



Boulder County
Parks and Open Space Department



Walker Ranch Management: A Survey of Visitors and Neighboring Landowners at Walker Ranch Open Space

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Thank you all.

Executive Summary

Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) will update the Walker Ranch Management Plan in 2009. The present study was designed to facilitate the update and to determine the demographics, preferences and experiences of neighboring landowners and visitors to Walker Ranch.

From May to December of 2008, trained staff collected 1,007 surveys from visitors at three main Walker Ranch trailheads and 61 mailed surveys from neighboring landowners. The response rate was very high, 73% at the trailheads and 68% from neighboring landowners.

Park Visitors

The majority of visitors to Walker Ranch Open Space are between 25 and 39 years old (47%). They enjoy visiting Walker Ranch because of the scenic views and the high quality of the trail.

Walker Ranch's average visitor is mountain biking (46%), hiking (41%), or running (5%) on the trails. They live in Boulder (37%), and are not apt to have brought a dog with them that day. They are either visiting Walker Ranch for their first time ever (30%), or have visited once or twice in the past year (27%).

The majority of visitors support closing some non-trail areas to the public in order to protect wildlife habitat (77%). In addition, visitors supported using spot herbicide application (69%) and insect bio-controls (70%) to mitigate invasive weeds, but many asked that BCPOS use these tools "infrequently in selected areas." The most important concerns for visitors to Walker Ranch were protecting wildlife habitat (39%) and keeping the area the same as it is now (35%).

The average Walker Ranch visitor is not familiar with "The Wall" section of the Loop trail (52%). Of those that are, most (58%) have no opinion about its status, or they think it should be left as it is (29%). When asked to consider *all* BCPOS properties, Walker Ranch visitors are likely to support options that designate different trails in the same park for different types of activities (63%).

Not many Walker Ranch visitors experienced conflict on the trail that day (7%), or in the past year (10%).

Regarding the future management of this open space, the majority of visitors to Walker Ranch (27%) prefer that it stays the same, and that BCPOS does nothing to change it.

Neighboring Landowners

The majority of neighbors living within 1,500 feet of the Walker Ranch boundary are between 40 and 60 years old (61%). Nearly all the neighbors surveyed (97%) knew (prior to receiving the survey) that they lived next to a BCPOS area, and are "very much" satisfied with how the proximity of Walker Ranch affects them and their property (62%). Most of the neighbors report that the primary reasons they enjoy living next to Walker Ranch are the close proximity of its trails and the scenic views it affords them.

The largest proportion of neighbors visit Walker Ranch either more than once per week (27%), or about once per month (27%). Nearly all of them believe the most important thing at Walker Ranch is protecting wildlife habitat (51%) or keeping the area the same as it is now (33%).

Walker Ranch's average neighbor supports the option of closing some non-trail areas to the public in order to

protect wildlife habitat (64%). Also, neighbors very often support using spot herbicide application (81%) and insect bio-controls (82%) to mitigate invasive weeds, but many ask that BCPOS use these tools “infrequently in selected areas.”

Generally, neighboring landowners are familiar with “The Wall” section of the Loop Trail (57%). Of those, a good number (44%) either have no opinion about its status, or they think it should be left as it is (46%). And, when asked to consider *all* BCPOS properties, the majority of Walker Ranch neighbors (57%) support designating different trails in a park for different types of activities.

About one-third (36%) of these neighbors have experienced conflict on the trails at Walker Ranch in the past year, but over half (56%) have not.

Regarding the future management of this open space, the most common preference was for Walker Ranch to stay the same as it is now (22%). A good number of neighbors also expressed the desire for more weed management (13%).

1. Introduction

Natural resource management goals are generally focused on maintaining natural conditions and providing recreational opportunities (Keough & Blahna 2005, Hammitt 1987). However, as the number of visitors and types of activities on open space increase, management techniques must adapt to the changing conditions (Dolesh 2004, Lawson 2006). Land managers should strive for integrative ecosystem management, seeking a balance in recreation and conservation that is sustainable over the long-term (Lee 1993, Cortner & Moote 1999, Meffe et. al. 2002, Berkes et. al. 2003).

When considering complex management issues, public opinion data should contribute to the decision-making process (Keough & Blahna 2005, Solop et al. 2004). Therefore, to avail the agency of current public opinion regarding Walker Ranch Open Space, Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) designed the following study both for visitors to the property and for neighboring landowners. BCPOS will use this data in updating the Walker Ranch Management Plan in 2009.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to facilitate updating the Walker Ranch Management Plan, and to determine the demographics of visitors to the area.

The objectives of this study include the following:

1. Collect a statistically significant sample of opinions from visitors and property owners adjacent to the Walker Ranch property;
2. Utilize this data to aid in updating the Walker Ranch Management Plan;
3. Utilize this data to better integrate visitor opinions, values and recreation goals into the ongoing maintenance and management of Walker Ranch Open Space.

Background

The area now known as Walker Ranch was purchased by Boulder County in 1977. Only 7.5 miles outside of Boulder, the Walker Ranch property totals 3,788 acres, with 1,222 of those acres owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The property consists of two main areas: Meyers Gulch and South Boulder Creek Canyon. Walker Ranch is in the lower Montane life zone. Its forests are dominated by pine and fir trees, and are susceptible to mountain pine beetle, spruce budworm, and dwarf mistletoe. In September of 2000, a wildfire burned 1,100 acres of Walker Ranch. Controlling forest pathogens and noxious weeds, managing fire, maintaining the trail system and providing cultural history programming at the historic ranch are present management concerns.

The trails at Walker Ranch are multiple-use, which allow hikers, mountain bikers, runners, equestrians, anglers and all non-motorized trail users to enjoy this area during daylight hours. Boulder County has a population of approximately 297,000 individuals with diverse ethnicities, incomes, ages, and genders.* As such, people with varying backgrounds and different recreational goals visit Walker Ranch.

What's more, many private property owners abut Walker Ranch: about half the land adjacent is privately owned. The Denver Water Board Department, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Eldorado Canyon State Park, and City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks occupy the remaining land adjacent to Walker Ranch.

Recent studies have shown that a majority of Boulder County residents approve of the County open space

* www.drcog.org/communityprofiles/options.cfm, www.dola.colorado.gov

program (Public Information Corporation 2006). To ensure successful and positive public involvement, communications should begin early and continue throughout the decision-making process (Shindler & Alfred Cheek 1999, Keough & Blahma 2006). In a 2006 survey of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from all 50 states, Lord and Cheng found that random-sample mail or telephone surveys were ranked highest in importance for receiving public input. So, to ensure that public approval is sustained in revising the Walker Ranch Management Plan, BCPOS designed the current on-site and mailed surveys to collect input from Walker Ranch visitors and adjacent landowners.

Literature Review

Mail and face-to-face surveys are the oldest recorded data collection modes in modern times (De Leeuw 2005). According to Biemer and Lyberg (2003), in the United States and parts of Western Europe, mixed-mode surveys are the norm currently. In addition, research shows that using a mixed-methods approach, with both qualitative and quantitative questions, is the most comprehensive way to analyze public opinion (Creswell 2002, DeLeeuw 2005).

Public Involvement

With our varying backgrounds, people have different preferences, motivations, attitudes, and values toward the outdoors (Scott and Shafer 2001). These variables certainly support, or not, the development in an individual of a strong emotional “sense of place” related to a certain outdoor area (Williams and Stewart 1998). However, increasingly complex social, economic, and political systems can create conflicting meanings of “place” to different people (Williams and Stewart 1998). Therefore, to address the public’s diverse interests, it is important that land managers incorporate diverse public opinion into the decision-making process (Force and Forester 2002).

In “Social Science Research Review of Public Involvement,” Force and Forester (2002) describe how general mistrust in public agencies has developed due to frequent incidents of managers assuming public support of management decisions and moving forward without public input, only to find controversy later on in the process. This can result in the unneeded expenditure of additional time and money. However, spending the extra time and effort early on in the process to incorporate public opinion can be more efficient, accurate and productive.

Recreation Conflict

Schneider (2004) found that the reported percentage of conflict between visitors to natural areas has remained roughly within the same range since 1980. Previous visitor surveys have found that five to 40 percent of visitors have “something interfering with their experience” (Schneider 2004). In a 2003 study of recreation conflict at six multiple-use BCPOS areas, 2% of visitors reported experiencing conflict on the trail that day, mostly to do with bikers’ failure to yield, their high speed and failure to communicate. A follow-up set of questions in the 2005 demographics study showed that 3% of visitors reported experiencing conflict that day, again largely with bikers’ failure to yield and communicate.

However, resource managers disagree about techniques for managing trail-based conflicts, such as trail separation and alternate days. Eric Finstick (2007), for example, with the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Council, is a proponent of alternate-day zoning, and cited that “such systems have been implemented on Forest Service trails...and after an initial break-in period, the systems work well.”

The program leader for the National Trails System for the National Park Service posits that most trail-use

conflicts can be solved at the local level when visitors and agencies work with one another (Dolesh 2004). Research completed by Schneider, shows that information and education are the most effective methods for changing unwanted or unsustainable behavior on the trails.

Non-native Weed Management

According to Solop, Hagen, and Ostergren (2004), public opinion is almost equally divided for and against the removal of non-native species of plants and animals in the National Parks. When determining management techniques to mitigate noxious weed populations, it is important that they be both socially acceptable as well as ecologically sustainable (Brunson et. Al 1996, Brunson & Steel 1996, Toman et al. 2006, Keough & Blahna 2005).

2. Methods

Survey Design

The Questionnaire

The survey was conceived and designed to collect opinion data for updating the BCPOS Walker Ranch Management Plan. The instrument was a questionnaire (Appendix A) developed by the lead researcher and a committee of Resource Management Division, Resource Planning Division and Department Head staff.

Park Visitors

The questionnaire contained 17 Likert scale (e.g., “on a scale of 1 to 10”), categorical and qualitative items centering on subject matter in five areas:

1) Visiting Walker Ranch.

Opinions about and activities while visiting Walker Ranch were measured with two categorical and two qualitative items. Respondents were asked five basic satisfaction and recreation activity questions.

2) Natural Resource Management.

Opinions of natural resource management techniques were measured using one categorical item, and two Likert scale measures modeled after Brunson and Shindler (2004). For the scalar questions, we first described the potential management technique (i.e. non-native weed management), and then asked respondents to indicate their preference along a scale of one (do not use) to five (legitimate tool-use anywhere). Respondents could also select “not sure.” The body of each question provided a concise but informative description of the reasons for using that particular management technique. Though this increased the length of the survey, we felt the provided information would result in fewer “not sure” responses, and more deliberative, accurate responses (Mccomas and Scherer 1999, Loomis et al. 2001).

3) Recreation Conflict.

Experiences with conflict during recreation were measured using categorical and qualitative items to determine type and location of conflict on the trail. The response options were derived using prior visitor data collected in 2003 and 2005. “Conflict” here was described as goal interference.

4) Park Infrastructure and Design

Opinions about park infrastructure and design were measured using four categorical and open-ended qualitative items. We structured these questions by first proposing specific scenarios, then asking respondents to choose whether they “would” or “would not” support said management scenario.

5) Visitor Demographics.

Using categorical items, we collected respondent’s residence and age-range information.

Park Neighbors

This questionnaire contained 14 Likert scale, categorical and qualitative items centering on subject matter in five areas:

1) Living Near County Open Space.

Opinions about living next to and visiting Walker Ranch were measured with one five-degree Likert scale, two categorical measures and two open-ended qualitative questions. Respondents were asked five basic satisfaction and categorical questions about living near Walker Ranch, visiting its trails, and resources they enjoy about or would like to see at Walker Ranch.

2) Natural Resource Management.

Opinions of natural resource management techniques were measured using one categorical item, and two Likert scales modeled after Brunson and Shindler (2004). For the scalar questions, we first described the potential management technique (i.e. non-native weed management), and then asked respondents to indicate their preference along a scale of one (do not use) to five (legitimate tool-use anywhere). Respondents could also select “not sure.” The body of each question provided a concise but informative description of the reasons for using that particular management technique. Though this increased the length of the survey, we felt the provided information would result in fewer “not sure” responses, and more deliberative, accurate responses (Mccomas and Scherer 1999, Loomis et al. 2001).

3) Recreation Conflict.

One categorical item was used to measure neighbors’ recreation conflict experiences at Walker Ranch. The response options were derived using prior visitor data collected in 2003 and 2005. This question determined the type of conflict on the trail in the past year. “Conflict” here was described as goal interference.

4) Park Infrastructure and Design.

Opinions about park infrastructure and design were measured using four categorical and open-ended qualitative items. We structured these questions by first proposing specific scenarios, then asking respondents to choose whether they “would” or “would not” support said management scenario.

5) Visitor Demographics.

Respondent’s age-range was collected using one categorical measure.

Sampling Strategy and Data Collection

The data collection phase was conducted from May to December 2008, using both self-administered on-site and mailed questionnaires. Trained staff collected 1,068 surveys between May 23rd and December 29th. The research team was comprised of nine Resource Management Division staff, one Resource Planning Division staff, and eight Senior Property Tax Work-Off participants. The Education & Outreach Specialist conducted formal trainings for all members of the research team, and each researcher wore a BCPOS nametag for identification.

Survey Population

The survey population consisted of visitors to, and neighbors of, Walker Ranch Open Space. Visitors were sampled from the three main trailheads: Walker Ranch Loop, Meyers Gulch, and Ethel Harrold Picnic Area. Neighbors living within ¼ mile (1,500 feet) of its boundary line were sampled since they will be most affected by any significant management activities (Shindler & Alfred Cheek 1999). Addresses of adjacent property owners were obtained from the Boulder County Assessor’s Office via the BCPOS Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division.

Nonprofit and religious organizations, businesses, and government agencies were removed from the mailing list. Those who own property in Boulder County but live out of state were asked to respond only if they live at that address at least three months out of the year.

Sample Size

Park Visitors

We derived the number of questionnaires needed at the trailheads, called the “sampling frame,” by first determining the average number of visitors (as opposed to visits) to Walker Ranch per year over the past two years: ~31,614. Next, we calculated the number of completed questionnaires needed to achieve a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error of 3.0%: ~1,062.

Park Neighbors

We derived the neighbors sampling frame by first determining the number of individuals in the population: ~230. Next, we estimated that our response rate would likely be no more than 50%. As such, we considered mailing 460 surveys to adjacent landowners. However, there are only 92 homes within 1,500 feet of the Walker Ranch boundary (2.5 average people per household, U.S. Census 2006). Therefore, questionnaires were mailed to all households in the population to achieve the highest statistically significant level of confidence possible with such a small population: 90% with margin of error of 9%.

Sampling Technique

Park Visitors

These were exit surveys. Visitors were contacted at one of the three trailheads as they exited the trail system. In order to collect a random sample, every third visitor was attempted for surveying on heavy visitation days, and every single visitor was attempted on lighter visitation days.

The survey times were specifically chosen in order to collect a broad, representative sample. Staff sampled more often when visitors were more likely to be present and less often when they were not. Survey sessions were two hours in length, conducted in the morning (between 8:00am and 11:59am), afternoon (between 12:00pm and 3:59pm), and evening (between 4:00pm and 8:00pm). At each trailhead, surveys were collected during each of the three time-periods, on weekdays and weekends. If a survey shift was cancelled due to weather or staff availability, it was re-scheduled for the same time on the next available day.

Sampling was divided into weekdays (Monday through Friday) and weekends (Saturday and Sunday). Also, holidays (e.g. Independence Day) that occurred on weekdays were counted as weekends in the data analysis. Since weekend visitation on BCPOS properties exceeds weekday visitation, the sampling was weighted toward weekends to more accurately represent actual visitation. A complete listing of survey times and locations is found in Appendix C.

To ensure that visitors at each trailhead (called a “sub-population”) would be adequately represented, we sampled for each trailhead’s proportional visitation within the total visitation. This is called stratified sampling: each “sampling fraction” has a proportional sample size. Stratified sampling was necessary because studies have shown that questions regarding acceptable management activities be framed to a particular place (Wittmann et al. 1998, Zinn et al. 1998, Shindler & Toman 2003). Therefore, the sampling frame (1,062 people) was divided proportionally to represent specific visitation levels, represented in Table 1.

Table 1. Sampling Fraction Sizes

Trailhead	Sampling Fraction Desired	Sample Size Needed
Walker Ranch Loop	60% of total visitation	637 questionnaires
Meyers Gulch	29% of total visitation	308 questionnaires
Ethel Harrold Picnic Area	11% of total visitation	117 questionnaires
Total Needed	-	1,062 questionnaires

Park Neighbors

The survey population consisted of private individuals aged 18 years and older who live within 1,500 feet of the Walker Ranch boundary. Since our population size dictated that we mail surveys to all of its members, it was not necessary to randomly select addresses. In order, then, to achieve adequate randomness from the population, we requested in the cover letter that the questionnaire “be completed by the adult (18 years or older) who now lives there and has had the most recent birthday.”

Each respondent was contacted up to four separate times over a seven-week period beginning October 22nd, 2008. Once a completed questionnaire was returned, the particular respondent was not contacted again. The initial contact contained a personalized cover letter (Appendix B), the questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. Four weeks later, a thank you/reminder postcard was sent. Ten days after that, another complete questionnaire/cover letter packet was sent. Lastly, a final thank you/reminder postcard was sent ten days later to all nonrespondents. This approach was a modified “Tailored Design Method” (Dillman 2007). Tests for non-response bias could not be completed due to cost and available labor. However, recent studies have shown that response rates for natural resource surveys have declined over time and tend to be lower when questions are too complex or not relevant to the respondents (Connelly et al. 2003 in Brunson & Evans 2005).

3. Results

This section details the respondents' demographics, recreation activities, preferences and experiences at Walker Ranch Open Space.

The results are divided into two summary sections:

- A. Visitor Data
- B. Neighbor Data

A. Visitor Data

Trained staff collected 1,007 completed surveys at Walker Ranch trailheads, out of 1,384 attempted. The response rate was therefore 73%. A total of 242 hours were spent across 121 survey sessions. As such, staff collected an average of approximately 4.2 surveys per hour.

1. Response Rates and Confidence Level

<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Surveys Attempted</i>	<i>Surveys Completed</i>	Response Rate
Walker Ranch Loop	949	680	72%
Ethel Harrold	47	38	81%
Meyers Gulch	388	289	75%
Total	1,384	1,007	73%

Table 2 illustrates the response rate achieved at each trailhead, as well as the overall response rate. The following table highlights the achieved level of confidence and margin of error.

<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Survey Goals</i>	<i>Surveys Completed</i>
Walker Ranch Loop	637	680
Ethel Harrold	117	38
Meyers Gulch	308	289
Total	1,062	1,007
	Confidence	Margin of Error
Overall	99%	+/- 4%

The achieved sample size gave us a confidence level of 99%, for which we calculated a 4% margin of error. That is to say, 99% of random visitors to Walker Ranch would respond to these questions with answers that are within 4% of these results.

2. Demographic Data

Recreation Activity

Respondents recorded the activity in which they were participating at Walker Ranch just before they took the survey. The following table lists the activities reported at each trailhead, and their total. The “Other” category includes activities such as relaxing, bird-watching, mountain-skating and plant identification. All “other” activities may be found in Appendix D.

Question 1: Which of the following best describes your main activity today at Walker Ranch Open Space?

Activity Type		Trailhead Name			Overall:
		Loop Trailhead	Meyers Gulch Trailhead	Ethel Harrold Trailhead	
Mountain bike	Count	352	85	21	458
	%	52%	29.4%	55.3%	45.5%
Hike	Count	245	161	11	417
	%	36.2%	55.7%	28.9%	41.4%
Run	Count	36	9	0	45
	%	5.3%	3.1%	-	4.5%
Other	Count	7	19	0	26
	%	1%	6.6%	-	2.6%
Walk the dog	Count	16	9	0	25
	%	2.4%	3.1%	-	2.5%
Fish	Count	16	1	6	23
	%	2.4%	0.3%	15.8%	2.3%
View wildlife	Count	1	5	0	6
	%	0.1%	1.7%	-	0.6%
Left blank	Count	2	0	0	3
	%	0.3%	-	-	0.3%
Family gathering	Count	2	0	0	2
	%	0.3%	-	-	0.2%
Picnic	Count	1	0	0	1
	%	0.1%	-	-	0.1%
Photography/Art	Count	1	0	0	1
	%	0.1%	-	-	0.1%
Totals:	Count	680	289	38	1,007
	%	67.4%	28.8%	3.8%	100%

Question 2: Do you currently own a dog or dogs?

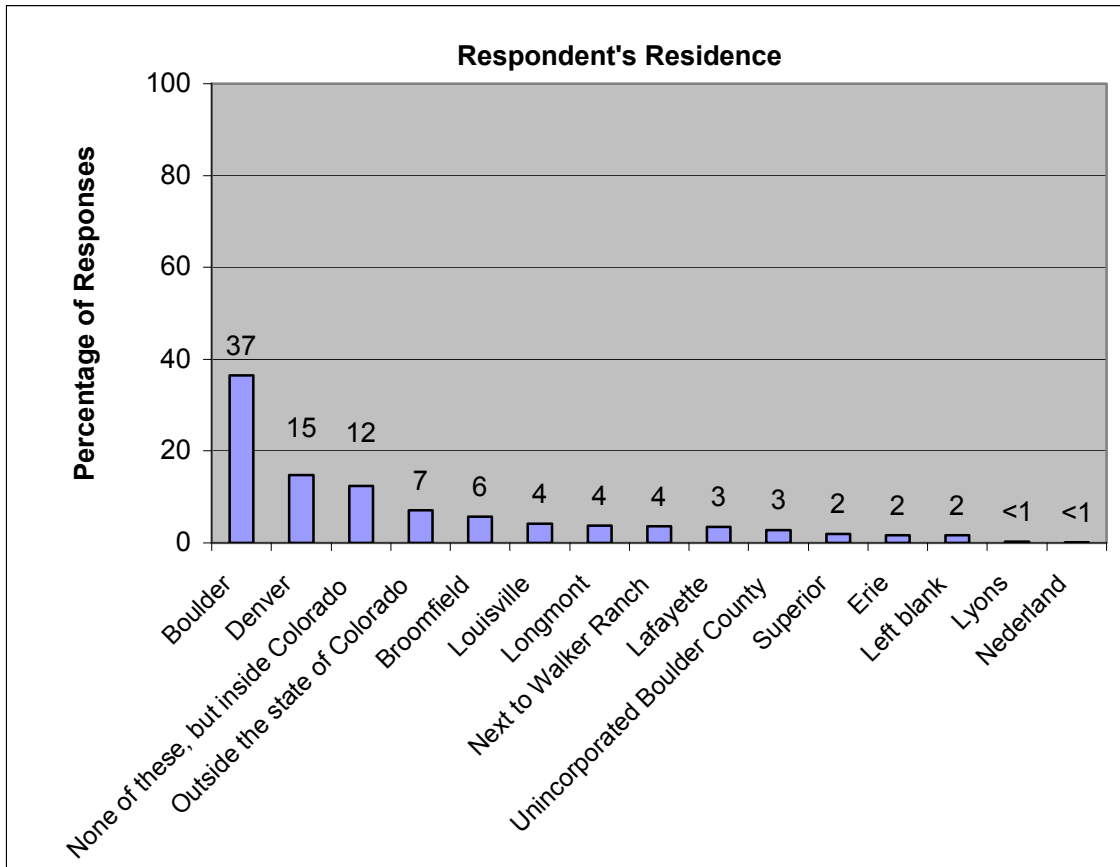
	%	N
No	59%	599
Yes	41%	408
Total	100%	1,007

Have a dog or dogs with you today?

	%	N
No	90%	904
Yes	10%	103
Total	100%	1,007

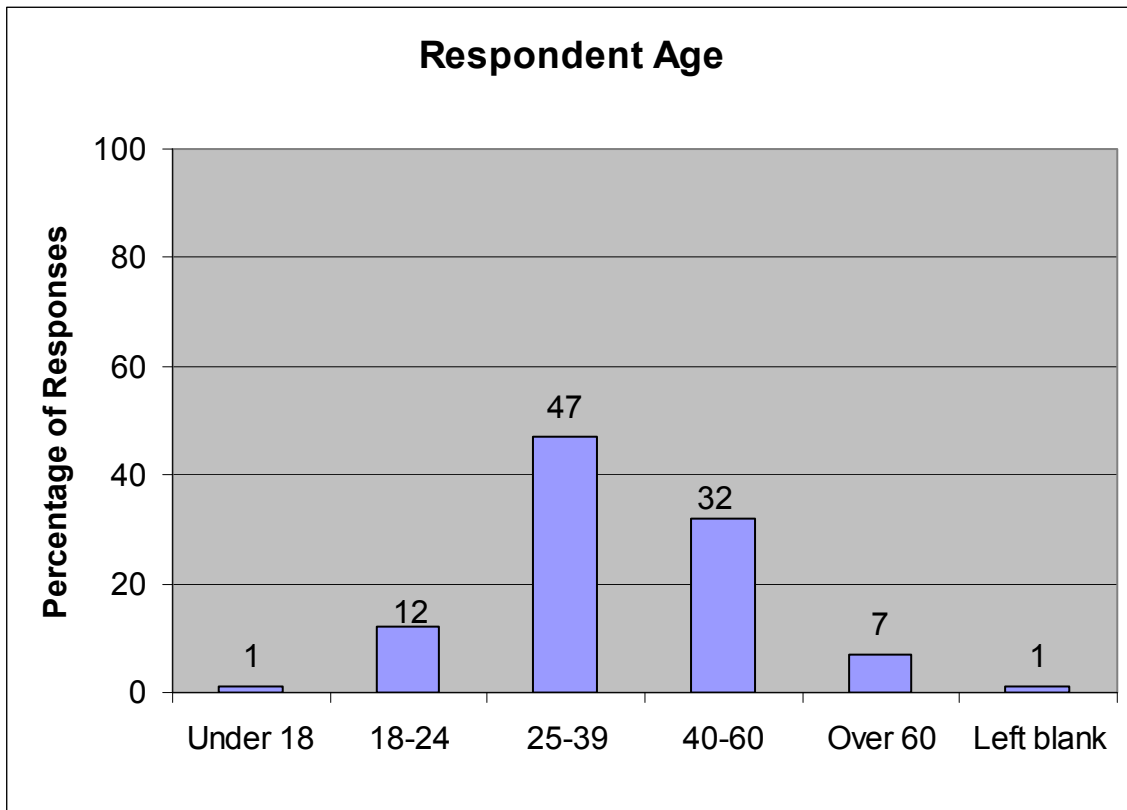
Residence

Question 14: Where is your home?



Age

Question 16: Please check your appropriate age category:



The majority of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 39 (46%). In fact, 79% of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 60.

3. Visiting Walker Ranch

Question 3 was open-ended, so respondents were able to answer in their own words. Responses were then coded and categorized by content. Categories were “emergent.” That is, they emerged from the comments made by respondents, and were not conceived by the researcher. As the responses were coded, and categories emerged, further responses were either placed into the appropriate category, or a new category became apparent. A full listing of these responses can be explored in Appendix E.

Walker Ranch Loop Trailhead

Question 3: In a few words, why do you enjoy visiting Walker Ranch in particular?

	Walker Ranch Loop	
Mountain Bikers	Percentage (at trailhead)	Number of comments
Trail quality, e.g. "well-maintained trail"	11%	71
"Good/Great biking"	10%	68
Scenery/Views/Vistas	7%	48
Challenging/technical trail	5%	34
Remaining reasons	19%	123
Total	53%	344
Hikers		
Scenery/Views/Vistas	6%	39
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	5%	35
Close Proximity	4%	23
River/water access	3%	20
Remaining reasons	18%	120
Total	36%	237
Runners		
Scenery/Views/Vistas	1%	8
Trail quality, e.g. "well-maintained trail"	<1%	5
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	<1%	4
Remaining reasons	3%	17
Total	5%	34
Dog Walkers		
River/water access	<1%	4
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	<1%	2
Close proximity	<1%	2
Remaining reasons	1%	7
Total	2%	15
Other		
View wildlife	<1%	1
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	<1%	1
Trail quality, e.g. "well-maintained trail"	<1%	1
Remaining reasons	<1%	2
Total	2%	15
GRAND TOTAL	100%	653

Meyers Gulch Trailhead

Question 3: In a few words, why do you enjoy visiting Walker Ranch in particular?

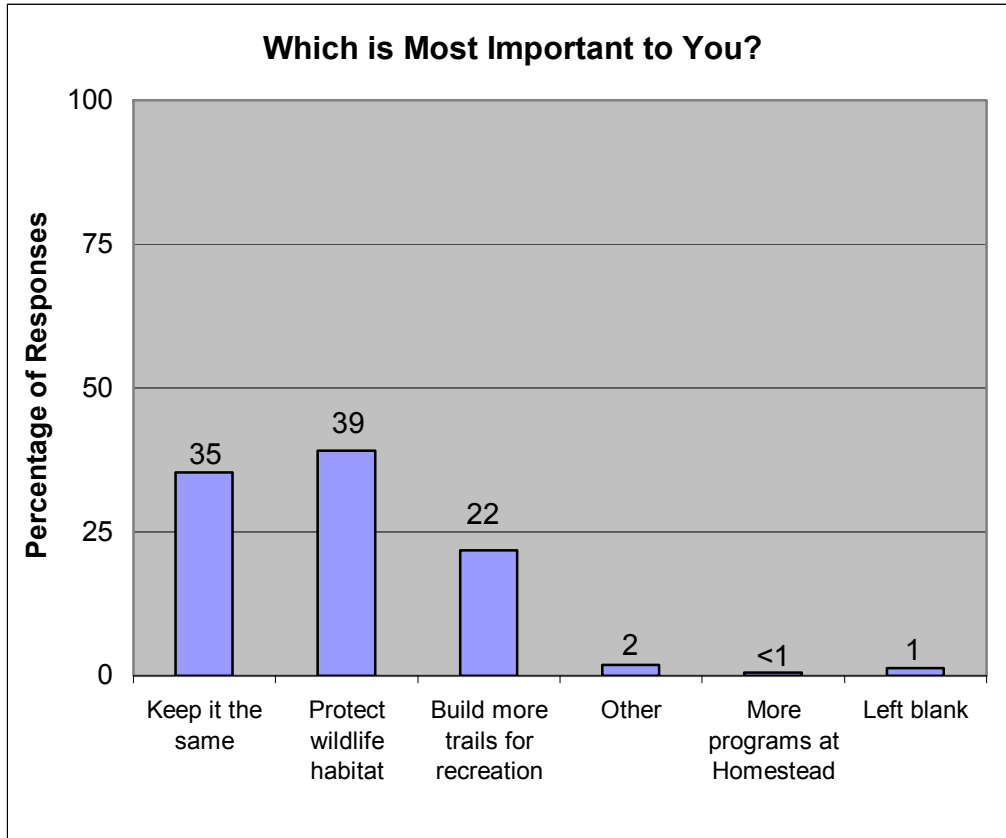
	Meyers Gulch	
Hikers	Percentage (of trailhead)	Number of comments
Scenery/Views/Vistas	12%	33
Wildflowers	6%	17
Quiet/peaceful	6%	16
“Nice/great hiking”	5%	13
Remaining reasons	28%	80
Total	56%	159
Mountain Bikers		
Trail quality, e.g. "well-maintained trail"	6%	18
“Nice/Great biking”	5%	15
Scenery/Views/Vistas	4%	12
Close proximity	3%	7
Remaining reasons	10%	28
Total	28%	80
Runners		
Close proximity	0.7%	2
Variety of terrain	0.7%	2
Trail length	0.4%	1
Remaining reasons	2%	5
Total	4%	10
Dog Walkers		
Not crowded	1%	3
Scenery/Views/Vistas	0.7%	2
Moderate difficulty	0.4%	1
Remaining reasons	1%	3
Total	3%	9
Other		
Scenery/Views/Vistas	2%	5
Birding	1.4%	4
Wildflowers	1%	3
Remaining reasons	5%	13
Total	9%	25
GRAND TOTAL	100%	284

Ethel Harrold Picnic Area Trailhead

Question 3: In a few words, why do you enjoy visiting Walker Ranch in particular?

	Ethel Harrold Picnic Area	
Mountain Bikers	Percentage (of trailhead)	Number of comments
Trail quality, e.g. "well-maintained trail"	15%	9
Challenging/technical trail	8%	5
Scenery/Views/Vistas	7%	4
"Good/Great biking"	7%	4
Remaining reasons	20%	13
Total	57%	35
Hikers		
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	5%	3
Scenery/Views/Vistas	3.3%	2
River/water access	3.3%	2
"Nice/great hiking"	3.3%	2
Remaining reasons	8%	5
Total	23%	14
Anglers		
Beauty, e.g. "beautiful", "nice"	5%	3
Scenery/Views/Vistas	3.3%	2
"Good/great fishing"	3.3%	2
Remaining reasons	8%	5
Total	20%	12
GRAND TOTAL	100%	61

Question 5: Thinking only about Walker Ranch Open Space, which one of the following is most important to you?

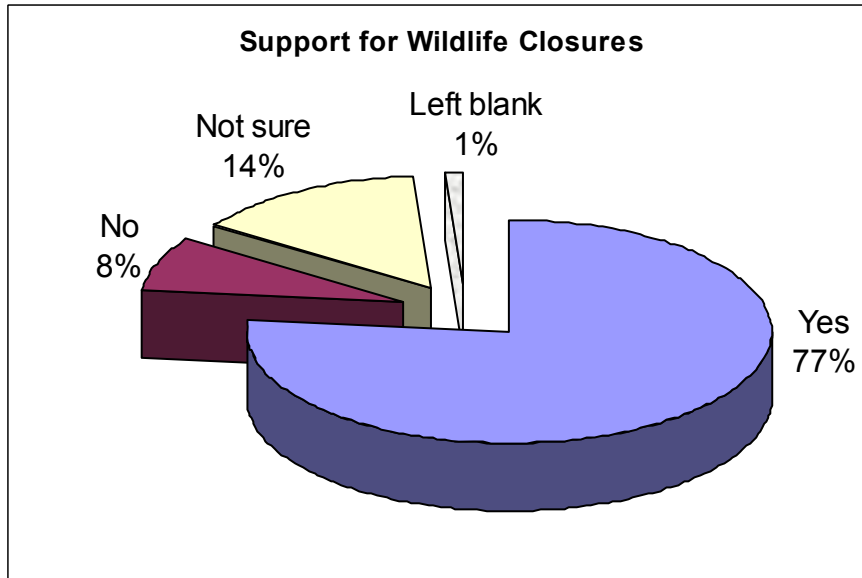


Question 15: In the past year, how often have you visited Walker Ranch?

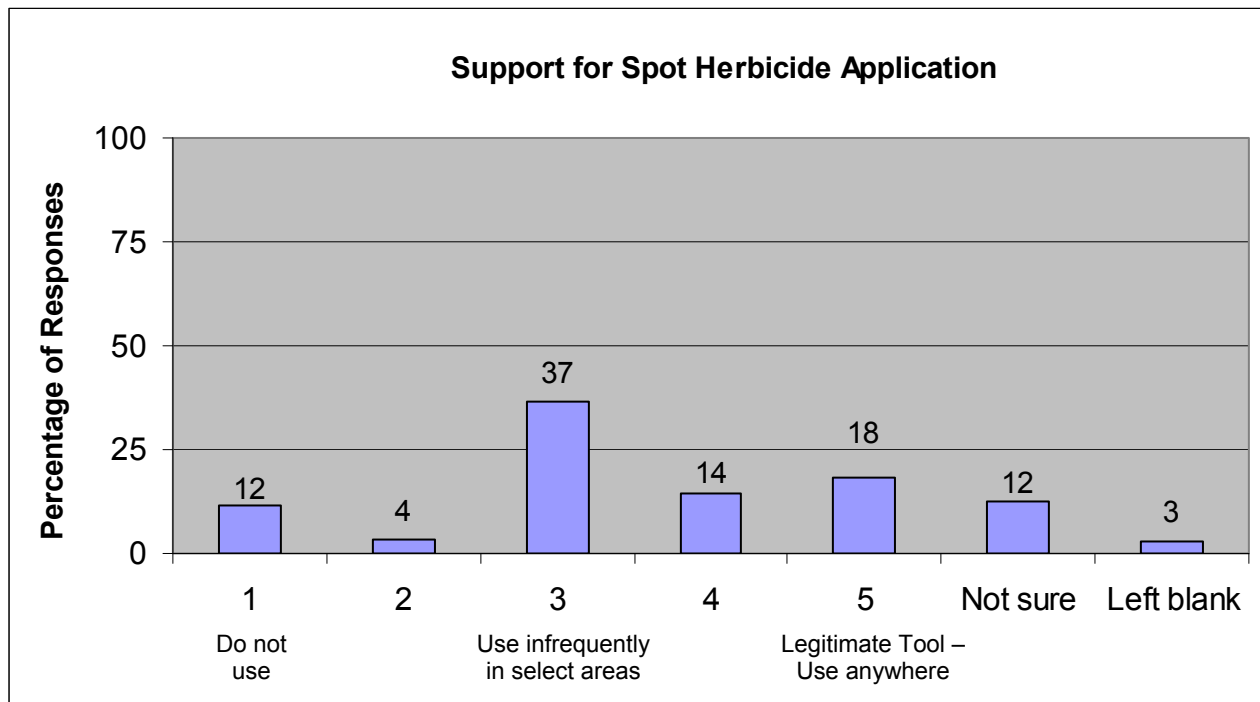
Visit Frequency	%	N
My first time here	30%	305
Once or twice in the past year	27%	271
About once a month	23%	228
About once a season	9%	93
About once a week	6%	64
More than once a week	3%	31
Left blank	2%	15
Total	100%	1,007

4. Natural Resource Management

Question 6: ...Do you support selecting some areas outside the trail corridor as closed to the public for wildlife habitat protection?



Question 8: ...Do you support the spot application of herbicides at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?

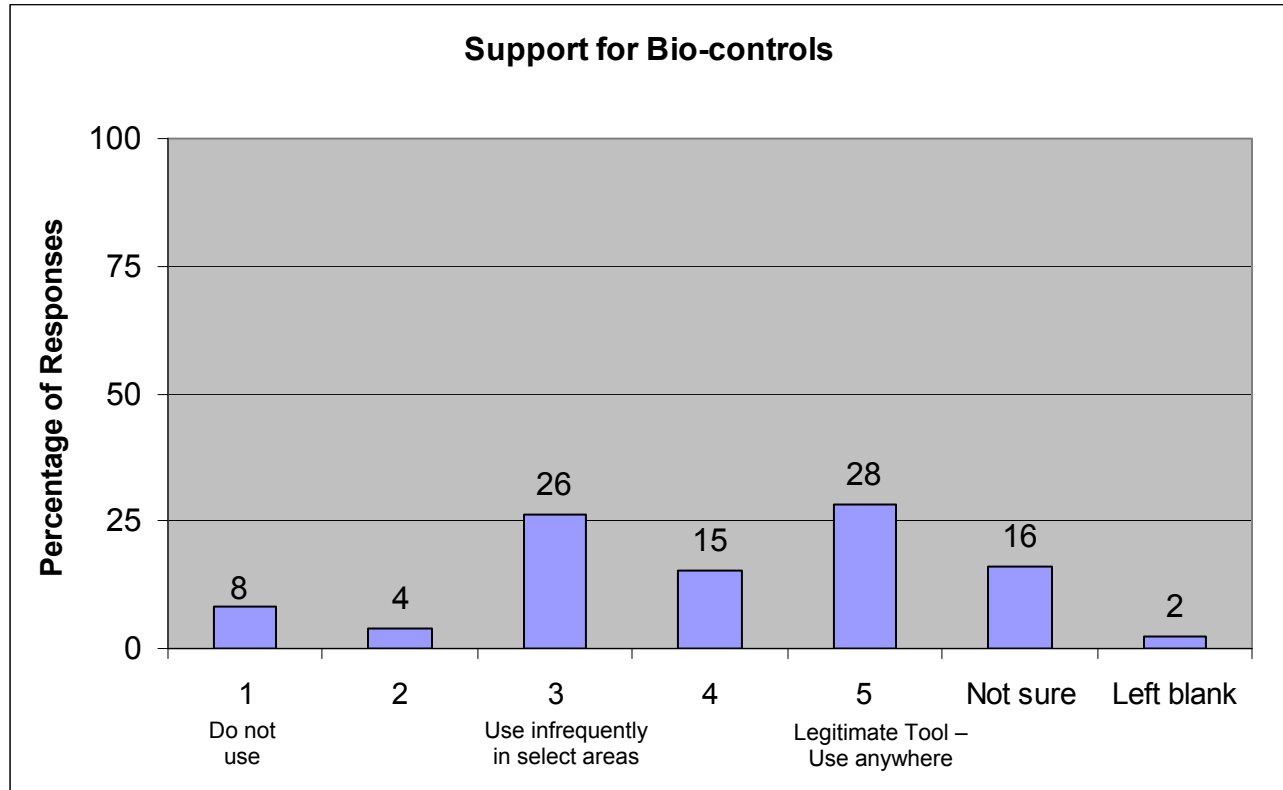


The average (mean) response for support of spot herbicide application to control non-native weeds at Walker Ranch was 3.29 (Standard Deviation^{*} =1.24).

^{*} The standard deviation is the most common measure of [statistical dispersion](#), measuring how widely spread the values in a data set are from the mean (average).

Respondents rated their support for spot application of herbicides to control weeds along a scale from 1 (“Do not use”) to 5 (“Legitimate tool—Use anywhere”), and “not sure.”

Question 9: Another effective tool in the effort to control non-native, invasive weeds is the use of insects that eat specific weeds – often called “bio-controls.”...Do you support the use of insect bio-controls at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?



The average response for supporting the use of insect bio-controls to control weeds at Walker Ranch was 3.63 (Std. Dev.=1.28).

As in the prior question, respondents rated their support for use of insect bio-controls to control weeds at Walker Ranch along a scale from 1 (“Do not use”) to 5 (“Legitimate tool—Use anywhere”), and “not sure.”

5. Recreation Conflict

In 2003, BCPOS conducted a baseline study of visitor conflict at six multiple-use properties, including Walker Ranch. In 2005, we again included a question about recreation conflict in the system-wide “Five-Year Study.” Differences in the wording of these two similar questions were made to accommodate a questionnaire versus an interview format. In the present study, the same “conflict” questions from the 2005 study were included. Please note the difference between “interpersonal” conflicts and those caused by other factors. Sixty-one of the stated causes of conflict were interpersonal, while six were not interpersonal in nature, but of another kind (e.g. unaware of regulations or due to external factors). Percentages here are rounded, and are therefore approximate. No conflicts were reported for that day at Ethel Harrold Picnic Area.

Question 10: Sometimes, visitors can interfere with one another's goals on the trail, causing an unpleasant experience. This is generally referred to as conflict. Did you experience conflict at this park today? If "Yes": Which of these best describes that conflict?

	Walker Ranch Loop	Meyers Gulch	TOTAL
CONFLICTS REPORTED BY: (as a percentage of TOTAL conflict comments)			
MOUNTAIN BIKERS			
Horse Droppings	14%	2%	16%
Bikers Not Yielding	7%	2%	9%
Dogs Off-Leash	7%	-	7%
Dog Droppings	-	1%	1%
Other Concerns	9%	-	9%
TOTAL	37%	5%	42%
HIKERS			
Bikers Speed Concerns	15%	2%	17%
Bikers Not Yielding	15%	3%	18%
Bikers Not Communicating	3%	-	3%
Dogs Off-Leash	2%	3%	5%
Other Concerns	3%	2%	5%
TOTAL	38%	10%	48%
RUNNERS			
Horse Droppings	3%	-	3%
Bikers Not Yielding	2%	-	2%
TOTAL	5%	-	5%
DOG WALKERS			
Bikers Speed Concerns	2%	1%	3%
Bikers Not Yielding	2%	-	2%
TOTAL	4%	1%	5%
GRAND TOTAL	84%	16%	100%

<i>Did you experience conflict today?</i>	2008 (N=1,007)	2005 (N=217)	2003 (N=165)
No	89%	83%	99%
Yes	7%	6%	1%
Not sure	1%	1%	--
Left blank	3%	10%	--
Total	100%	100%	100%
<hr/>			
<i>If "Yes": Which of these best describes that conflict?</i>	2008 (# of comments=61)	2005 (#=14)	2003 (#=55)
Bikers not yielding	29.5%	28.6%	12.7%
Horse droppings	24.6%	--	3.6%
Bikers speed	19.7%	14.3%	14.5%
Dogs off leash	11.5%	14.3%	21.8%
Other	--	7.1%	3.6%
Dog droppings	5%	7.1%	3.6%
Rudeness/discourtesy of visitors	3.3%	--	16.4%
Bikers communication	3.3%	7.1%	3.6%
Dogs leashed, but not under control	1.6%	21.4%	14.5%
Bikers disobeying posted regulation	1.6%	--	5.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In 2003 and 2005, this question was open-ended, allowing the respondent to describe the conflict in their own words. The emergent categories from these responses were used as response options for the present study. That is, respondents in 2008 were able to choose the type of conflict they experienced from categories that emerged from the studies in 2003 and 2005.

Question 11: Where in the park did this conflict occur?

Location of Conflict	Percent
Other location on the trail	62%
Abrupt corner	22%
Not sure	6.3%
Trail intersection	4.8%
Other	1.6%
Scenic overlook	1.6%
Trailhead	1.6%
Total	100%

Question 12: Have you experienced conflict at this park in the past year? If “Yes”: Which of these best describes that conflict?

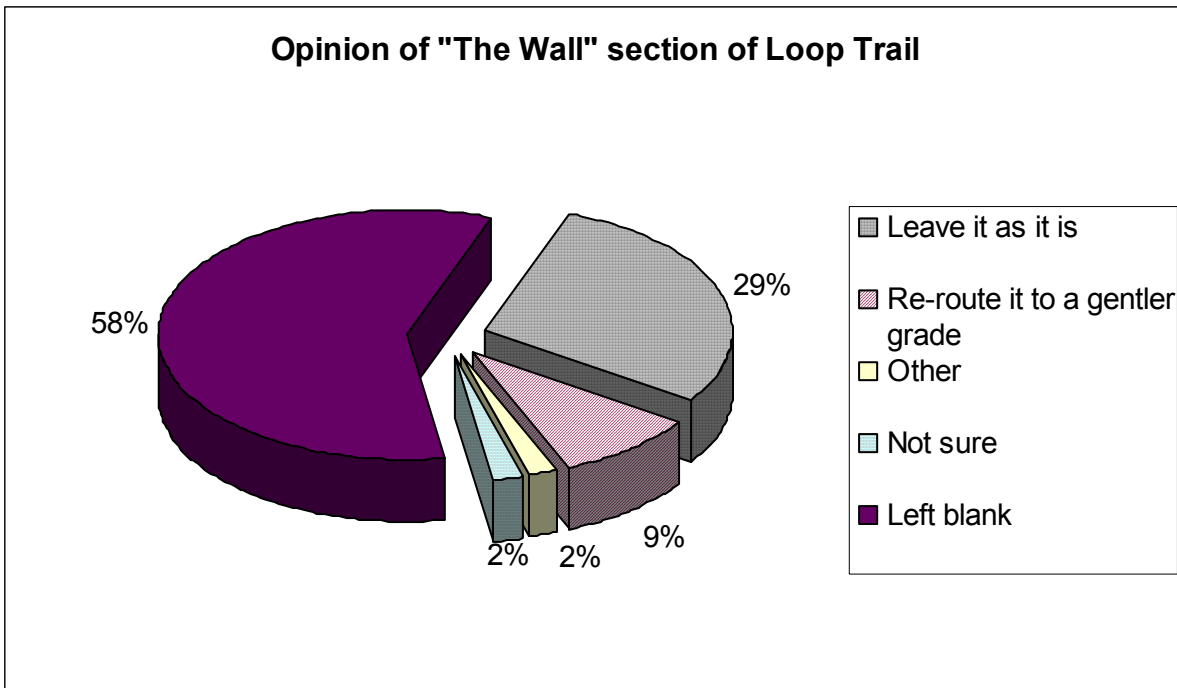
<i>Have you experienced conflict in the past year?</i>	2008 (N=1,007)	2005 (N=217)
No	85%	86%
Yes	10%	5%
Not sure	1%	1%
Left blank	4%	8%
Total	100%	100%
<hr/>		
<i>If “Yes”: Which of these best describes that conflict?</i>	2008	2005
Bikers not yielding	21%	10%
Horse droppings	17%	--
Bikers speed	14%	10%
Dogs off leash	9%	20%
Other	8%	10%
Dog droppings	4%	--
Bikers communication	2%	20%
General discourtesy of other visitors	2%	10%
Can’t remember	2%	--
Dogs leashed, but not under control	1%	--
Bikers disobeying rules	1%	--
Left blank	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

6. Park Infrastructure Design and Management

Question 7: Are you familiar with a section of the Walker Ranch Loop Trail called “The Wall”?

	%	N
No	52%	520
Yes	42%	422
Not sure	4%	37
Left blank	3%	28
Total	100%	1,007

If “Yes”: Which of the following best describes your opinion about “The Wall”?



Question 13: BCPOS uses a variety of management tools to affect your experience on the trails. Thinking about all Boulder County Parks and Open Space Properties, please indicate your support for the following management tools on BCPOS properties:

Management Option	Would Support	Would NOT Support	Left blank	Totals
Designating different trails in the same park for different types of visitor activities	63%	27%	10%	100%
Designating different parks for different types of visitor activities	38%	49%	13%	100%
Designating different days of the week for different types of visitor activities	31%	56%	13%	100%
Having bikes travel one direction, and hikers and equestrians travel the opposite direction	38%	48%	14%	100%

7. Long-term Recommendations

Question's 4 and 17 from the questionnaire were open-ended. Respondents were able to describe preferences in their own words. Their written responses were then coded and categorized by content. As in Section 3 above, categories here were also "emergent." That is, they emerged from the comments made by respondents, and were not conceived by the researcher. As the responses were coded, and categories emerged, further responses were then either placed into the appropriate category, or a new category was apparent. A verbatim catalog of the responses for the following two questions can be explored in Appendices F and G.

Question 4: What would you like to see at Walker Ranch in the future?

	Walker Ranch Loop	
Mountain Bikers	Percentage (of trailhead)	Number of comments
"Nothing"/Keep it the same	17%	75
More trails	9%	40
Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon	6%	26
Potable water	3.6%	16
Remaining comments	22%	100
Total	57.6%	257
Hikers		
"Nothing"/Keep it the same	12%	55
Potable water	2%	9
More wildlife	1.6%	7
"It's perfect"	1.3%	6
Remaining comments	14.6%	65
Total	31.8%	142
Runners		
"Nothing"/Keep it the same	1.8%	8
Dogs allowed off-leash	1%	4
Potable water	0.4%	2
Remaining comments	3%	13
Total	6.1%	27
Dog Walkers		
Dogs allowed off-leash	1%	4
"Nothing"/Keep it the same	0.7%	3
Voice/sight command for dogs	0.2%	1
Remaining reasons	1.1%	5
Total	3%	13
GRAND TOTAL	100%	446

Question 4: What would you like to see at Walker Ranch in the future?

	Meyers Gulch	
Hikers	Percentage (of trailhead)	Number of comments
“Nothing”/Keep it the same	17.7%	36
More trails	4.9%	10
More restrooms	3.9%	8
Potable water	3%	6
Remaining comments	22%	45
Total	51.7%	105
Mountain Bikers		
“Nothing”/Keep it the same	10%	20
More trails	8.4%	17
Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon	2.5%	5
More mountain bike trails	2.5%	5
Remaining comments	13%	27
Total	36.5%	74
Other		
“Nothing”/Keep it the same	4.4%	9
Remaining comments	3%	6
Total	7.4%	15
GRAND TOTAL	100%	203

No responses for this question were collected from the Ethel Harrold Picnic Area trailhead.

Question 17: Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Two hundred sixty-eight respondents provided 272 answers for this question. Their responses emerged into two broad categories: “recommendations and -,” and “positive comments.” A complete list of these responses is available in Appendix G.

	Walker Ranch Loop	Meyers Gulch	Ethel Harrold Picnic Area	Totals % (N)
Recommendations and Suggestions	37% (69)	35% (28)	40% (2)	36.4% (99)
Positive Comments	63% (117)	65% (53)	60% (3)	63.6% (173)
GRAND TOTAL	100% (186)	100% (81)	100% (5)	100% (272)

The majority of these responses (64%) were positive comments about BCPOS, Walker Ranch and its natural features. However, over one-third (36%) were respondents’ recommendations for our management or infrastructure at Walker Ranch, or over BCPOS as an agency.

B. Neighbor Data

1. Response Rate and Confidence Level

Neighbors to Walker Ranch completed and returned 61 questionnaires out of the 93 mailed, with three “undeliverables.” Undeliverables had addresses that were incorrect, with no available forwarding addresses. The response rate was therefore 68%.

The achieved sample size gave us a confidence level of 90%, for which we calculated a 9% margin of error. That is to say, 90% of random neighbors who live within 1,500 feet of the Walker Ranch boundary would respond to these questions with answers that are within 9% of these results.

In 2005 and 2007, BCPOS conducted surveys of park visitors and adjacent neighbors about living near County open space, resource management issues and recreation conflict. Several questions from those studies are included here, and the results compared to those from recent studies.

2. Demographic Data

Age

Question 13: Please check your appropriate age category:

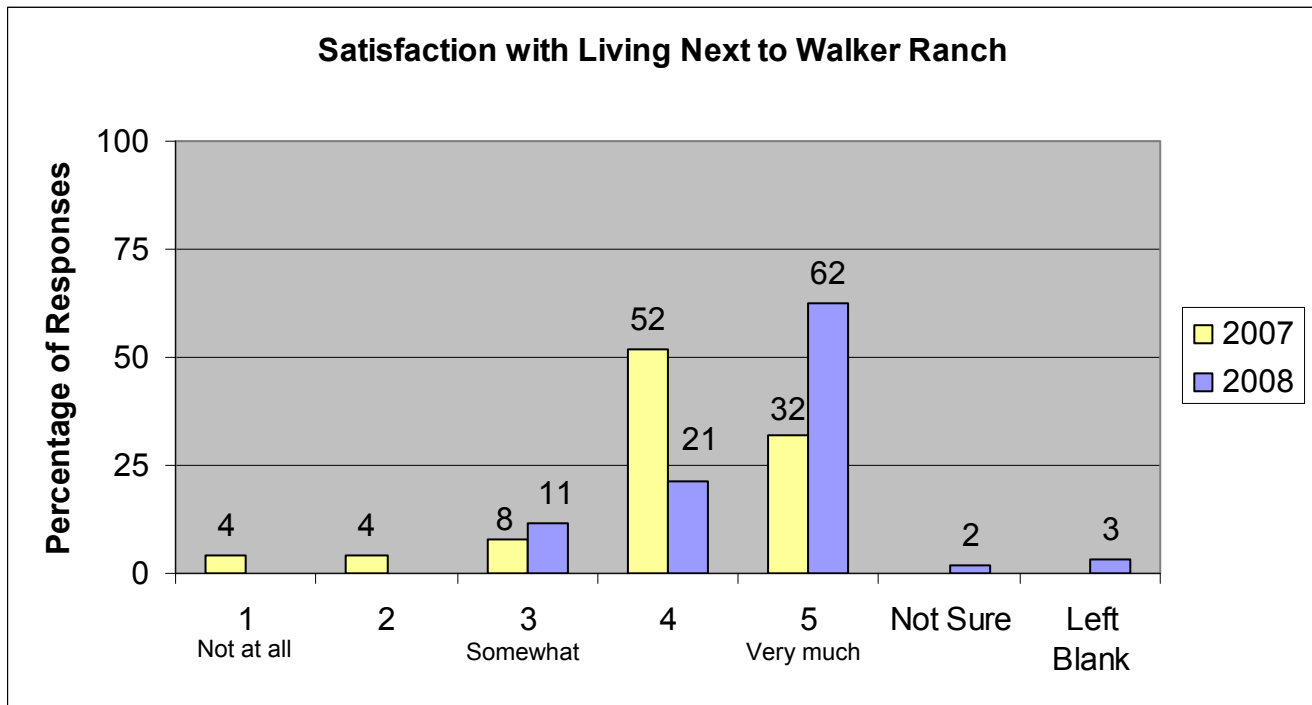
Age	%	N
40-60	61%	37
Over 60	30%	19
25-39	6%	4
Left blank	1%	1
Total	100%	61

3. Living Next to Walker Ranch

Question 1: Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware that you lived near a Boulder County Parks and Open Space property?

	%	N
Yes	97%	59
Left blank	3%	2
Total	100%	61

Question 2: Overall, are you satisfied with how living next to open space affects you and your property?



Respondents were given a five-point scale where 1 indicated “not at all” satisfied and 5 indicated “very much” satisfied.

The average satisfaction score for Walker Neighbors in 2008 was 4.53 (Standard Deviation* =0.71). In 2007, it was 4.0 (Standard Deviation =1.0).

The sample size at Walker in 2008 was 61, and in 2007 it was 25. The term “satisfied” was not defined so as to leave it’s meaning subjective to each respondent.

* The standard deviation is the most common measure of [statistical dispersion](#), measuring how widely spread the values in a data set are from the mean (average).

Question 3: In the past year, about how often have you visited Walker Ranch?

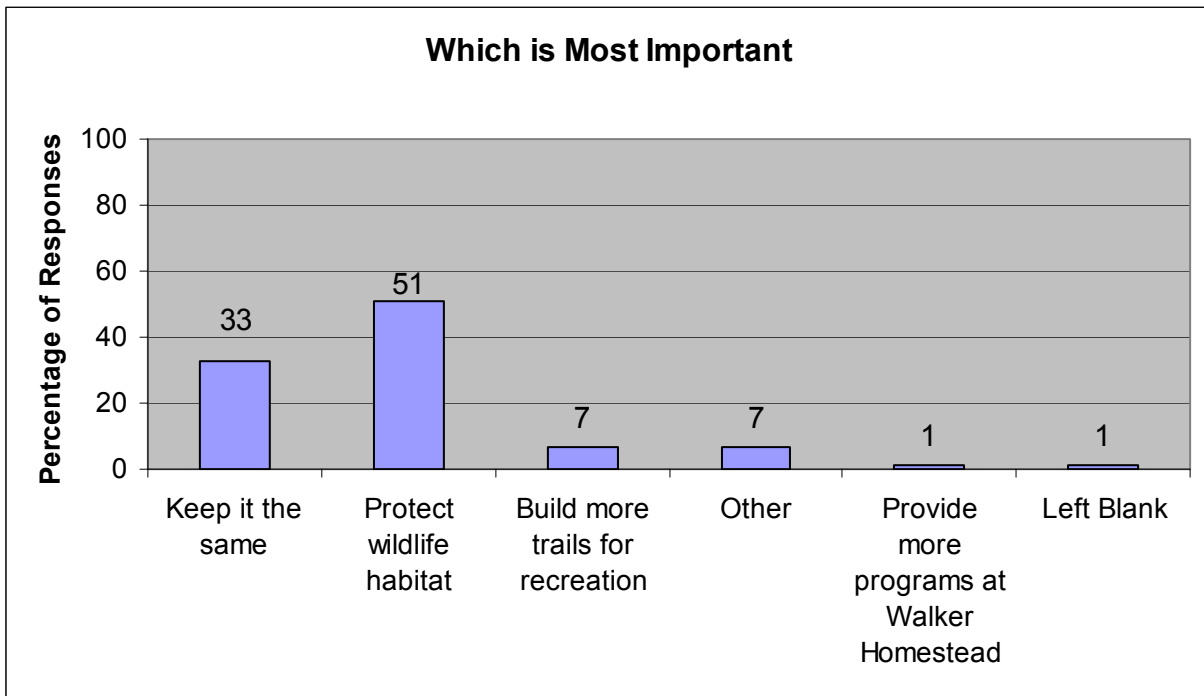
Visit Frequency	%	N
More than once a week	27%	16
About once a month	27%	16
About once a week	13%	8
Have visited, but not in the past year	11%	7
Once or twice in the past year	10%	6
About once a season	8%	5
Never been to Walker Ranch	3%	2
Left blank	1%	1
Total	100%	61

Question 4: In a few words, why do you enjoy living next to Walker Ranch in particular?

Question 2 was open-ended, so respondents were able to answer in their own words. Responses were then coded and categorized by content. Categories were “emergent.” That is, they emerged from the comments made by respondents, and were not conceived by the researcher. As the responses were coded, and categories emerged, further responses were then either placed into the appropriate category, or a new category was apparent. A full listing of these responses can be explored in Appendix H.

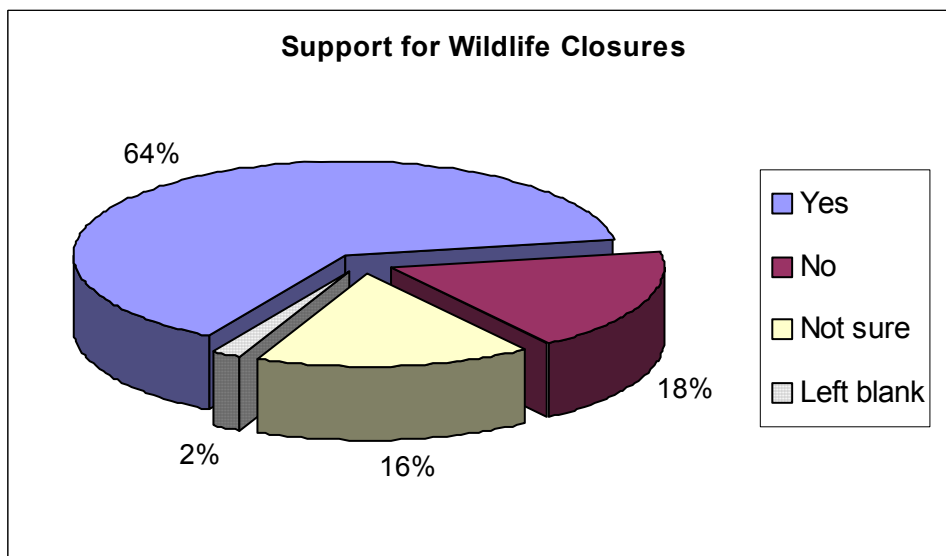
Response	%	N
Close proximity to trails	17%	10
Scenery/views/openness	12%	7
Knowledge that it will not be developed	12%	7
Beauty, e.g. “beautiful”, “nice”	10%	6
Wildlife viewing	7%	4
Fewer people/privacy	7%	4
Quiet/peaceful	5.1%	3
Remaining responses	34%	20
Total	100%	61

Question 6: Thinking only about Walker Ranch Open Space, which one of the following items is most important to you?

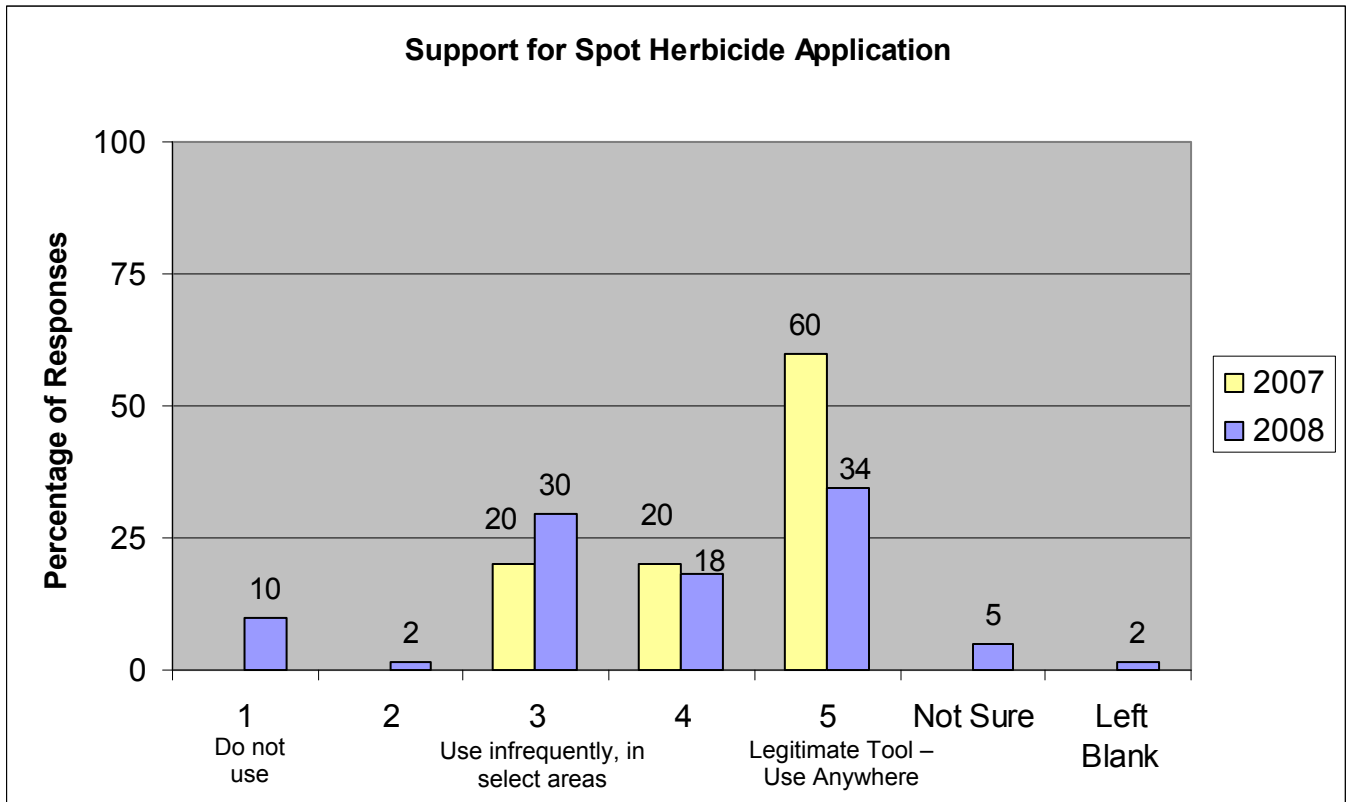


4. Natural Resource Management

Question 7: Boulder County Parks and Open Space must make decisions that reflect sound science and community values. ...Do you support selecting some areas outside the trail corridor as closed to the public for wildlife habitat protection?



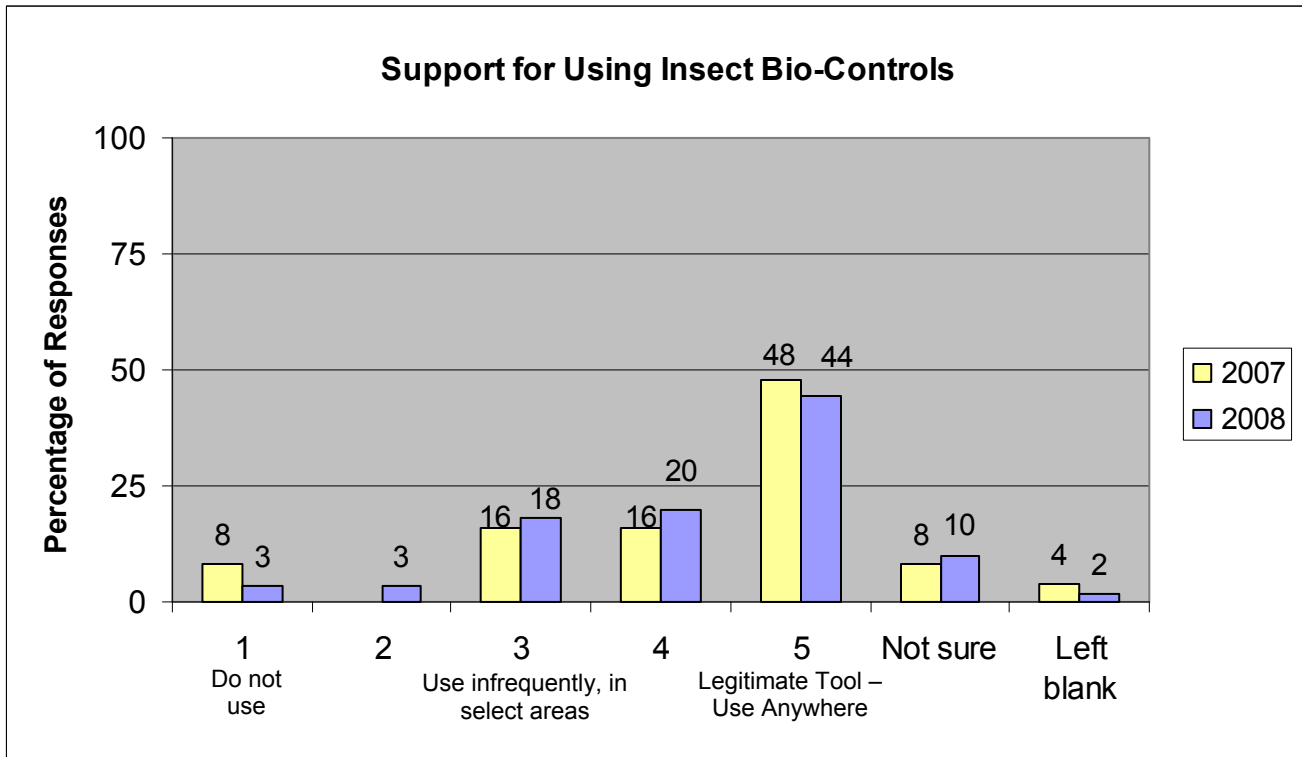
Question 9: Non-native invasive weeds are a huge problem for land managers...Do you support the spot application of herbicides at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?



In 2008 (N=61), the average response for support of spot herbicide application to control non-native weeds at Walker Ranch was 3.70 (Std. Dev.=1.28). In 2007 (N=25), it was 4.4 (Std. Dev.=0.8).

Respondents rated their support for spot application of herbicides to control weeds along a scale from 1 (“Do not use”) to 5 (“Legitimate tool—Use anywhere”), and “not sure.”

Question 10: Another effective tool in the effort to control non-native, invasive weeds is the use of insects that eat specific weeds – often called “bio-controls.”...Do you support the use of insect bio-controls at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?



In 2008 (N=61), the average response for supporting the use of insect bio-controls to control weeds at Walker Ranch was 4.11 (Std. Dev.=1.09). In 2007 (N=25), it was 4.1 (Std. Dev.=1.3)

As in the prior question, respondents rated their support for use of insect bio-controls to control weeds at Walker Ranch along a scale from 1 (“Do not use”) to 5 (“Legitimate tool—Use anywhere”), and “not sure.”

5. Recreation Conflict

In 2003, BCPOS conducted a baseline study of visitor conflict at six multiple-use properties, including Walker Ranch. In 2005, we again included a question about recreation conflict in the system-wide “Five-Year Study.” Differences in the wording of these two similar questions were made to accommodate a questionnaire versus an interview format. In 2008, the same questions from the 2005 study were included. Please note the difference between “interpersonal” conflicts and those caused by other factors.

Question 11: Sometimes, visitors can interfere with one another's goals on the trail, causing unpleasant experiences. This is generally referred to as conflict. Have you experienced conflict at Walker Ranch in the past year? If "Yes": Which of these best describes that conflict?

<i>Have you experienced conflict in the past year?</i>	%	N
No	56%	34
Yes	36%	22
Not sure	5%	3
Left blank	3%	2
Total	100%	61
<i>If "Yes": Which of these best describes that conflict?</i>		
Bikers not yielding	50%	11
Dogs off leash	18%	4
Bikers speed	9%	2
General discourtesy of other visitors	9%	2
Other	9%	2
Bikers disobeying rules	5%	1
Total	100%	22

6. Park Infrastructure Design and Management

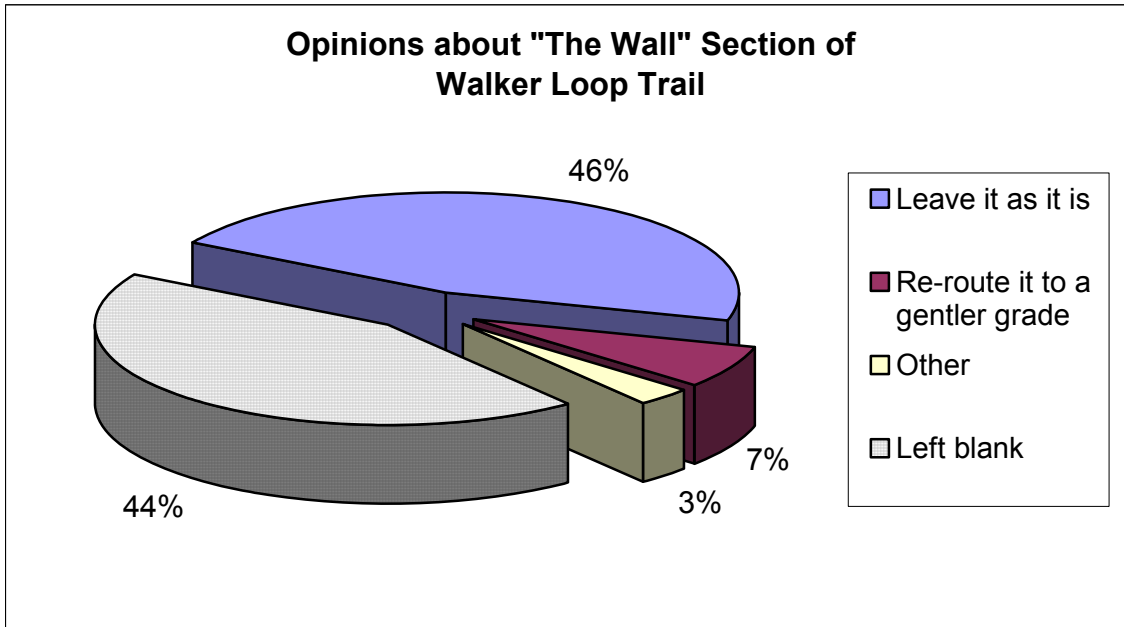
Question 12: BCPOS uses a variety of management tools to affect your experience on the trails. Thinking about all Boulder County Parks and Open Space Properties, please indicate your support for the following management tools on BCPOS properties:

Management Option	<i>Would Support</i>	<i>Would NOT Support</i>	<i>Left blank</i>	Totals
Designating different trails in the same park for different types of visitor activities	57%	38%	5%	100%
Designating different parks for different types of visitor activities	33%	59%	8%	100%
Designating different days of the week for different types of visitor activities	23%	67%	10%	100%
Having bikes travel one direction, and hikers and equestrians travel the opposite direction	33%	55%	12%	100%

Question 8: Are you familiar with a section of the Walker Ranch Loop Trail called "The Wall"?

Response	%	N
Yes	57%	35
No	30%	18
Not sure	11%	7
Left blank	2%	1
Total	100%	61

(If yes) Which of the following best describes your opinion about "The Wall"?



7. Long-term Recommendations

As with Question 2, Questions 5 and 14 were also open-ended, so respondents were able to answer in their own words. A full listing of these responses can be explored in Appendices I and J.

Question 5: What would you like to see at Walker Ranch in the Future?

Response	%	N
Nothing/Keep it the same	16%	10
More weed management	10%	6
More Ranch activities	3%	2
More trails	3%	2
Preserve natural values	3%	2
Re-forest burned area	3%	2
Remaining responses	38%	23
Left blank	23%	14
Total	100%	61

Question 14: Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Response	%	N
Recommendations and Suggestions	56	34
Positive Comments	3	2
Left blank	41	25
GRAND TOTAL	100%	61

Twenty-five respondents (41%) chose to leave this last question blank, while 56% offered suggestions or recommendations (e.g. “We would like to see more weed control”), while 6% related positive comments (e.g. “Incredible resource,” “Thank you.”) A complete, verbatim list of these comments is found in Appendix J.

4. Discussion

This section discusses the results detailed in the previous section.

Trailhead vs. Trailhead

The Meyers Gulch Trailhead offers access to the Meyers Homestead Trail, whereas the Loop Trailhead and Ethel Harrold Picnic Area offer access to the Loop Trail. These trails are very different in physical nature, and have different visitation patterns. As we saw on page nine, Meyers Gulch is frequented more by hikers, whereas the Loop Trail is dominated by mountain bikers. We may understand this difference by observing the topographical and design aspects of each in turn.

The Meyers Homestead Trail is a fully double-track, moderately rolling, non-technical trail that ends at an overlook. It is a 5.5 mile “out and back” trail. The Loop Trail, on the other hand, is mostly narrow, rocky and technical. It is very steep in long sections, and provides over 1,300 feet of elevation gain over the course of a 7.6 mile loop. The differences between these two trails are clear, and are illustrated by the preponderance of their respective visitors.

Visitor Conflict

On page 19, it was shown that seven percent of visitors experience trail-based conflict at Walker Ranch Open Space on any given day, while 10% have had conflict in the past year. Of those that reported conflict, 25% on that day cited the presence of horse droppings on the trail as conflict, and 17% reported it in the past year. While this wasn't the most common source of conflict, they are still notable proportions. What is unusual is that equestrians presently comprise only one to two percent of overall visitation at Walker Ranch: a very small number. As such, it may be that the simple presence of horse droppings, as opposed to the volume of it, is what is troublesome to some visitors. In addition, though it was repeatedly reported, this type of conflict is not of a volatile interpersonal nature like some others (e.g. improper yielding, poor communication).

Next Steps

This sociological data will be used to facilitate and bolster a new, updated version of the Walker Ranch Management Plan, scheduled for completion in 2009. In addition, the data can be consulted to aid in management and planning decisions at similar parks in the County system.

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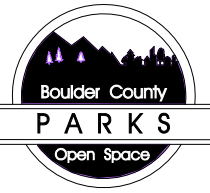
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Appendix A.

The Survey Instrument Part 1: Questionnaire for Park Visitors



Staff Use Only: Trailhead _____ Date _____ Day _____ Time _____

Boulder County Parks and Open Space is conducting this survey to learn more about the visitors who use this park. The information you provide on this survey will help us focus our efforts on providing quality recreation and effective management of your open spaces. Thank you for taking time to participate!

1. Which of the following best describes your main activity today at Walker Ranch Open Space? (Check ONLY one)

- Hike
- Mountain Bike
- Run
- Walk the dog
- Fish
- Ride a Horse
- Picnic
- Special Event
- View Wildlife
- Family gathering
- Photography/Art
- Other: **please describe** _____

2. Do you: (Check all that apply)

- currently own a dog or dogs?
- have a dog or dogs with you today?

3. In a few words, why do you enjoy visiting Walker Ranch in particular?

4. What would you like to see at Walker Ranch in the future?

5. Thinking only about Walker Ranch Open Space, which one of the following items is most important to you? (Check ONLY one)

- Protecting wildlife habitat
- Providing more programs at the Walker Homestead
- Building more trails for recreation
- Other: **please describe:**
- Keeping the property the same way it is now

6. Boulder County Parks and Open Space must make decisions that reflect sound science and community values. This often involves balancing recreation opportunities with wildlife habitat protection. Do you support selecting some areas outside the trail corridor as closed to the public for wildlife habitat protection? (Check one)

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

7. Are you familiar with a section of the Walker Ranch Loop Trail called "The Wall"? (Circle one)

NO: Skip Ahead to Question #8

NOT SURE: Skip Ahead to Question #8

YES: Which of the following best describes your opinion about "The Wall"? (Check one):

- Leave it as it is
- It should be re-routed to a gentler grade
- Not sure
- Other: **please describe:**

8. Non-native, invasive weeds are a huge problem for land managers. Non-native weeds push out native vegetation, which reduces wildlife habitat and can change the entire ecosystem. Often, land managers must use a variety of tools to protect native vegetation and effectively control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds. One of these is the *limited use* of herbicides. **Do you support the spot application of herbicides at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?** (Check one)

1	2	3	4	5	Not Sure
Do Not Use ▼	▼	Use Infrequently in Selected Areas ▼	▼	Legitimate Tool – Use Anywhere ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Another effective tool in the effort to control non-native, invasive weeds is the use of insects that eat specific weeds—often called “bio-controls.” Bio-controls are an alternative where herbicides may be inappropriate. **Do you support the use of insect bio-controls at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds?** (Check one)

1	2	3	4	5	Not Sure
Do Not Use ▼	▼	Use Infrequently in Selected Areas ▼	▼	Legitimate Tool – Use Anywhere ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Sometimes, visitors can interfere with one another’s goals on the trail, causing unpleasant experiences. This is generally referred to as conflict. Did you experience conflict at this park TODAY? (Circle one)

NO: Skip Ahead to Question #11

NOT SURE: Skip Ahead to Question #11

YES: Which of these best describes that conflict? (Check ONLY One)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ___ Bikers Not Yielding | ___ Horse Feces | ___ General discourtesy of visitors |
| ___ Bikers Speed | ___ Dog Feces | ___ Other: please describe: |
| ___ Bikers Courtesy | ___ Dogs Off-Leash | |
| ___ Bikers Disobeying Rules | ___ Dogs on-leash but not controlled | |

11. Where in the park did this conflict occur? (Check ALL that apply)

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ Trail Intersection | ___ Abrupt Corner | ___ Other location on trail |
| ___ Trailhead | ___ Parking Lot | ___ Not sure |
| ___ Scenic Overlook | ___ Other: please describe: | |

12. Have you experienced conflict at this park in THE PAST YEAR? (Circle one)

NO: Skip Ahead to Question #13

NOT SURE: Skip Ahead to Question #13

YES: Which of these best describes that conflict? (Check ONLY One)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bikers Not Yielding | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Feces | <input type="checkbox"/> General discourtesy of visitors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bikers Speed | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Feces | <input type="checkbox"/> Can't remember right now |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bikers Courtesy | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs Off-Leash | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please describe: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bikers Disobeying Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs on-leash but not controlled | |

13. Boulder County Parks and Open Space can use a variety of management tools to affect your experience on BCPOS trails. Thinking about *all Boulder County open space properties*, please indicate your support for the following management tools on BCPOS properties:

Would support ▼	Would NOT support ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>trails</u> in the same park for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>parks</u> for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>days of the week</u> for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having bikes travel one direction, and hikers and equestrians travel the opposite direction

To finish, we would like to ask some questions about you.

14. Where is your home? (Check ONLY One)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Next to Walker Ranch | <input type="checkbox"/> Longmont | <input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette | <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated Boulder County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville | <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Nederland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erie | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyons | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Broomfield |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward | <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these, but inside the State of Colorado | |

15. In the past year, about how often have you visited Walker Ranch?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> About once a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice in the past year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> About once a season | <input type="checkbox"/> This is my first time here |

15. Please check your appropriate age category:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 60 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? (feel free to continue writing on the back)

The Survey Instrument Part 2:
Questionnaire for Adjacent Landowners



Living Near County Open Space:

UPDATING THE WALKER RANCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware that you lived near a Boulder County Parks and Open Space property?

- Yes
- No

2. Overall, are you satisfied with how living near to open space affects you and your property?

(Circle one)

1	2	3	4	5	Not Sure
Not at all		Somewhat		Very much	

3. In the past year, about how often have you visited Walker Ranch?

- More than once a week About once a month Once or twice in the past year
- About once a week About once a season I have never been to Walker Ranch
- I have visited Walker Ranch, but not in the past year

4. In a few words, why do you enjoy living near Walker Ranch in particular?

5. What would you like to see at Walker Ranch in the future?

6. Thinking only about Walker Ranch Open Space, which one of the following items is most important to you?

(Check **ONLY** one)

- Protecting wildlife habitat
- Building more trails for recreation
- Keeping the property the same way it is now
- Providing more programs at the Walker Homestead
- Other: **please describe:**

7. Boulder County Parks and Open Space must make decisions that reflect sound science and community values. This often involves balancing recreation opportunities with wildlife habitat protection. Do you support selecting some areas outside the trail corridor as closed to the public for wildlife habitat protection? (Check one)

- No
- Not sure
- Yes

8. Are you familiar with a section of the Walker Ranch Loop Trail called “The Wall”? (Check one)

- No: Skip Ahead to Question #9
- Not sure: Skip Ahead to Question #9
- Yes: Which of the following best describes your opinion about “The Wall”? (Check one):
- ___ Leave it as it is
- ___ It should be re-routed to a gentler grade
- ___ Not sure
- ___ Other: please describe:

9. Non-native, invasive weeds are a huge problem for land managers. Non-native weeds push out native vegetation, which reduces wildlife habitat and can change the entire ecosystem. Often, land managers must use a variety of tools to protect native vegetation and effectively control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds. One of these is the *limited use* of herbicides. Do you support the spot application of herbicides at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds? (Check one)

1	2	3	4	5	Not Sure
Do Not Use ▼	▼	Use Infrequently in Selected Areas ▼	▼	Legitimate Tool – Use Anywhere ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Another effective tool in the effort to control non-native, invasive weeds is the use of insects that eat specific weeds—often called “bio-controls.” Bio-controls are an alternative where herbicides may be inappropriate. Do you support the use of insect bio-controls at Walker Ranch as one of many tools to control the spread of non-native, invasive weeds? (Check one)

1	2	3	4	5	Not Sure
Do Not Use ▼	▼	Use Infrequently in Selected Areas ▼	▼	Legitimate Tool – Use Anywhere ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Sometimes, visitors can interfere with one another’s goals on the trail, causing unpleasant experiences. This is generally referred to as conflict. Have you experienced conflict at Walker Ranch in THE PAST YEAR?

(Check one)

- No: Skip Ahead to Question #12
- Not sure: Skip Ahead to Question #12
- Yes: Which of these best describes that conflict? (Check ONLY One)
- ___ Bikers Not Yielding ___ Horse Feces ___ General discourtesy of visitors
- ___ Bikers Speed ___ Dog Feces ___ Other: please describe:
- ___ Bikers Communication ___ Dogs Off-Leash
- ___ Bikers Disobeying Rules ___ Dogs on-leash but not controlled

12. Boulder County Parks and Open Space can use a variety of management tools to affect your experience on BCPOS trails. Thinking about *all Boulder County open space properties*, please indicate your support for the following management tools on BCPOS properties:

Would support ▼	Would NOT support ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>trails</u> in the same park for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>parks</u> for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designating different <u>days of the week</u> for different types of visitor activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having bikes travel one direction, and hikers and equestrians travel the opposite direction

To finish, we would like to ask some questions about you.

13. Please check your appropriate age category:

___ Under 18 ___ 18-24 ___ 25-39 ___ 40-60 ___ Over 60

14. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? (feel free to continue writing on the back)

Thank you for your time!

Please return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.

If you would like to contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space, please do so by calling 303-678-6219 or visit <http://www.bouldercountyopenspace.org>

Appendix B.

Part 1: Cover Letter for Adjacent Landowners

(Space provided for Letterhead)

October 22, 2008

First Name Last Name

Address

City, State Zip Code

Dear (Name):

I am writing to you because one of the best ways we can find out if **Boulder County Parks and Open Space** truly understands the desires and challenges of neighbors like you is to reach out and ask. We need your help in this survey of residents who live near **Walker Ranch Open Space**. Nearby residents such as yourselves have unique relationships with this open space property. Many thanks in advance for your valuable input.

In order for the results of this survey to be accurate, **it is very important that this questionnaire be completed by the adult (18 years or older) who now lives there and has had the most recent birthday.**

Can you do us a favor? Please take five to ten minutes to fill out this important questionnaire. I assure you that your answers will be kept completely confidential. Your name and address get replaced with an anonymous number code once I receive the questionnaire. No individual answers will ever be identified.

Results from this survey will be used to help Boulder County Parks and Open Space better update the management plan for Walker Ranch. We need your valuable opinions in order to continue being a good neighbor. **Please return this completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-metered envelope by Saturday, November 15th.** The results from this survey will be summarized and available by January 30th, 2009. You can view the results at that time by visiting our website at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org.

If you have any questions or comments about this survey, I would be happy to talk to you. You can contact me at the phone number or email address below. Thank you very much for helping with this important and useful study.

Sincerely,



Michael Bauer
Visitor Studies Coordinator
Boulder County Parks and Open Space
(303) 678-6219
mbauer@bouldercounty.org

Code
Number

Part 2:
“Thank you”/Reminder Postcard for Adjacent Landowners



November 20th, 2008

Hello,

Recently, a questionnaire seeking your opinions about Walker Ranch Open Space was mailed to you. Your name was drawn because you own property near Walker Ranch.

First, **if you have already completed and returned the questionnaire to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today.** We are especially grateful for your help because it is only by asking open space neighbors like you to share your thoughts and concerns that we can understand how best to continue being a good neighbor. If you do not currently live at the address here, please **do not** complete the survey unless you are at this residence for at least **three months per year.**

If you did not receive a questionnaire, or it was misplaced, please contact me at **303-678-6219** or mbauer@bouldercounty.org and I will get another one in the mail to you today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Bauer".

Michael Bauer
Visitor Studies Coordinator
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Appendix C.

Survey Schedule and Surveys Collected at Walker Ranch

<i>Trailhead Name (% of Total Surveys)</i>	<i>Surveys Collected</i>	<i>Weekday Shifts</i>	<i>Weekend Shifts</i>	<i>Total Survey Shifts</i>	<i>Hours Surveyed</i>
Loop Trailhead (67%)					
<i>May</i>	23	1	1	2	4
<i>June</i>	303	5	12	17	34
<i>July</i>	115	10	5	15	30
<i>August</i>	151	5	7	12	24
<i>September</i>	88	1	4	5	10
TOTAL:	680	22	29	51	102
Meyers Gulch Trailhead (29%)					
<i>May</i>	15	2	1	3	6
<i>June</i>	149	7	7	14	28
<i>July</i>	40	6	5	11	22
<i>August</i>	85	6	9	15	30
<i>September</i>	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	289	21	22	43	86
Ethel Harrold Trailhead (4%)					
<i>May</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>June</i>	7	3	3	6	12
<i>July</i>	9	3	4	7	14
<i>August</i>	10	5	4	9	18
<i>September</i>	12	2	3	5	10
TOTAL:	38	13	14	27	54
Total for all trailheads:	1,007	56	65	121	242

Appendix D.
 Respondents “Other” Primary Activity

“Other” Activity			
<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Number of “Other” Activities</i>	
Loop Trailhead	680	Boy Scout project	3
		Birding	1
		“Service”	1
		Nature retreat	1
“Other” Activity			
<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Number of “Other” Activities</i>	
Meyers Gulch Trailhead	289	Birding	8
		Plant identification	4
		Birthday hike	2
		Butterfly count	2
		Wildflowers	2
		Mountain skating	1

Appendix E.

Respondents' Reasons for Enjoying Visiting Walker Ranch

<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Comments Stated by Respondent</i>
Loop Trailhead	680	<p>Mountain Bikers (N=353)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trail quality, e.g. "single track," "nice" 71</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Biking experience, e.g. "Great biking" 68</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Scenery/Views/Vistas 48</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Beautiful" , "nice, or "pretty" 34</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Challenging/technical Trail 34</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Close Proximity 22</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Variety of terrain 11</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Solitude 10</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Best" biking trail in Boulder 8</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Landscape features, e.g. "river" "forest" 7</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Personal Affinity "love it" 5</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Fun" 5</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Outdoors," "Fresh Air" 4</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To try a new trail 4</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Not crowded 3</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ability to ride from town 3</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trail markers 3</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Location 2</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"One of a few biking trails" in area 2</p> <p>Hikers (N=245)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Scenery/Views/Vistas 39</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 35</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Close Proximity 23</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The River/water 20</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trail quality, e.g. "nice, well-maintained" 20</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Variety/diversity of terrain 20</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Nice hike 14</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"First Time" 8</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Loop Trail 7</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Quiet/serenity 7</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Wild" or "Wilderness" quality 6</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Length of Trail 6</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Outdoors" "Fresh Air" 4</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Not crowded 4</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wildflowers 3</p>

Loop Trailhead	680	(“Hikers” continued from previous page)	
		Exercise	3
		Cooler weather	3
		Well-marked trail	3
		"Dog friendly"	2
		Solitude	2
		Good Fishing	2
		Large size open space	2
		Personal Affinity, e.g. “love it”	1
		History	1
		No fees	1
		To see what County has done here	1
		Runners (N=36)	
		Scenery/Views/Vistas	8
		Good trail quality, e.g. “nice,” “well-maintained”	5
		“Beautiful” , “nice, or “pretty”	4
		"Dog friendly"	3
		Running experience, e.g. “nice run”	2
		Close Proximity	2
		Not crowded	2
		Quiet/serenity	1
		"Back country" or "Wilderness" quality	1
		Length of Trail	1
		“Outdoors”	1
		Exercise	1
		The River/water	1
		Variety/diversity of terrain	1
		Challenging/technical Trail	1
		Dog Walker (N=16)	
		The river/water for dogs	4
		“Beautiful,” “nice,” or “pretty”	2
		Close Proximity	2
		Trail type, e.g. “Great loop trail”	2
		One of few Mountain Bike Trails	1
		Trail quality, e.g. “nice,” “well-maintained”	1
		It has "everything"	1
		Quiet/serenity	1
		Trail length	1

Loop Trailhead	680	<p>Anglers (N=16)</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 5</p> <p>Quiet/serenity 2</p> <p>“Beautiful” , “nice, or “pretty” 2</p> <p>Fishing experience, fish 2</p> <p>Close Proximity 2</p> <p>Trail quality, e.g. “nice,” “well-maintained” 1</p> <p>"Back country" or "Wilderness" quality 1</p> <p>“Other” activity (N=7)</p> <p>View wildlife 1</p> <p>Community Service 1</p> <p>Trees 1</p> <p>“Beautiful,” “nice,” or “pretty” 1</p> <p>Variety/diversity of terrain 1</p> <p>Photography/Art (N=1)</p> <p>“Beautiful,” “nice,” or “pretty” 1</p> <p>Picnic (N=1)</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 1</p> <p>View Wildlife (N=1)</p> <p>Not crowded 1</p>
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<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Comments Stated by Respondent</i>
Meyers Gulch Trailhead	289	Hikers (N=161)
		Scenery/Views/Vistas 33
		Wildflowers 17
		Quiet/peaceful 16
		Nice hike/great hike 13
		Close Proximity 13
		“Beautiful,” “nice,” or “pretty” 12
		Moderate difficulty 10
		Not crowded 9
		Trail quality, e.g. “nice, well-maintained” 8
		Spacious, "Open" feeling 6
		Be in nature 3
		Variety of terrain 2
		Exercise 2
		To try a new trail 2
		First time 2
		Mountain biking 1
		Birding 1
		The meadows 1
		History 1
		Free access 1
		Recommended by friend 1
		"Dog friendly" 1
		Cooler temperatures 1
		Solitude 1
		Good for children 1
		Trees 1

Meyers Gulch Trailhead (continued)	289	<p>Mountain Bikers (N=85)</p> <p>Trail quality, e.g. "nice, well-maintained" 18</p> <p>Biking experience, e.g. "great biking" 16</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 12</p> <p>Close Proximity 7</p> <p>Challenging trail 5</p> <p>Not crowded 4</p> <p>Fun 3</p> <p>"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 3</p> <p>Spacious, "Open" feeling 2</p> <p>Variety of terrain 2</p> <p>First time 2</p> <p>Be in nature 1</p> <p>Freedom 1</p> <p>Fast downhill 1</p> <p>Can bike with dog 1</p> <p>Personal Affinity "love it" 1</p> <p>River 1</p> <p> "Other" Activity (N=19)</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 5</p> <p>Birding 4</p> <p>wildflowers 3</p> <p>"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 3</p> <p>Trail quality, nice, well-maintained 2</p> <p>Good wildlife habitat 1</p> <p>Variety of ecosystems 1</p> <p>Wild/wilderness feel 1</p> <p>Moderate difficulty 1</p> <p>Nice winter hike 1</p> <p>Close Proximity 1</p> <p>Look at plants/trees 1</p> <p>Historic Ranch 1</p>
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<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Comments Stated by Respondent</i>
Ethel Harrold Picnic Area	38	<p>Mountain Bikers (N=21)</p> <p>Trail quality, e.g. "single track," "nice" 9</p> <p>Challenging/technical trail 5</p> <p>"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 4</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 4</p> <p>Mountain biking 4</p> <p>Solitude/secluded 2</p> <p>River/Creek 2</p> <p>Close Proximity 2</p> <p>Quiet/peaceful 1</p> <p>Wildflowers 1</p> <p>Not crowded 1</p> <p>Hikers (N=11)</p> <p>"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 3</p> <p>River/Creek 2</p> <p>Nice hike 2</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 2</p> <p>Trail quality, e.g. single track, nice 2</p> <p>Challenging/technical Trail 1</p> <p>Close Proximity 1</p> <p>Solitude/secluded 1</p> <p>Anglers (N=6)</p> <p>Fishing experience, e.g. "great fishing", "good fish" 4</p> <p>"Beautiful," "nice," or "pretty" 3</p> <p>Scenery/Views/Vistas 2</p> <p>Close Proximity 1</p> <p>Solitude/secluded 1</p> <p>River/Creek 1</p>

Appendix F.

Respondents' Preferences for the Future of Walker Ranch

<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Comments Stated by Respondent</i>																																																																						
Loop Trailhead	680	<p>Hikers (N=245)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Keep it the same/Nothing</td><td style="text-align: right;">55</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Potable water</td><td style="text-align: right;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More wildlife</td><td style="text-align: right;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">"It's perfect"</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More trees</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More trails</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More restrooms</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Separate trails for users</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Re-plant burned area</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Camping sites</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More trash cans</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Fewer people</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Bikers more communicative</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Alternate use days</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">No bikes allowed</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Longer trails</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Guided hikes</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More polite bikers</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Wider trail</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">No trail on the road</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Benches</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Shuttle up Flagstaff Road</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Less loose rocks</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Fewer bikes</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Voice/Sight command for dogs</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Less Ranger enforcement</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">No biking on hiker trails</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Add picnic area</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Improved road/entrance</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More interpretive signage</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">No dogs</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">More people</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">No dog droppings on trail</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Access to Gross Reservoir</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> </table>	Keep it the same/Nothing	55	Potable water	9	More wildlife	7	"It's perfect"	6	More trees	6	More trails	5	More restrooms	5	Separate trails for users	5	Re-plant burned area	3	Camping sites	3	More trash cans	3	Fewer people	2	Bikers more communicative	2	Alternate use days	2	No bikes allowed	2	Longer trails	2	Guided hikes	1	More polite bikers	1	Wider trail	1	No trail on the road	1	Benches	1	Shuttle up Flagstaff Road	1	Less loose rocks	1	Fewer bikes	1	Voice/Sight command for dogs	1	Less Ranger enforcement	1	No biking on hiker trails	1	Add picnic area	1	Improved road/entrance	1	More interpretive signage	1	No dogs	1	More people	1	No dog droppings on trail	1	Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon	1	Access to Gross Reservoir	1
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Loop Trailhead (continued)	680	(Hikers, continued)	
		Horse boarding	1
		More Homestead events	1
		Swimming	1
		Waterfalls	1
		Better-marked trail	1
		Mountain Bikers (N=353)	
		Keep it the same/Nothing	75
		More trails	40
		Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon	26
		Potable water	16
		More mountain bike trails	14
		Wall bypass trail	10
		Bikes directional travel	8
		Alternate use days	7
		Dogs off leash	6
		"It's perfect"	4
		Connector trail to Boulder	4
		Longer trails	4
		Separate Use trails	3
		Voice/Sight command for dogs	3
		Fewer rocks/sand on trail	3
		Erosion control	2
		More trail maintenance	2
		More wildlife	2
		More single-track	2
		Hand sanitizer in bathroom	2
		Keep it open	2
		Fewer people	2
		More easy trails	2
		More baseball	1
		Better-marked trail	1
		A bike "trials" course	1
		Provide non-technical bypass trails	1
		More trees	1
		Cleaner bathrooms	1
		No dogs allowed	1
		Improve stairs	1

Loop Trailhead (continued)	680	<p>(Mountain Bikers, continued)</p> <p>More restrooms 1</p> <p>Mountain bike only 1</p> <p>Keep trails open to bikes 1</p> <p>Fewer signs 1</p> <p>More picnic tables 1</p> <p>More trail signage 1</p> <p>More wildlife protection 1</p> <p>Mountain Bike Education signs 1</p> <p>Trees 1</p> <p>Runners (N=36)</p> <p>Keep it the same/Nothing 8</p> <p>Dogs off leash 4</p> <p>Alternate use days= 2</p> <p>Potable water 2</p> <p>More trails 2</p> <p>No bikes allowed 1</p> <p>Longer trails 1</p> <p>"It's perfect" 1</p> <p>Bike trail to Eldorado Canyon 1</p> <p>Better-marked trail 1</p> <p>Voice/Sight command for dogs 1</p> <p>More trash cans 1</p> <p>More open space 1</p> <p>Bus route 1</p> <p>Dog Walkers (N=16)</p> <p>Allow dogs off leash 4</p> <p>Keep it the same/Nothing 3</p> <p>Voice/Sight command for dogs 1</p> <p>More trails 1</p> <p>Better signage 1</p> <p>"It's perfect" 1</p> <p>Bathroom at Crescent Meadows 1</p> <p>Widen the trail 1</p>
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Loop Trailhead (continued)	680	“Other” Activities (N=	
		No further development	1
		Nothing/keep it the same	2
		Open at night	1
		Better trail signage	1
		Picnic (N=1)	
		Nothing/keep it the same	1
Photography/Art (N=1)			
Better map/signage	1		

<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Total N</i>	<i>Comments Stated by Respondent</i>	
Meyers Gulch Trailhead	289	Hikers (N=161)	
		Keep it the same/Nothing	36
		More trails	10
		More restrooms	8
		Potable water	6
		More trail maintenance	6
		Dogs off leash	5
		More wildlife	5
		More benches	4
		More bird boxes	3
		More Rangers	3
		"It's perfect"	2
		Camping	1
		Alternate use trails	1
		More trails	1
		More trash cans	1
		Voice/Sight command for dogs	1
		More interpretive signage	1
		Better trail map	1
		More horses	1
Limited access	1		
More Homestead events	1		
More history information	1		
Less dog droppings	1		

Meyers Gulch Trailhead (continued)	289	(Hikers, continued)																																												
		<table> <tr><td>Fewer houses</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>No power lines</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Remove noxious weeds</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Picnic area sign to bathroom</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Trail mileage markers</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Fewer houses	1	No power lines	1	Remove noxious weeds	1	Picnic area sign to bathroom	1	Trail mileage markers	1																																		
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Meyers Gulch Trailhead (continued)	289	Dog Walkers (N=9)	
		Keep it the same/Nothing	2
		Dogs off leash	2
		Trash cans for dog waste	1
		Voice/Sight command for Dogs	1
		Runners (N=9)	
		Keep it the same/Nothing	4
		More restrooms	1
		Wildlife Viewers (N=5)	
		No Dogs Allowed	2
		Keep it the same/Nothing	1
		Anglers (N=1)	
Keep it the same/Nothing	1		

Appendix G.

Anything Else?

Trailhead Respondents' final comments: commending BCPOS or recommendations about BCPOS policies, activities or infrastructure.

<i>Positive Comments</i>	
Trailhead	Response Given
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	Beautiful place
	Beautiful place, good use of my tax \$
	Beautiful place. Hope to come back to bike in the future.
	Beautiful trails. Make mtn biking more technical
	Boulder Open Space is awesome. Thank you very much and keep up the good work!!
	Colorado native 2nd generation & love it here. Thanks for gov't programs to keep such places viable.
	Educational graphic signs are nice
	Excellent waymarking & available free maps
	Fantastic place, can't wait to come back, Andy Wales
	Fun, fun! Thank you
	Good job adding the bathroom, don't sanitize the trail
	Good trail building
	Great area
	great day. Great place to hike.
	Great job with mixed use signs & warning of dangerous areas
	Great job! Thanks for all you do!
	Great job!!
	Great place
	Great place to recreate
	Great place!
	Great place, beautiful
	Great public resource!
	Great rec area
	Great trail head facility
	Great trail system in Boulder - would be nice to have a remote, but accessible small reservoir to be used as a swimming hole.
	great trail system, friendly people
	Great trail!
	Great trail, great day
	Great trail, keep it open to mountain bikers
	Great trails, very well maintained & impressed.
	Great work!
	Have a good day
	Having one weekend day w/ no horses!

Positive Comments

Trailhead	Response Given
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	I had fun
	I like that it's a free park
	I like this trail
	I liked the occasional bench and picnic tables
	I love the trail
	I love this place
	I love this place.
	I love this trail
	I love this trail
	I love this trail!! It really hurts me.
	I love this trail. I hope every one will get along
	I love this trail. I love bringing my dog. I think it is great that the trails have been groomed for bikes.
	I love Walker and in general the bikers are more respectful here than other trails I use.
	I love Walker but wish dogs could be off leash!
	I really like this place because you can be on your own for a while without being bothered by cars and enjoy the beautiful environment.
	I really love the access to all of the open space & mountain parks. They are so close to Boulder & all are well maintained. Thanks!!!
	I really love the fact that there are mtb'rs, walkers, & runners, etc.
	I'll be back!
	I'll be back.
	I'm out of shape, but loved it
	I'm very happy w/ trail
	Keep up the good work
	Keep up the good work
	Keep up the good work!
	Keep up the good work!
	Keep up the good work. Don't try to over-regulate Walker
	Keep up the good work. Emergency phones are a good idea.
	Love it
	Love it, it's perfect, keep as is!
	Love the Boulder County Open Spaces
	Love the park
	Love the trails of Boulder County
	Love this place
	Love this place
	Loved the informative signs
	loved this hike!
	Nice park
	Nice park, keep it up!
	Nice parking lot facilities upgrade, great trail work!
	Nice trail
	No you are doing a great job. Thank you
People are so lucky to live here! Enjoy it!	

Positive Comments

Trailhead	Response Given
	Thanks for the opportunity to participate
	Thanks for the parks & open spaces!
	Thanks for your work!
	Thanks!
	Thanks!
	Thanks!
	Thanks!
	Thanks! Trails like Walker, Hall, & Heil are one of the reasons it's great to live here
	Thanks, great park
	Really beautiful!
	River is so nice! Thanks for doing what you do.
	Thank you
	Thank you
	Thank you
	Thank you - I loved this loop hike.
	Thank you Boulder Parks & Open Space for everythnig you do! You are the reason I live in Boulder!
	Thank you for all your hard work!
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	Thank you for maintaining this lovely space
	Thank you for the survey - this all matters!
	Thank you!
	Thanks
	Thanks for being here!
	Thanks for maintaining the trails - you all are the best!
	Thanks for taking such good care of the park & facilities
	The new bathrooms are a great plus as is the expanded parking lot.
	The parks are a great asset to the community
	There have been many positive changes recently!
	This is a beautiful area! Let's keep it that way and get bikes off of it.
	This made my trip!
	This place is great
	This trail rocks, thanks for making it, and keeping it well maintained.
	This was the best mountain bike experience of my life
	Thx for maintaining mult use trails!
	Very nice park
	Walker Ranch is great!
	We enjoyed visit
	We love the new connection to Meyers Gulch. It would be great to see more new trails like this!
	Wonderful place

Positive Comments

Trailhead	Response Given
Meyers Gulch (N=289)	A beautiful place, preserve it
	BCPOS does a great job - keep up the good work!
	Beautiful wildflowers
	Beautiful, quiet, serene place; loved the bench at the end of trail
	Bikers were very polite when passing us today
	Excellent upkeep of the trails. I do sincerely appreciate the closure of some areas in order to protect wildlife habitat, keep it up!
	Fun trail. Thanks - Boulder County!
	Had a great day here
	I enjoyed my visit
	I feel everyone today was considerate (biker & hiker) yielding as needed & courteous
	I had a great time, great park, will be back
	I had a lot of fun
	I love BCPOS! Keep the land open and protected!
	I love our parks
	I love this park!! I will do my part to keep it nice and clean. Please ask others to help also.
	I'm a trail guide & bike patrol & love the parks here. Thanks!!
	It's great - we'll be back more frequently
	It's nice to see this area as it was back in the 80's
	It's one of our favorite hikes!
	Just discovered this place, plan on making it a regular stop
	Just love the Boulder C.P.O.S.
	Keep the view beautiful
	Keep up the good work
	Keep up the good work - emphasis on preservation in your planning
	Keep up the good work - our favorite trail (Homestead/Meyers Gulch)
	Keep up the good work - Thank you for your conscientiousness
	Keep up the good work!
	Keep up the good work!
	Keep up the good work!
	Keep up the great work!
	Love it - so beautiful!
	Love it here!
	Love the outdoors and am a CU student in aerospace engineering
	Lovely
	Maintenance of trails is superb. Thank you!
	My wife and I brought our 7 yr old twins today to get them used to day hiking and nature walks
	Nice trail - well-maintained
	No! Thank you!
	None

Overall very nice experience
Thanks for all the great work on the trails! I love the open space and parks in Boulder County
Thanks for the great job keeping the open space as is!!
thanks for the survey!
Thanks for your work
Thanks!
Trail is maintained nicely. Thank you!
Very nice!
Visited with 1 year old - great trail to let her walk a short distance and see plants/wildlife
We enjoyed the park
Wonderful!
You have a nice lady at the trailhead.

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<i>Positive Comments</i>	
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Trailhead	Response Given
Ethel Harrold Picnic Area (N=38)	Great open space!
	Great place!
	Certainly on the day I walked the loop, Friday 22 Aug, there was no conflict. I saw only one other walker and 7 bikers, all of whom were polite

Suggestions and Recommendations

Trailhead	Response Given
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	A bike rack
	Am glad the Park exists and would like to see more MTB trails in Boulder. Please! Also - reopen Long Canyon to dogs please!
	As long as people respect each other I believe all trails should be open for multiple use
	Being hard of hearing, I do not always hear bikers until they are right on top of me (coming from behind). I believe every bike that is used on open space property should be equipped with a simple bell (like the kind that used to be and may still be used)
	Bike trails different than other traffic
	Build connecting trail from Boulder, please
	Can more land be parkland at the bottom so that trails are longer?
	Connect bike trails to Eldorado State Park and/or thru to Boulder or Marshall Mesa
	Connect Eldorado to Walker
	Delineate need for more mountain bike trails. With more trails available there is less pressure. Overall though, great job w/ Parks.
	Don't restrict bikers - it's a safe, healthy activity & there are dozens of trails already where bikes are not allowed
	Don't succumb to the pressure of mountain biking organizations. If trails are traditional dog and/or hiking trails please maintain them that way. If mountain bike trails are needed for the growing sport, purchase more land. We need more land.
	Education about how bikers, hiker, and horseback riders can get along & co-exist seems to be working
	Educational graphic signs are nice
	Hand sanitizer
	I am interested in the connection through Eldo for 2 reasons. 1. Give cyclists a chance for a connection to the loop w/less pavement. 2. Give residents up near Walker an option for commuting to work by bike other than Flagstaff.
	I believe bikes should be allowed on any and all trails!!!
	I don't agree with limiting use for certain users. Even though we had a conflict, I would not want to limit use, maybe educate people about right of way.
	I would support directional rules for bikes such as Betasso
	I'd like more mtn. Bike trails
If you are going to have non-mtn bike trails then you should have some mtn bike only trails. When a trail is close to bikers on certain days it should also be closed to hikers on other days!	
I think if MTBers were better educated there would be less issues between all users. Most often many people just haven't been told about proper trail manners and use	
I wish BCPOS would stop closing areas and restricting dogs - the reason I only visit Walker once a season is because I can't bring my dog on voice & site command.	

<i>Suggestions and Recommendations</i>	
Trailhead	Response Given
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	I would hope to see things stay the same. Locals have been riding here a long time. There will always be a few folks on the trail who aren't courteous.
	I would like to see a mtn bike trail and a trail connecting Walker with Boulder and more mtn bike trails in general. Some trails where dogs are allowed off leash.
	I would not want Walker Ranch restricted to hiker/biker only. I like it the way it is right now. Thanks.
	In the 35 years I've lived here the only thing that's changed is there's more people they still behave the same. Please don't pander to the whiners and the prigs!
	Incredible place
	I've always been a supporter of equal access rights to the trails as long as it's not motorized. Bicycles, hikers, horses can all share and enjoy nature peacefully
	Keep it like it is. Great place. Keep the wall.
	Keep mountain biking free!
	Keep on making great trails
	Keep the stream a fly's & use only for fishing
	Leave it as is
	Leave the forest as is, all it should be governed by nature not just humans
	Link down Flagstaff for MTB's on trail, LeeHill to Eldorado Canyon MTB trail
	Make the section that connects to Eldorado Springs open to bikes
	Maybe more specific rules for bikers. If they are supposed to yield to peds & horses it's not happening. But it's easier for peds to yield.
	Meyers Gulch Trail sign points left, it's confusing
	Mixed use trails work in Jeffco, I think Bldr can work also!
	More biking trails
	More cyclists today than I've ever encountered, most were very pleasant, one was very aggressive. Hate to condemn them all for the behavior of one
	More MTB trails
	More trails
	More trails on County land, less horses
	More trails open to mountain bikes please!
	Mt. Bikes always!
	Need more bike trails
	Needs to have longer trails and be able to hike other trails
	Open more properties to the public. Thank you.
Perhaps a voice/tag dog area	
Please build a connector down to Eldo. Canyon for MTB's!	
Please do not clear cut Bald Mtn. Open Space on Sunshine!!!	

<i>Suggestions and Recommendations</i>	
Trailhead	Response Given
Walker Ranch Loop (N=680)	Please don't turn Walker into Betasso with limited days of week for riders. Please.
	Please keep allowing dogs on the trail!
	Please keep biking fully legal
	Please keep Walker available for biking. It is wonderful! Thanks!
	Please keep Walker Ranch available for bikers! It is the only loop in Boulder!
	Please preserve Walker the way it is today. Keep the wall. Make connector mtn bike to Eldorado so we can bike Doddy to Walker
	Please preserve wildlife for viewing
	Providing a way to bicycle (off road) from Boulder would reduce # of cars on Flagstaff and parking requirements
	Put some waterless hand cleaner in bathroom like RMNP
	The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA) can help with mtb rider education (and trailwork) to help minimize trail use conflict. They've been very successful with this in the past & I'd like to see them involved if conflict problems come up.
	The cyclists general lack of respect toward hikers was a real turnoff
	The more trails open to bikes in Boulder County the less concentration of bikers on any one trail, less chance of conflict
	There are plenty of hiking trails around Boulder, & not enough biking trails and closing more trails to bikes would encourage more illegal trails & destruction of habitat.
	This is one of the only trails open to mountain biking. Keep it open all days of the week both directions.
	Too many signs - nobody reads, Boulder needs to maintain a minimum flow below Gross Dam in the winter, make area catch & release or limit # of fish killed. Make area flies & lures only. Area has the potential to be an outstanding fishery if managed corr
	Too much enforcement leads to less enjoyment
	Waterless hand sanitizer in bathrooms
Would be nice to be able to have connecting bike trail to Eldorado Canyon. Nice to see new trails built (connector to Meyer). Nice new bathrooms & parking lot.	

Suggestions and Recommendations

Trailhead	Response Given
Meyers Gulch (N=289)	Certain restrictions are valid and protect wildlife, scenery, the environment. Others may go too far in this direction. Walker Ranch should consider voice & sight tag resolutions & should not consider any bike restrictions. We have enough of those.
	Ask cyclists to build trails. Make them single direction & bikes only. Have some trails only open to hikers.
	Limit dogs to 6-foot leash
	OK to add new specific use trails, but do not limit existing trails
	I feel there's definitely room for responsible dog owners here - on leash. Make dangers from wild animals very clear to people and their animals
	Numerous times I have encountered dogs off leash at Meyers Gulch
	Do not let recreationalists overtake Walker Ranch. Perfect as is.
	What you did at Betasso. I.e. took a trail built by MTBers & for MTBers and closed it to MTB on certain days was JUST PLAIN WRONG!!! Please be reasonable about decisions in the future. I believe Boulder OS could greatly improve usage & reduce conflict
	Keep the way it is. Thanks.
	Separate activities
	Connect Walker Ranch to Magnolia Road and aqueduct to the north, link trails to Boulder
	Connect to Magnolia Road, utilize aqueduct, connect to Boulder for bikers
	It would be nice if there were a more detailed noxious weed training along the trail, as in more detailed sign. Why not use your visitors to help get rid of them? Most that are of concern here are easily recognizable
	Please support biking community. There are only a few bad apples.
	Question 10 is highly biased towards bike problems rather than any other type (hiker, equestrian, etc.). Are bikers really that much of a problem? I encounter hikers who do not know trail etiquette more frequently than any other group.
	More leash laws, thanks for the survey!
	More trails for bikes, only bikes at certain times since options are limited. Less horse poop and education for horse stay off (wet) trails and multiple use trails - need sound horses and riders
	Rangers need to patrol this area more for off-leash dogs
	Open Heil and Hall to dogs on leash, at least on trail
	People who object to other users complain vociferously. Those of us who are happy to share trails are quieter about it. Multiple use creates occasional conflicts, but no one ever makes a big fuss about harmony.
	Reduce leash laws - voice & sight
	The ruts in the path make it unsafe to use since the path is gravelly
	More open space config. For dogs
	Should charge (have a permit) for non-Boulder County users to help maintain parks & trails
	You have a nice lady at the trailhead.
	Severely fine/keep off trail (for those who pay fines and keep breaking rule) - dogs off leash/out-of-control/not picking up poop
	I walk/hike a lot and have had some close calls when bikers come from behind at fast speeds and I wasn't aware they were approaching

Suggestions and Recommendations

Trailhead	Response Given
Ethel Harrold Picnic Area (N=38)	<p>Hard to find the Ethel Harrold trailhead turnoff from Flagstaff Road</p> <p>There is a large group of bike-commuters near me that are very interested in bike commuting through Eldorado Springs to Boulder. It saves us quite a bit of vertical feet to climb. This could also save much fuel for those who would prefer not to drive all the time.</p>

Appendix H.

Neighbors' Reasons for Enjoying Living Next to Walker Ranch (or Not)

Comments Stated by Respondent	Number of Comments
Close access to trails	10
Knowing it won't be developed	7
“Beautiful,” “nice,” or “pretty”	6
Openness of Land	5
Wildlife viewing	4
Fewer people	3
Quiet/Peaceful	3
"Wild" or "Wilderness" quality	3
Mountain biking	2
Trail quality, e.g. “nice,” “well-maintained”	2
Not affected/Don't particularly enjoy	2
Historic significance	2
Scenery/Views/Vistas	2
Well-maintained park	1
Adds value to our lives	1
Privacy offered by open space	1
Am Walker descendant	1
Minimal traffic near home	1
River access	1
Access to Walker Annual Event	1
"Best open space"	1

Appendix I.

Neighbors' Preferences for the Future of Walker Ranch

Stated Preference	Number of Comments
Keep it the same/Nothing	10
Better weed management	6
Fewer signs	2
More regular Ranch activities	2
More trails	2
Preserve natural values	2
Re-plant burned area	2
Less muddy trail use	1
Restore old hay barn near Pika road	1
No more development	1
I don't care	1
Better boundary signage	1
Dogs off leash	1
Bus service on weekends	1
Gold Medal trout fishing	1
Trash can at trailheads	1
Trail to Boulder	1
More natural and cultural history programming	1
More benches	1
More bike trails	1
More maintenance	1
Control bad bikers	1
Fewer people	1
Fewer Bikers	1
Fewer volunteers/surveys	1
Keep the history	1
No more trails	1
Better biker courtesy	1

Appendix J. Anything Else?

Neighbors' final comments: commending BCPOS or recommendations about
BCPOS policies, activities or infrastructure

<i>Positive Comments</i>	
	<p>Keep up the good work! Boulder County has an amazing network of trails! Thank you for your hard work in the park! Thank you for all that you do to maintain a natural space for all living species to coexist. Thank you for taking the time to ask us about this. Thank you. Thank you. The Walker Ranch resource is incredible. We appreciate the efforts at weed control and try to participate constantly by pulling weeds in the park and aggressively managing our own weeds. We would support more aggressive weed management programs. Thank you for letting us participate in the survey.</p>
<i>Suggestions and Recommendations</i>	
	<p>If I want to hike, opportunities abound. However, when I want to go mountain biking, choices are quite limited in Boulder. I often have to get in my car and drive 30 minutes to get to a trailhead. Usually Walker Ranch or Golden or Lyons. It would be nice to have more Mountain Bike Trails built that start from town (or close to town) and lead to the mountains, not the plains.</p>
	<p>Any conflicts on the trail result from human nature, not from behavior inherent to one type of user (biker, hiker, equestrian, etc.). As such, controlling the activities of one type of user will not solve the problem of conflict. Those who behave poorly, or over-react to the actions of others will continue to do so regardless of a change in circumstance.</p>
	<p>As the population of Boulder County increases, maintenance of wilderness becomes increasingly valuable to the society - perhaps in geometric proportions.</p>
	<p>BCPOS should not have to get involved in "policing" use - we would be very opposed to that! Walker Ranch's best qualities is its natural state - please feel free to leave alone!</p>
	<p>Control the traffic speed going up and down Flagstaff Road.</p>
	<p>Cut down dead trees. Make signs more visible by thinning/shaving obstructing branches and vegetation.</p>
	<p>Focus on the behavior of the users vs. adding additional regulations or restrictions.</p>
	<p>Having a caretaker living back on the homestead will take some adjusting. Please be aware of evening light and sound interference. Walker has become a busier place during the day, much of that is unavoidable but parking does help control the numbers. It is the early morning and evening hours that I use it the most, when there is minimal human interaction. I feel that true of many of the locals to the open space.</p>
	<p>I don't want to see Walker Ranch just become a mountain bike trail! That would be a bummer! Share! Limit bike use?</p>
	<p>I find it very disappointing that the Hall and Heil Ranch open space areas allow no dogs at all. We keep our dog on a leash and pick up after him. We even pick up after other dogs and are as annoyed by irresponsible dog owners as others are. Allowing dogs on some days would be a very welcome change.</p>
	<p>I have been living almost contiguous to Walker Ranch for 20 years and hiking here for close to 40. As you continue to advertise the traffic has increased and so have conflicts. When people were smart enough to read and research trails and hiking opportunities in Boulder with fewer signs and "crutches", open space was a better place. But, since OSMP is compelled to nanny residents and visitors to show them the way, problems have increased. Nice work!</p>
	<p>I think I'm as knowledgeable about Walker and ride it year round in all weather - as anyone. If you need more info to prevent #12 above please call. Mountain biking is why I moved here!!</p>

Suggestions and Recommendations

It would be nice to see cattle grazing on parts of the ranch. That would authenticate the pioneers day program – which should be held more than just a couple days a year. Thanks. It is too difficult to say which of these (conflicts) is most offensive - and all are troublesome except horse feces. Horse feces is the only one I wouldn't check. Some dog owners leave dog feces in a plastic bag beside the trail, many dogs are unleashed, many bicyclists do all the things you listed, and many visitors are discourteous. In short, the rules are simply neither obeyed nor enforced.

I've used trails near Walker Ranch - but never visited the ranch. Trail system seems great now.

Leave the ranch as natural as possible. I strongly object to the fairly recent addition of signs pointing out wildfire areas, timber activities, wildlife, etc.

Less development & occupation of the ranch. Caretaker facility is a waste

Mistletoe is very pervasive on Walker Ranch pines - this spreads to neighboring trees. Please prune or spray to remove it or help us to help you! While equestrian use of Walker Ranch is less popular than bikes, it is an important element of use and especially for neighbors who have horses at their properties. Please DO NOT restrict further the access or areas open to horseback riders, horses were an important part of Walker Ranch history. Thank you.

More information to mtn. Residents on bear and mountain lions - seen many here!

More trails

My property borders on an Xcel easement that bikers and hikers seem to want to use for their own. We have no trespassing signs but because Boulder County seems to feel that most any private property belongs to just anyone this area has even been suggested for bikes and hikers without permission granted. Xcel agrees with me because it is a working easement not for anyone to use at anytime.

Noxious weed management - sometimes takes aggressive use of herbicides for 2-3 years, then problem is 80% controlled. This allows bio-controls a chance. Groundwater is huge concern, so herbicides must be applied to specific plant communities (Canada thistle) in proper manner (no runoff). Many weeds respond better to manual pulling (knapweed and musk thistle). Good job for prison inmates or way to put people on unemployment to work.

Our property borders on Walker Ranch. There is a trail, which is used by hikers and bikers, that comes to a dead end at our property. We have had significant problems with these people trespassing on our property as they do not want to turn back and retrace the trail. This is despite the private property signs. Some people have been very abusive.

There should be clear signs at the beginning of a trail to indicate whether it is a dead end or not. This lack of signs creates frustration to the users and increases the incidence of altercations with property owners bordering the open space.

Please monitor the amount and the speed of the traffic. I have talked to the city transportation director and the Sheriff's Department and nothing seems to be done. We live in a residential area (the speed limit is 20 MPH) cars and BIKES come by our house 40-50 MPH. We have a hard time exiting our driveway. We have installed a 3ft mirror across from our driveway that helps some. If the county wants to increase activity on the Walker Ranch you must also take into account the increase traffic impact on the residents lives. Also we live with the increase traffic to and from Gross Reservoir. Thank you for listening.

Some traffic control/enforcement would be nice.

The knapweed population on the West Gas easement is seeded by the prevailing westerly wind. You should control the weeds near the borders of Walker Ranch so they don't blow onto private property.

The main problem we face is all the bikers on Flagstaff Road; they make driving home a real mess, some will move over but most of them seem to think they own the road. I really would like to see bikes licensed, our cars by law are licensed why can't bikers pay their fair share to use the road.

The new trail linking Meyers Gulch (north side of Flagstaff Rd.): It is very disappointing to have that trail cross a beautiful hillside and meadow that for years was a primary nesting area for migrating elk in the spring. Herds of 100+ elk used to graze this hillside. Since the trail, with its racing bicyclists, the elk no longer stop in this area. The elk have been pushed on by the encroachment of this trail and the bicyclists that use it.

The reason I bought my property was to be near open space, not people.

The Walker Ranch fire occurred during summer 2000. Just how long is this temporary closure go to last. Don't you think it's time to remove those closure signs?

I would like for you guys to keep up with activities of the Denver Water Board

and Gross Reservoir and let us all know. They have already closed the "put in" for canoes and kayaks by the dam and may be more and more violating Federal Rules about dams built or upgraded by Federal money to provide recreation. A dozen picnic tables in one spot is not recreation - and that creates more of a problem.

I think with all the houses (and we all seem to be on the same environmental and land stewardship page) you don't need to add things to make it less wild. There already are fewer animals than a few years ago, and more road noise.

You could use a couple of big signs <Meyers Gulch is one place> that say "horses have the right-of-way" so bikes can see them as the last thing they see when they take off. Maybe 1 or 2 will remember that when encountering a horse.

It does seem, though, that most people are respectful on the trails. A couple of "no fumar" signs would also help at parking lots. It's mostly hispanics I see smoking and pitching away their cigarettes. I've also seen that along the road on hot summer days, and my neighbor stopped and put out a 6x6 foot fire some person had started with a cigarette in July.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Too many no parking signs on Flagstaff Road. They are now unnecessary and an eyesore. Folks parked along the road only when you all were constructing the new trailhead entrance. Road parking is not normally a problem - please remove the signs.

Travelling to and from Walker Ranch is hazardous because of bike riders and their reckless behavior on Flagstaff Road. Bikers block traffic, ride in the middle of the road and refuse to move over or stop when cars are approaching. I am surprised more injuries don't occur.

We come and go to our property through the park (Flagstaff) and are priveleged to live on 35 acres. We do not visit the trails very often as we walk on our own property. Our main concern is with the control of noxious weeds which we pull in the early summer. Some of our neighbors do not attempt to control weeds, and some mow at the end of the summer spreading seeds far and wide!!! When we have visited the trails we have encountered rudeness of any kind. People (mostly bikers) are courteous and considerate.

We feel that we are good custodians of our land and know that the animals travel frequently and freely on our land. We are not in favor of further trails being built near to us, or of use of land which has recently been acquired by Open Space being used by the public, as this certainly would interfere with the animal trails and with the pristine nature of the land where we live.

We have seen a dramatic increase in infrastructure (trails, rock removal, tree removal, bathrooms, parking areas, park employee vehicle traffic, sandtraps - you name it!) The trails are driven on so much, they've become roads. Park personnel are often arrogant, discourteous, and power oriented. We'd appreciate a much less invasive approach to park management and training of staff to be more public minded.

There is a lot of trash in the park - old barbed wire, old tin and metal, rusty nails, etc. We would like to see some effort to clean up all that and we are willing to help.

Question 11: There are many people who visit the park who are judgemental, demanding, and self-appointed "police." Courtesy is a dying grace. We would love to see people just enjoy and mind their own business.

Why aren't bikes required to have a license?

Would like a schedule of activities at the ranch so we could go there more frequently.

How often is the homestead open for visiting? We understand it is closed most of the time. Does anyone live there? More info about the ranch would be helpful.

Would like to see Brent Wheeler do the outhouse inspections!