Boulder County also filled in some of the critical gaps within the National Forest by protecting such places as

Walker Ranch, Betasso Preserve, Caribou Ranch, Reynolds Ranch, Platt Rogers, and Trevarton Ranch.

- BCNA Ecosystem Plan: Developed in the mid-1980s by the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA), the Ecosystem Plan provided a large-scale ecological framework to land conservation in Boulder County. Based on the principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology, the plan mapped a system of interconnected habitat core areas to try and minimize the impacts of habitat fragmentation. The plan was eventually adopted into the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan as Environmental Conservation Areas. The plan also influenced the 1997 Update to the Forest Plan, particularly with respect to the Core Habitat prescription used in Fairview Peak/Central Gulch, Coffintop Mountain, and Dry St. Vrain, the Research Natural Area prescription for the North St. Vrain Canyon, and the Flora and Fauna Habitats prescription used throughout many other sites in western Boulder County.
- CNHP Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County: The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) surveyed and mapped Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Boulder County in 2007-2008. The mapping provides another large-scale ecological framework to land conservation based more on uniqueness and quality of plant communities than the BCNA Ecosystem Plan, though there is a high degree of agreement between the two plans relative to mapped conservation areas.
- Trail Planning and Trail Development: It is likely that the first regional trail plan for Boulder County was presented on the Trails Map of the 1978 Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. The Trails Map has been updated twice since then. The Forest Plan shows several planned future trails. The numerous towns and cities in Boulder County also have trail plans. The City of Boulder and Boulder County have management and trail plans for their open space lands. In the mountains the formal trail system is present in the Indian Peaks Wilderness, on various County Open Space lands, on City of Boulder Mountain Parks, and on several locations of non-wilderness National Forest lands (Ceran St. Vrain, several trails in North St. Vrain Canyon, Winiger Ridge, etc.). Numerous roads of varying stature are used as part of the mountain trail system. There is also an extensive system of user created trails, some using old mining roads and others newly pioneered routes. Overall, there is an extensive system of trails existing in the mountains of Boulder County.

### **Trail Planning Principles**

Below are some concepts that should be considered when setting up a set of principles and community values that will guide the planning process. A good primer, which I am sure you have, is a handbook developed by the Trails and Wildlife Task Force of Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 1998 entitled *Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind - A Handbook for Trail Planners*.

- Trails are not benign uses of the land. They have a set of impacts to plants and animals. I call it "community shift." Animals and plants will still be present, but some species will use a trailed area less or may find it more difficult to successfully raise young. So there is a shift from bobcat to red fox, long-eared owl to great horned owl, and needle-and-thread grass to smooth brome. Such factors as trail location and trail density are important.

- The science of trail impacts is generally less perfect when looking at a specific site. There are many studies that give a picture of the likely impacts from a trail. But site-specific knowledge of what lives along each planned route or within each patch of habitat is often lacking. Existing inventories should be used to help influence the location of alternative routes, but will likely need to be supplemented with new inventories. But keep in mind, the new inventories are often for a single season and still have their limits. The current studies pertaining to Front Range bobcats and mountain lions may provide important information about how the animals use the foothills and mountains, as well as preferred geographic locations, and should be gleaned for useful information.
- The cumulative impacts of all existing roads, trails and homes need to be a part of the picture. Much of western Boulder County is highly fragmented. The context of each newly considered trail route needs to be kept in mind. A good visual tool would be to produce a map of all existing roads, trails and locations of residential development so the overall level of fragmentation is better understood.
- Past planning efforts to maintain effective wildlife habitat need recognition and respect. These include:
  - The Core Habitats prescription in the Forest Plan for Coffintop Mountain, Dry St. Vrain, and Fairview Peak/Central Gulch, along with the Research Natural Area designation for the North St. Vrain, discourage increased recreational use in these areas.
  - The Flora and Fauna Habitats prescription in the Forest Plan places an emphasis on "providing adequate amounts of forage, cover, escape terrain, solitude, breeding habitat, and protection of a wide variety of wildlife species and associated plant communities." In addition, a Forestwide Direction guideline states "Additional open roads and trails should not reduce effective habitat below 50 percent by geographic area, or further reduce effective habitat in geographic areas that are already at or below 50 percent on NFS lands." A number of the geographic areas are already below 50 percent, and this does not include the newly created social trails.
  - The Management Plans of many of the Open Space lands, including Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch, and Caribou Ranch, specifically retain a low trail density and designate conservation areas in order to better protect the many significant resources found on the properties.
- Given the high level of existing landscape fragmentation in much of western Boulder County:
  - Conservation areas and other sites with known or probable significant resources, which currently have little direct human use or presence, should be avoided; and
  - New trails should be bundled with existing travelways where possible. Trying to create a new system of single-track trails increases fragmentation of a landscape already heavily fragmented.

## Some Additional Observations

- The location of new trails is often torn between sites that are "too pristine" versus those that are too close to existing homes. Landscape patches that currently have little human presence likely have high value for many animals given the fragmented nature of western Boulder County. Mountain residents place a high value on privacy, something which a public trail would impact. Additionally, there are public lands in the mountains that mostly receive use from the local residential population; the nature of that use will be defended. These factors make trail planning an interesting exercise.
- A regional trail planning process often does not involve the people most impacted because there is no direct notification of the impacted property owners. Most people don't get involved until they are notified that they might be directly impacted. The regional trail planning process often runs quite differently than a plan to layout a site specific trail.
- The Barker Reservoir to Kossler Lake aqueduct has been an interesting area relative to trail planning. It was a part of the initial Boulder County Comprehensive Trails Map, shown as a specific alignment. In the mid-1980s Boulder County, the Forest Service, Public Service, and the City of Boulder tried to make the project happen. Public hearings were held and all impacted and surrounding property owners were notified. In the end, "recreation easements" needed to be obtained across the private lands crossed by the aqueduct. They were unable to get enough easements to make it a viable project. In the early 1990s, the Comprehensive Plan Trails Map was updated. During this process the aqueduct trail alignment was specifically taken off of the County Trails Map. One of the primary reasons was ecological - a growing recognition that the north-facing slope in Boulder Canyon was important to wildlife, particularly black bear, mountain lion and accipiters. A trail corridor, shown further south of the aqueduct, has also been shown on the Trails Map since its inception, and it was felt that one regional trail was appropriate for this area.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

an open space into a problem but I've thought for a trail to Eldorado Spgs, inside the open space fence but parallel to road as one option to solve transportation. One idea.



# Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative

## LISTENING SESSION COMMENT FORM

The Project Partners are interested in hearing from you about the development of the Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan. Your input on the questions below will be used to develop a set of guiding principles for this year-long planning process. Notes may also be made on the planning area map on the back side of this form. The public comment period runs from April 18 to May 20, 2013. Comments can also be provided on-line at <http://www.RegionalMountainTrails.com>.

**What issues, concerns, desires, and expectations do you have about the master planning initiative?**

Good meeting Gary -

I think everything was addressed, and I am less suspicious of people or govt than most. You have to have all users on board - bikers, hikers, <sup>commuters</sup> horse folks etc. And users should be recreation as well as getting someone who using a car. I forgot to list school kids as wherever possible make

**What principles or values are important to you for guiding this planning process?**

Sure they are welcome to go to school or recreate. Problems are when you get conflicts - ie, fast bikers scaring others, horses and their footprints making trail rough for bikers, etc. Maybe horses off to one side.

The main trails I'd think people would like: up Boulder Canyon -> Ned; if working E of 36, Res -> Lyons on Ditch; any way to solve that mixed trail to Eldorado Spgs? Is Ned -> Hessian in books? could go on Klondyke Ave, etc but tried once + Eldora people had a heart attack. Oh, the idea of convenience to buses is important + maybe this will move the mountain bus routes idea along. Use little used roads wherever you can.

Keep the faith - Pete Birkeland

RMTMP Project Contact, Garry Sanfacon, Public Outreach Coordinator 720-564-2642, [gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org](mailto:gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org)

[birkelap@colorado.edu](mailto:birkelap@colorado.edu) (Mondays only)



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**What issues, concerns, desires, and expectations do you have about the master planning initiative?**

I would like to see the Boulder Creek Trail go west all the way to Nederland. We tried, when I was on the City Trails Comm. with Jim Crain. Gary Hacy was in charge of the project. There were problems with private land, but hopefully it could be done now. The trail should be wide enough for people and bikes. I think it would be very busy; with climbers, bikes, tourists, sightseers, etc. It could get a lot of people out of their cars. Some bikers could ride the RTD bus up, and then ride their bikes down.

**What principles or values are important to you for guiding this planning process?**

I like the idea of connecting our public lands together with trails. If the trails on public lands are "no bikes", we should put a bike rack at the trail head, and the rider may go by foot from there. As you know, we have found that many trails are not suitable for bikes and hikers at the same time. I don't know what to do with horses. I'm afraid they need their own trails.



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**What issues, concerns, desires, and expectations do you have about the master planning initiative?**

I'd like to see <sup>more</sup> equestrian trails in Bldr City. We are losing many trails w/ housing developments, the closing of irrigation ditches etc. Horses on Hwy & roads can be dangerous & we are often forced on to these places as our trails are blocked increasingly.

Would also like to see more off leash areas & trails for dog owners. I personally love to ride trails on horseback w/ my dogs running along - Great exercise for all without the constraints of leashes - Can only do this on Natl Forest unfortunately  
Need more such trails!

**What principles or values are important to you for guiding this planning process?**

Like to maintain wildlife areas - considering nesting & birthing areas - seasonal closures etc - but still maintain access to trail users (horses & dogs particularly) most times of the year

Open - the open space along Hwy 119 - old mining Rd's up to Ridge - down off to 119 in other areas also.  
trails N out of Caribou Open space following pipeline link to Rainbow Lake & trails along Peak to Peak



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***What issues, concerns, desires, and expectations do you have about the master planning initiative?***

MAKE SURE THAT ANY NEW TRAILS HAVE A PROVEN NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED. WILL THERE BE ENOUGH USE TO JUSTIFY MAKING A TRAIL?

***What principles or values are important to you for guiding this planning process?***

KEEP WILDLIFE HABITAT INTACT  
 " " MIGRATION CORRIDORS INTACT  
 + NOT IMPACTED BY NEW TRAILS





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**What issues, concerns, desires, and expectations do you have about the master planning initiative?**

Disability access to Caribou Open Space <sup>- Ranch</sup>  
 at end of Cty Rd 128  
 Keep dogs off of ski trails - ex; Sourdough  
 trail from Mt. Research Station Rd.

**What principles or values are important to you for guiding this planning process?**

Protect the wildlife + environment  
 from human impact as  
 much as possible

Phone call with

① Ann Hansen

hiking

quiet trails - for hikers only - no dogs, bike  
want nonconnecting w/ intact ecosystems

Meyer's Gulch

willing to share trails - but need quiet  
nature

don't need thru connections

② Marcia Barber

more segregated times for each use  
on existing + proposed trails

Is there a real need?  
other needs

Enforcement  
Existing

Phone call with Karen Wirrig - Allenspark

5-14-13

CR 113N

published in hiking books

Park service uses it for access for maintenance

allow parking, camping, no facilities (water, restroom)

- wasn't a formal trailhead originally
  - Meeker Park Lodge used to maintain
  - County - unmaintained road
  - private property owners are paying for maintenance
  - kids from private camps
- Solution - 1) gated 2) county maintain

twinsister's TH near Lily Lake - private  
Road - NPS took over land and cut new  
road and TH

Road + Paul Anderson  
Campground issue

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Sandy McMannis <fengshuigarden@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 1:54 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** MagnoliaRoadAquaduct

Hi Gary,

I see you are the head honcho for the regional/mountain trails planning--excellent. Since I won't be able to attend the meeting this Thursday, 4/18/13, at 6:30 pm, I'm contacting you now with my input.

I have been living at 1641 Twin Sisters Road off Magnolia Road for 40 years. And, I want to be sure the "wilderness" of the Twin Sisters Ridge area and the aquaduct zone on the North side of the ridge are preserved as is with no new trails created in this area. I'm sure Boulder County Native Association and others will testify the same on Thursday. This whole north sloping area south of Hwy 119 and Nederland almost all the way to Boulder is WILD. And it supports healthy population of elk, mule deer, puma, bobcat, black bears etc. There are very few really remote areas between Nederland and Boulder. Please encourage the powers that be to leave the above area undeveloped.

Thank you very much,

Rob Ellis

PS I'm glad to see you're working with Boulder County. (I've always voted for you in the past!)

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Tom Hamill <tom.hamill@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:59 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** Input on mountain and foothill lands

Hi Gary,

I read in the Daily Camera that you are seeking input on trail networking. I won't be able to attend the upcoming Thursday meeting, but I'd like to express a few opinions.

First, I would like to see at least one voice-and-sight dog trail up to each of the high peaks, S. Boulder Peak, Green Mountain, Bear Peak, Sanitas. When you're on steep terrain, it's really rather impractical to have a dog on a leash.

Second, if considering new trails, one up the frontside of Green Mountain would be a first choice.

Thanks,

Tom

## **Sanfacon, Garry**

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**From:** Arleen M <arleen.m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2013 1:16 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry; ARLEEN  
**Subject:** Projected Multi-use trail system

Dear Garry,

I live on Sugarloaf at 173 Wild Tiger Rd. in Mountain Meadows. I am an equestrian and I ride the trails on Sugarloaf, including down to and on the Betasso trails, trailer to Carabou, and would trailer to other foothill trails if they were available.

However, if they are multi-use trails, there would have to be days for pedestrians and horses only, ie no bikes. Otherwise the equestrians could not use the trails when bikes on on the trails because horses spook when bikes come up behind them and this is very dangerous for the rider who could easily end up on the ground if the horse spooks. Also if it is a narrow trail and the horse spooks, the horse could fall off the trail and both horse and rider would be injured, possibly fatally.

In addition, the Betasso trails are monitored because you have a ranger living there. If you establish more trails throughout the county and they are not monitored, there will be potential equestrian accidents when bikes do not obey the rules of not putting bikes and horses on the trails at the same time.

Boulder County has the highest per capita number of horses of any county in the US. Equestrians would have a right to have use of these trails as well as bikers. We would love to have access to more trails, but only if they are safe for horseback riders.

There is also the issue of trails going over private land, or bike riders going over private land to access these new trails, or of bikes going way too fast on dirt roads where equestrians ride. The interaction between equestrians and bike riders is extremely dangerous and needs to be avoided at all costs.

Perhaps building a new trail system isn't worth the risk of some equestrians being seriously injured due to irresponsible bike riders. If this trail system is established, there will be more bikes in the neighborhoods where horseback riders ride safely now, but would not be able to ride safely in the future with more bike access.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Arleen Miller**  
**Mountain Meadows**  
**173 Wild Tiger Rd**  
**Boulder, CO 80302**

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** marion zimmerman <marion\_zimmerman@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 07, 2013 9:22 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry

Dear Gary,

I commend this effort for a regional trail system and the solicitation of public input. I have been a resident of Eldorado Springs since 1985. I am currently out of the country, most likely during all of these public info gathering sessions. I want my concerns heard. I am very concerned that more trails that residents of Eldorado Springs have been using for decades, will become regulated. I want it recognized that we are a unique community, isolated because we are surrounded by city, county, and state lands. In my opinion, we as residents should not have access cut off to trails, social or otherwise, that we have used for decades. Our dogs should still be allowed the access they have known since birth. Presently due to the creation of the Conservation whatchamacallet areas, because I do not have a printer, I illegally pass through these areas 5-7 times a week. Two areas are on my daily hike, 20 minutes from my house in plain view from my bedroom window. I suppose I could go online, get my permit and write on my arm the permit number. My neighbor does this. This makes me feel like a like a concentration camp survivor. Instead I go about with a worrisome sense of encountering a ranger being ready to fight or flight. Fortunately you guys have way too much land to patrol.

Due to the limited access for dogs these days in the lands surrounding our homes, one ridiculous option for residents is to load their dogs into their cars and drive to Boulder dog parks. Does this make sense?

Please recognize that suburban regulations should not apply to residents of mountain communities.

sincerely, Marion.

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Randy or Cheryl Winter <cherylrandyw@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2013 2:21 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** Equestrians on trails

Gary,  
Just a reminder and pitch for equestrian use. My wife and I are Endurance Riders and I have been a past President of Boulder County Horse Association and am currently on the Boulder County Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue. We have worked for years with trail committees, groups, commission et al. to make sure equestrians are included in these types of trail planning. I will attend one or more of the meeting but if I can offer any assistance representing the horse community let me know.

Randy Winter  
Max Tack  
5140 Saint Vrain Rd.  
Longmont, Colorado 80503  
303 651 1574  
Website/blog <http://maxtackequestrianproducts.wordpress.com/>



## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Marcia Barber <marsugarloaf@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2013 3:13 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** Re: corridor/alignments

Gary thanks to you and to Justin for your detailed answer although it is a little bit confusing to me not being familiar with the process involved.

Hopefully the full impact of the 4 mile fire and the Dome fire at the base of Boulder Canyon will be taken into consideration.

There has been a huge impact on wildlife as a result the only group that cannot speak for itself. The idea of any trail along a riparian area seems totally unsuitable and I read with dismay about the suggestion of a new single track along the creek in Erie a place where animals and birds nest and den. Erie is also a hot spot for human coyote conflict and Larry Rogstaad with Colorado Parks and Wildlife has told me that one way of reducing conflicts is to stop building trails along creeks. Therefore I hope that a trail along 4 mile creek is off the table. An environmental assessment is required for BLM and FS land correct? A very detailed ea was done for Betasso/ Benjamin.

Thank you for your diligence and for your responses.  
sincerely,  
Marcia Barber

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 29, 2013, at 2:53 PM, "Sanfacon, Garry" <[gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org](mailto:gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org)> wrote:

Marcia,

Here is a long version response to your question about corridors and alignments.

Hope it helps.

Garry

**From:** Atherton-Wood, Justin  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2013 1:11 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Cc:** Graham, Brian  
**Subject:** RE: BMA and BATCO desired trails maps

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Jim <jimilagro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 1:15 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** Trails plan public comment

Hi Garry,

Please accept the following as public comment on the Master Trails Plan currently being developed.

"Currently, a vast majority of Boulder County trails are open to bicycling with only two or three for the exclusive use of hikers. I consider this extremely discriminatory against those of us who hike for the pleasure of being away from our fast moving culture. Having to contend with bikes, no matter how courteous they may be, is a major frustration. Even with rules or decorum, it is a reality that most bicyclists that I have encountered were moving at excessive speeds and did little to warn me of their approach.

The biking community has a loud voice but those of us who do not bike need to be heard as well. Unless Boulder County can reduce the number of trails open to bikes I will find it increasingly impossible to hike on any trails that my taxes pay for. I am effectively being excluded from the open space that I have paid for.

It is also a fact that bikes do more trail harm and cause more environmental damage on trails and open space lands than hiking boots. I feel there is a place for bikes but that place is not on our trails. I hike to observe nature. Bikers are riding only to get exercise, as it is obvious they are not observing anything at the speed that they travel. I need to be allowed an opportunity to enjoy my open space trails without having to jump out of the way of a speeding biker. At worst we should use the Betasso model of trail use.

As for a continuous trail system, I fully support that as long as there are parallel trails for hikers and bikers that separate them. Any trail system that puts bikers on trails with hikers will be opposed by me to the fullest extent possible.

Thank you for considering my comments."

Jim Wilson  
Boulder, Colorado.

## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Steve Werner <swerner@formationenv.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 03, 2013 10:59 AM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** trails,

Dear Mr. Sanfacon,

I understand from a recent Boulder daily Camera article that you are coordinating input on the trail system in Boulder County. I would like to bring to your attention the need for a safe mountain biking connection between urban South Boulder and the Eldorado Canyon/Foothills trail system. This could easily be accomplished through one of the existing trails off of Shanahan Ridge. The benefits are many and the negatives are few if any. The largest benefit being a way to avoid the Broadway/HWY 93 corridor, which poses many safety risks to bicycle traffic. The current logical Open Space connector trail is not often used and quickly joins roads for a residential inholding on the North side of South Boulder Creek.

I respectfully ask that you consider this suggestion in your planning.

Thank you,

*Steve Werner*

*Formation Environmental LLC*

*2500 55th St., Suite 200*

*Boulder, CO 80301*

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*Direct: 303-442-3608 x 1003*

*Fax: 303-442-3679*

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## Sanfacon, Garry

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**From:** Bob Kropfli <rakropfli@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 10:02 AM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** Proposed connector trails  
**Attachments:** Connector trail to White Ranch 001.jpg

Hi Garry –

Thanks for running a productive and efficient meeting Tuesday night. Seems like you obtained a lot of useful input from a variety of interested parties. My expectation from the Camera announcement for the meeting was that the ‘Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative will seek to connect communities and recreation areas in the mountains and foothills.....’, but apparently it’s much broader than simply to ‘connect communities’.

My interest over several years has been to find connections between the southern portion of Boulder trails and White Ranch since the distance is not great, and some of the route(s) are already in place in the form of gravel roads and double track AWD paths used by ranchers and for maintenance by the railroad. I’ve found three possibilities that I’ll outline here. Since the proposed routes tend to follow contours, construction should be relatively simple.

Please refer to the attached map. I was unable to reproduce a clean copy from the Boulder Mountain Parks web site so this image has my scribblings from over a year ago. It should convey most of what I have found. The three routes are circled as ‘1’, ‘2’ and ‘3’.

Route 1, the dashed black route heading south from Boulder Open Space, is the shortest route from Spring Brook Loop South trail to Plainview Road. It transverses through an area designated as a Habitat Conservation Area, and that could be a show stopper. Furthermore, it goes through a fifteen hundred foot length of private land (owned by the Lippencott family) from BOSMP to Jeffco Open Space. I expect that trails through private property generate a much higher level of complexity.

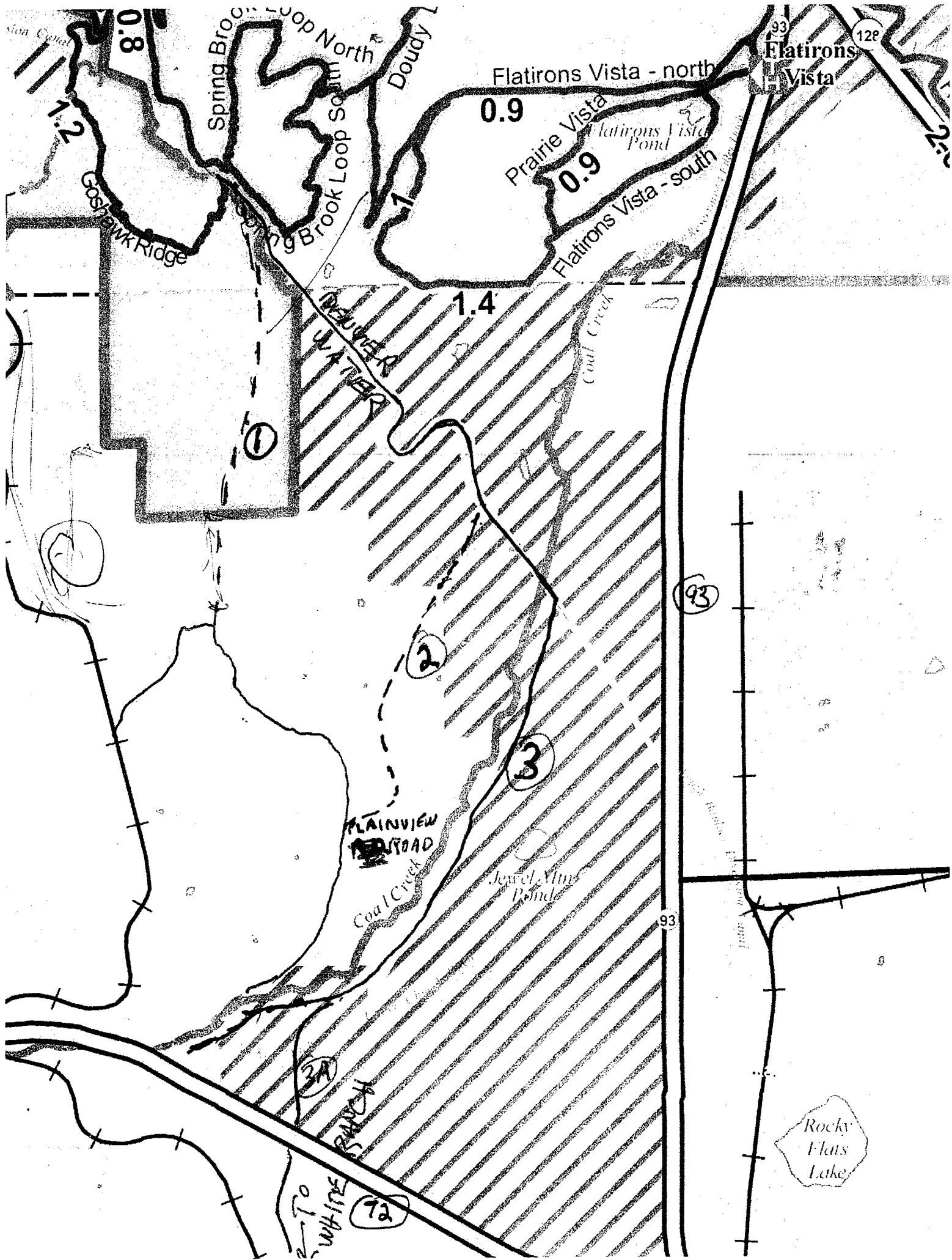
Route 2 starts at the Spring Brook Loop South trail and follows Denver Water’s access road along the South Boulder Diversion Canal. That portion is indicated by a continuous red line. From where it leaves the canal a new trail just .6 miles long would be needed to reach an old homestead site in Jefferson County Open Space. A portion of that new trail would be through Boulder’s Jewel Mt. Open Space and into Jeffco Open Space. From the homestead site is an established double track path that goes another mile to the lightly-traveled, gravel Plainview Road and south to Highway 72. I have illustrated the route from Denver Water’s canal to Plainview Road by a dashed red line. Since existing unimproved roads are utilized, only about .6 miles of new trail construction would be needed to get all the way to Highway 72 from Spring Brook Loop South trail and no private property would be traversed.

The north end of Route 3 starts again from Denver Water’s access road adjacent to the Spring Brook Loop South trail and continues south to a point just beyond where it crosses Coal Creek. Route 3 then contours above the south bank of Coal Creek and is indicated by a solid red line. No wetlands are involved. The views there, I’ve been told, are spectacular, much more so than what one would expect by what you can see from Highways 93 or 72. Most of Route 3 is through the Jewel Mountain Open Space maintained by the City. Route

3 could end either at Plainview Road or curve south (3a) to a point across Highway 72 from a BNSF Railroad maintenance road that continues another 1.7 miles southward toward White Ranch. It's in rough shape and it's used both by the railroad and a rancher (and occasionally by mt. bikers and hikers).

In my opinion, Route 3 is preferred over the other two alternatives in that it allows spectacular views of Coal Creek and the Flatirons. It is possible to keep the route on Boulder's Jewel Mountain Open Space but running it closer to Coal Creek would take it through Jeffco Open Space; it would be even more scenic. In that case three governmental entities would be involved: City of Boulder Open Space, Denver Water and Jeffco Open Space. It provides Boulder County residents in Coal Creek Canyon easy trail access to the southern end of Boulder's trail system.

Please let me know your reaction to this and let me know what the next step should be. Rather than a legacy for our grandchildren, I'd be very interested in having it completed in my lifetime! I'll do whatever I can to make that happen. The links are short, they make good use of existing roads and trails and would not be excessively expensive since they closely follow contours. Thanks again, Garry, for taking input on this.



Flatirons Vista

Flatirons Vista - north

Prairie Vista

Flatirons Vista - south

PLAINVIEW ROAD

Jewel Mine Ponds

Rocky Flats Lake

Spring Brook Loop North  
Spring Brook Loop South

Doudy L

Goshawk Ridge

Coal Creek

Coal Creek

WILSON RANCH

93

93

128

72

TO WILSON

2

3

3A

0.9

0.9

1.4

1.7

0.8

1.2

## **Sanfacon, Garry**

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**To:** Billy Roos  
**Subject:** RE: Eldorado Springs bicycle plans

Garry,

I am an Eldorado Springs resident and I oppose any increase of bicycle traffic into Eldorado Springs, primarily for reasons of safety and conflicts with other users. It has been my observation that bicycle traffic in Eldorado Springs and Eldorado Canyon State Park is often too fast for conditions, endangering residents and park users.

Having said that, I should note that I am a long time mountain and road bike rider, and feel there is presently sufficient access for bikes in southern Boulder County without expanding use in the Eldorado Springs area.

Respectfully, Billy Roos, Eldorado Springs

## Sanfacon, Garry

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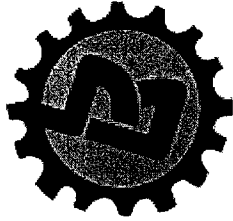
**From:** Alan Brown <alan@aebarchitects.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 8:20 PM  
**To:** Sanfacon, Garry  
**Subject:** regmntntrailscomments

Garry: We are out of town and unable to access the Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative comments section. Please add the following input to the mix.

- REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM...Linking existing trails to create a regional scaled system is sustainable if the "regionalizing" process does not negate Eldorado Springs and other neighborhood preferences for out-and-back or local trails. Any linked regional trails need added trailhead and parking capacity. This added capacity is not available in Eldorado Springs. The pressures on Eldorado Springs are hard to imagine...if the Old Mesa Trail route, the Eldorado Canyon Trail route, Fowler Trail, or the Kneal Road route became part of a regional trail system that allows bikes.
- MULTI-USE TRAILS...I question current use of the term "multi-use trail" when the design is single track and mountain bikes are allowed. User conflicts and complaints are too common, and active policing is called for. Since this trail designation at Marshall Mesa, Flatirons Vista and recently Doudy Draw, these areas have become less desirable for non-bikers wishing to avoid trail conflicts and more physically degraded. Single-track-only regional bike trails would compromise the the South County and Eldorado Springs hiker experience. We should try to improve on the current dysfunctional situation, rather than simply expanding the impacts. The "multi-use" designation can work for bikes and others when there is a designated bike-only day. Multi-use of a trail with bikes can also work when the trail is 8-12ft wide. And why can't the 3 mile long shoulders of Eldorado Springs Drive (CO 128) be improved to serve that very active group of recreation/commuter bike users?
- FIRE ACCESS...The most serious City/County/State/Federal open space problem today in the Eldorado Springs vicinity is the lack of fire prevention and firefighting access. Private and public property is at great risk! Any trail improvements, particularly "multi-use trails", should be 8-12ft wide and useable by Rocky Mountain Fire District.
- PRIVATE PROPERTY...The Mesa Trail south connection to Eldorado Springs is an informal social path partially on private property and with no trailhead or parking opportunities. If this or any other "link" to a regional system passes through Eldorado Springs, private parking spaces and narrow private roads would be casually taken by mountain bike riders and others. As presented so far, the idea of regional trails through Eldorado Springs sounds like a mess.

If individuals or the ESCA Community Association can assist trail decisionmaking in any way, please let someone know. Sincerely, Alan Brown, 148 Artesian Drive, Eldorado Springs, CO 80025.





# BOULDER MOUNTAINBIKE ALLIANCE

To: Garry Sanfacon  
RMTMP Initiative Meeting Coordinator  
From: Mike Barrow, Advocacy Director  
Boulder Mountainbike Alliance

Subject: BMA Input to the Process

Dear Garry,

Boulder Mountainbike Alliance would like to thank you and your peers for conducting the extensive first round of RMTMP meetings. They were very productive and we respect the general approach of not drawing "lines on a map" at this very early stage.

Bearing in mind that these lines must eventually be drawn, as a follow up to the meetings, BMA would like to present these suggestions for the hills west of Boulder over the next 20 to 25 years.

In broad strokes, we consider these trail linkages as imperative to any long term plan, with the guiding principle that Roads Are Not Trails:

- Boulder to Lyons West of US 36
- Extension of the Boulder Canyon Trail to Chapman Drive and the Betasso Link trail.
- Eldorado to Walker and Chapman Drive as a part of a Nederland to Boulder link
- Lyons to Estes Park
- Lyons to Lyons to Rabbit Mountain to Larimer County
- Nederland to Allenspark West of the Peak to Peak Hwy, Switzerland trail through Caribou Ranch
- Trail linkages to Jefferson, Gilpin, and Larimer Counties
- Boulder to Gold Hill
- Ward To Brainard Lake
- Ward to Jamestown
- Raymond to Estes Park via Allenspark
- Peaceful Valley to Raymond

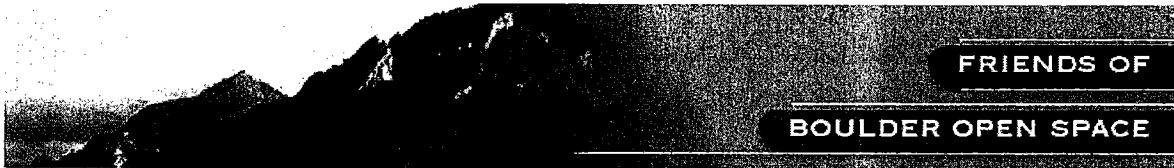
- Peaceful Valley to Ceran St Vrain Trail
- Jamestown to Fairview Peak/ Left Hand OHV/ Heil Valley Ranch
- Longmont to Lyons crusher fine/commuter path

We can provide more detailed proposals regarding these options upon request at any time, and sincerely hope that we might be of further assistance. Please reach out to BMA for additional discussion on linkages and potential trail development early and often or suggest intervals and dates that we may do so. We are glad to share our knowledge and understanding of the current trail network to move this process forward, and mobilize our volunteers to help achieve these goals.

It is our sincere hope that the members of this team will keep the public informed on their proceedings, if only to keep the interest in this project on the public radar.

BMA would again like to thank the team for taking on this task.

Sincerely,  
Mike Barrow  
Advocacy Director  
BMA



May 20, 2013

Friends of Boulder Open Space, an organization dedicated to wise stewardship of open space lands and resources in the City of Boulder and Boulder County, strongly supports the Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative. FOBOS has a history of supporting regional trails to connect public lands in Boulder County for passive recreation and to provide non-motorized access, where they are consistent with protection of important wildlife, ecosystems, and plant communities. We applaud the outreach effort that has been conducted so far.

However, we regard it as deeply unfortunate that in the presentations for public comment, the previous work that has been done, particularly as documented in the *Boulder County Comprehensive Plan*, has been deliberately ignored, as stated by the facilitator in at least some of the public meetings.

By not including maps of critical resources that have been carefully mapped in the Environmental Element of the Plan, nor maps of existing regional trails or of previously adopted alignments, the adopted priorities of the community were set aside.

The Introduction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the plan states its purpose clearly:

*The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) was developed "to respond to the widely accepted principle that the myriad of future land-use decisions affecting the county's lands should be made in a coordinated and responsible manner." Since its initial adoption in 1978, the overall philosophy of the plan has changed very little...growth should be channeled to municipalities, agricultural lands should be protected, and preservation of our environmental and natural resources should be a high priority in making land use decisions.*

The Environmental Resources Element of the Plan goes on to discuss priorities for preservation to be followed in any planning activity by the county.

The problem with holding meetings to get citizen input without providing the public with such critical information as the Environmental Conservation Areas or the County Trails is that the citizens who devoted many hours to attend the meetings and provide input did not have the information that they needed to give appropriate consideration.

The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan has been developed and amended over a period of nearly forty years, at a cost of millions of dollars and with input from thousands of citizens of the county over several generations. It should have provided the baseline information for the Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan Initiative. It is unfortunate that it was ignored in the public meetings. It and details about Environmental Resources should be front and center at all future meetings and in all forthcoming drafts.

For Friends of Boulder Open Space,

Linda Jourgensen, Chair

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **Comments from Town of Lyons Mayor and Board of Trustees at a RMTMP presentation on 5.20.13**

Look at Mountain Magazine for a recent article about private public cooperation

This can be a great display of governmental agencies collaborating without excessive impact to the environment

Economic potential of Lyons being a hub. Don't need new trailheads, they are already out there.

Would like to see a trail from Lyons to Estes Park and South Heil Ranch to Boulder

Important to address parking because of possible impacts to neighborhoods and the town. Look at transit links.

Include Lyons as a key partner and enable formal comment at various stages of the process

Local route linking town to Hall Ranch (Hall to Corona Hill) so people don't have to walk on Highway 7 which is dangerous. Is there a nesting eagle in the area?

Use existing disturbed anthracite mine for parking.

Provide opportunities for people to park/transit to town and access trails from town rather than driving through town to park at new trailheads