

REVIEW GUIDE: ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE GOALS (CURRENTLY CALLED “ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT” GOALS)

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

PROPOSED GOALS	CHANGE/REASON FOR CHANGE	EXISTING GOALS
<p>B.1 Boulder County’s unique or distinctive natural features and ecosystems shall be conserved and preserved through protection and restoration in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Boulder County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Added restoration as an aspiration</i> • <i>Cultural resources covered in own element (eliminated herein)</i> • <i>Management covered in other goals (B.2 and B.3)</i> 	<p>B.1 Unique or distinctive natural features and ecosystems, and cultural features and sites should be conserved and preserved in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Boulder County. Natural resources should be managed in a manner which is consistent with sound conservation practices and ecological principles.</p>
<p>B.2 Boulder County seeks to manage natural resources in a manner that is consistent with current ecological principles and sustainable conservation practices. To that end, in the management of these unique resources, Boulder County shall encourage the following: the allowance of natural processes to occur, the reintroduction of natural disturbances (e.g., fire and grazing), the maintenance or reintroduction of native species, the restoration of degraded resources, the elimination of undesirable non-native species, efforts to minimize human impacts, and the development of long-term ecological monitoring programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expanded goal related to management from B.1</i> • <i>Elevated language related to resource management from policies (ER 6.05 and 9.05)</i> 	<p>B.1 Unique or distinctive natural features and ecosystems, and cultural features and sites should be conserved and preserved in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Boulder County. Natural resources should be managed in a manner which is consistent with sound conservation practices and ecological principles.</p>
<p>B.3 Boulder County recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts on our environmental resources. As the body of climate science knowledge grows and potential effects (e.g., increasingly severe weather and increased fire and flood frequency) are better understood, Boulder County shall modify plans and policies to adapt to environmental changes and to reduce potential adverse impacts on environmental resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Added climate change/ adaptive management, goal for future planning</i> • <i>Supports other recent plans/policies already in place documents, i.e., Sustainability Element, Sustainability Plan, and Climate Change Preparedness Plan</i> 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>B.4 Boulder County shall seek to conserve air, water and soil. Boulder County shall pursue restoration of such resources that are in a degraded condition to enhance the environmental health of the county. Air, water, soil, and noise or light pollution, and inappropriate development in natural hazard areas shall be eliminated or minimized to the greatest extent possible in order to prevent potential harm to life, health and property and to reduce incremental degradation of the overall environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Soil added as an additional resource</i> • <i>Added emphasis on restoration and overall environmental health</i> • <i>Added “light” as a potential pollutant</i> • <i>Added “incremental” degradation concept</i> 	<p>B.2 Air, water and noise pollution; inappropriate development in natural hazard areas; and overall environmental degradation should be reduced as much as possible or eliminated in order to prevent potential harm to life, health and property.</p>

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<p>B.5 Boulder County shall seek to protect prominent natural landmarks in the county in order to preserve their unique scenic, visual or aesthetic values and provide a record of the county’s natural heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elevated policy to directly support Natural Landmark concept (not explicit in existing goals)</i> 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>B.6 Boulder County shall conserve and preserve Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs) in order to perpetuate native species, biological communities, and ecological processes that function over large geographic areas and require a high degree of connectivity to thrive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rewrote goal to be consist with other goals and update language</i> 	<p>B.8 Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs) should be conserved and preserved in order to perpetuate those species, biological communities, and ecological processes that function over large geographic areas and require a high degree of naturalness.</p>
<p>B.7 Boulder County shall protect High Biodiversity Areas, Natural Areas, Natural Landmarks, Significant Natural Communities, Critical Wildlife Habitats, Species of Special Concern, Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Rare Plant Areas – through preservation, conservation, and restoration – in order to sustain natural ecosystems and to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the region. These protections shall also provide a baseline of ecological processes and functions for monitoring long-term ecological change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Combined several goals into a single goal about critical resources to protect</i> • <i>Added resources not previously named; specifically: High Biodiversity Areas and Species of Special Concern</i> • <i>Importance of specific resources moved to Overview of ER Policies</i> 	<p>B.4 Significant natural communities, including significant riparian communities and rare plant sites, should be conserved and preserved to retain living examples of natural ecosystems, furnish a baseline of ecological processes and function, and enhance and maintain the biodiversity of the region.</p> <p>B.3 Critical wildlife habitats should be conserved and preserved in order to avoid the depletion of wildlife and to perpetuate and encourage a diversity of species in the county.</p> <p>B.5 Wetlands which are important to maintaining the overall balance of ecological systems should be conserved.</p> <p>B.9 Riparian ecosystems, which are important plant communities, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, shall be protected.</p>
<p>B.8 Boulder County shall pursue protection of critical environmental resources in partnership with private landowners, non-governmental organizations, and other governmental agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical resources identified in B7</i> • <i>Goal emphasizes partnership</i> 	<p>B.6 Unique or critical environmental resources identified pursuant to Goals B.1, B.3, B.4 and B.5 shall be conserved and preserved in a manner which assures their protection from adverse impacts, <i>with the private sector, non-county agencies and other governmental jurisdictions being encouraged to participate.</i></p>
<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Removed from goals associated with this element; focus on this goal in Agriculture Element</i> 	<p>B.7 Productive agricultural land is a limited resource of both environmental and economic value and should be conserved and preserved.</p>

REVIEW GUIDE: ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ELEMENT POLICY UPDATES

MOST RELEVANT SECTIONS IN THE UPDATE	EXISTING POLICY	COMPARATIVE UPDATED POLICY(S)	COMMENTS AND NEXT STEPS IN THE UPDATE
Natural Landmarks			
<p>Goals B.1, B.5, B.7 and B.8</p> <p>Description in Overview of Policies Paragraph 7</p>	ER 1.01	ER 4.01, ER 1.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation criteria, inventory, and mapping are being updated • Public review and approval process will occur later this year • This information will be included in an appendix of the Comp Plan
	ER 1.02	ER 1.01	
	ER 1.03	ER 4.02, ER 1.04	
	ER 1.04	ER 1.02	
	ER 1.05	ER 1.01, ER 1.02,	
	ER 1.06	ER 1.02, ER 3.01, Ag Element	
	ER 1.07	ER 1.03	
	ER 1.08	ER 1.06, ER 4.04, Cult. Res. Element	
	ER 1.09	ER 1.02, criteria/maps and programs	
	ER 1.10	ER 4.01, ER 1.02, criteria/maps, programs	
Natural Areas			
<p>Goals B.1, B.7 and B.8</p> <p>Description in Overview of Policies Paragraph 8</p>	ER 2.01	ER 4.01 and ER 1.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation criteria, inventory, and mapping are being updated • Public review and approval process will occur later this year • This information will be included in an appendix of the Comp Plan
	ER 2.02	ER 1.01	
	ER 2.03	ER 4.02 and 4.03	
	ER 2.04	ER 1.04 and ER 4.02	
	ER 2.05	1.02, criteria/maps, programs	
	ER 2.06	ER 1.01	
	ER 2.07	ER 1.02	
	ER 2.08	ER 1.03	
	ER 2.09	ER 1.06	
	ER 2.10	1.02, criteria/mapping, programs	
	ER 2.11	ER 4.01, ER 4.03, programs	
Air, Water, Soil and Noise			
<p>Goals B.1, B.2 and B.4</p> <p>Description in Overview of Policies n/a</p>	ER 3.01	ER 2.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil added as a resource to this Element • No additional update directly related to these resources is planned for this Element
	ER 3.02	ER 2.02	
	ER 3.03	ER 2.01	
	ER 3.04	ER 2.03	
	ER 3.05	ER 2.01 ER 2.02, ER 1.01	

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(Critical) Wildlife Habitat			
<p>Goals B.1, B.2, B.6, B.7 and B.8</p> <p>Descriptions in Overview Paragraphs 4 thru 11 and 13</p>	ER 4.01	ER 1.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation criteria, inventory, and mapping are being updated in consultation with partner agencies and other outside experts • Public review and approval process will occur later this year • This information will be included in an appendix of the Comp Plan
	ER 4.01.01	ER 1.02, ER 1.05, ER 1.06, criteria/maps	
	ER 4.02	ER 1.02, ER 1.04, criteria/maps, regs, programs	
	ER 4.03 (all)	ER 1.01, regs/programs	
	ER 4.04 (all)	ER 1.01, ER 1.02, ER 1.05, ER 1.07, criteria/maps, regs/programs	
	ER 4.05	ER 3.05, ER 1.04 and ER 1.05	
	ER 4.06	ER 1.04 and programs	
	ER 4.07	ER 1.01, ER 1.02, ER 3.01, criteria/maps	
	ER 4.08	ER 1.02, criteria/maps, programs	
ER 4.09	ER 1.01, ER 1.02, ER 3.01, ER 3.05, programs		
Critical Plant Associations, Rare Plant Sites, and Natural Communities			
<p>Goals B.1, B.2, B.6, B.7 and B.8</p> <p>Description in Overview Paragraph 4 thru 9, 11, and 12</p>	ER 5.01	ER 1.02, criteria/maps	<p><i>See Next Steps under Wildlife Habitat (above).</i></p>
	ER 5.02	ER 1.05, ER 1.06	
	ER 5.03	ER 1.04, ER 1.05, ER 3.01 and ER 3.05, programs	
	ER 5.04	ER 1.01, Land Use Regs.	
Riparian Areas			
<p>Goals B.1, B.2, B.6, B.7 and B.8</p> <p>Description in Overview Paragraph 11</p>	ER 6.01	ER 1.04, ER 1.05, ER 1.07, programs	<p><i>See Next Steps under Wildlife Habitat (above).</i></p>
	ER 6.02	Goal B.2, ER 1.01, ER 3.01, programs	
	ER 6.03	ER 1.04, ER 1.05, ER 3.05, programs	
	ER 6.04	ER 1.01	
	ER 6.05	Goal B.2, programs	

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MOST RELEVANT SECTIONS IN THE UPDATE	EXISTING POLICY	COMPARATIVE UPDATED POLICY(S)	COMMENTS AND NEXT STEPS IN THE UPDATE
Wetlands			
<u>Goals</u> B.1, B.2, B.6, B.7 and B.8 <u>Description in Overview</u> Paragraph 11	ER 7.01	ER 1.05, ER 1.07, programs	See <i>Next Steps</i> under <i>Wildlife Habitat (above)</i> .
	ER 7.02	ER 1.01, Goal B2	
	ER 7.03	ER 1.04, programs	
	ER 7.04	ER 1.04, ER 1.05, programs	
	ER 7.05	ER 1.02, criteria / maps	
	ER 7.06	ER 1.01	
	ER 7.07	ER 1.02, criteria/maps, programs	
	ER 7.08	ER 1.05, ER 1.06	
ER 7.09	ER 1.01		
Cooperative Preservation			
<u>Goals</u> B.1, B.5, and B.7 <u>Description in Overview of Policies</u> n/a	ER 8.01 (all)	ER 1.05, ER 1.06, and ER 1.07	A separate policy on Cooperative Preservation seems redundant in this update since such policies are found throughout the Element.
	ER 8.02	ER 1.07	
Environmental Conservation Areas			
<u>Goals</u> B.1, B.2, B.5, and B.7 <u>Description in Overview</u> Paragraphs 4 and 5	ER 9.01	ER 3.02	See <i>Next Steps</i> under <i>Wildlife Habitat (above)</i> .
	ER 9.02	ER 3.03	
	ER 9.03	ER 3.04	
	ER 9.04	ER 3.05	
	ER 9.05	Goal B.2	