



**Parks &
Open Space**

**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA**

April 22, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Suggested Timetable

6:30 Call to Order

6:30 Approval of the March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes
ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

Presentations

6:35 Elk Management Update
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC
PRESENTER: Therese Glowacki, Resource Management Division Manager

7:20 The Northern Redbelly Dace Recovery Project
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Mac Kobza, Wildlife Biologist

7:50 Strategic Plan Updates: Administration Division and Education & Outreach workgroup
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Judy Dvorshock, Administrative Division Manager and Pascale Fried, Education & Outreach Manager

8:20 Director's Update

8:30 Adjourn

DRAFT

**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

March 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by James Krug

Members:

Heather Williams
James Krug
Jenn Archuleta
Steven Meyrich
Trace Baker
Ann Obenchain
Tony Lewis
Janet George
Paula Fitzgerald -- **Excused**

Staff:

Eric Lane
Vivienne Jannatpour
Nik Brockman
Renata Frye
Karen Imbierowicz
Tina Burghardt
Therese Glowacki
Tina Nielsen
Mike Foster
Justin Atherton-Wood
Sarah Andrews
Denny Morris
Luiz Blanco-Bertolo
Janis Whisman
John Queen

Approval of the February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Obenchain seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Krug, Archuleta, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain, Lewis; **ABSTAIN:** Janet George; **EXCUSED:** Heather Williams, Paula Fitzgerald;

Attachment: March 25 Draft Minutes (4896 : Approval of the March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes)

Presentations:**Clark (David & Joseph) Acquisition***ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC*

PRESENTER: Tina Burghardt, Senior Land Officer

Public Comment

Bette Williams, 1347 Allen, Erie. She has concerns about the possibly that this land may not stay in agricultural use.

Donna George, 4661 Tally Ho Ct., Boulder

She was interested in the legality of the building lots and the due diligence and purchase agreement for this purchase.

Charlie Hager, 6645 Jay Rd., Boulder. He is a neighbor near the Clark property. He and his wife are in support of the purchase, but they did have concerns about the continued water rights and the future use of the property.

Jeff Unger, 1357 Washburn St., Erie. He wanted to know if there was a conservation easement on the property. Staff responded that there is no conservation easement on the property.

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Archuleta seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Baker, Obenchain, Lewis, George; **ABSTAIN:** Steven Meyrich;

EXCUSED: Paula Fitzgerald;

Caretaker Ranger Update*ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only*

PRESENTER: Sarah Andrews, Kevin Grady, Denny Morris, Juan Ocampo, and John Queen

Public Comment

Donna George, 4661 Tally Ho Ct. Boulder. She stated she appreciates the work of the resident rangers.

Strategic Plan Updates: Resource Planning and Public Information & Engagement*ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only*

PRESENTER: Ernst Streng, Senior Planner (pre-recorded), and Justin Atherton-Wood, Senior Planner and Vivienne Jannatpour, Public Information & Engagement Manager

Public Comment

Donna George, 4661 Tally Ho Ct., Boulder. She stated that the Gunbarrel community needs a subcommunity plan and a citizen committee for open space and parks.

Director's Update

Introducing two new members of the Department's Management Team:

- Luiz Blanco-Bertolo, who will be taking the reins of Boulder County Youth Corps from Judy Wolfe who retires on April 2.
- Mike Foster, who steps in as the new division manager for the Agricultural Resources Division.

Heil Valley Ranch:

- The aerial mulching contract for the Cal-Wood Fire recovery work on Heil Valley Ranch was awarded last week. This project will commence in April. One interesting wrinkle is that our golden eagles,

which have nested on Heil in Marietta Canyon for decades and whose nest was destroyed in the fire, have rebuilt and are now sitting on eggs!

- Hazard tree felling in the burned area around the trailhead, trails, and access roads is almost complete. These trees will be used for the mulch to stabilize the soil.
- We anticipate using volunteers for many aspects of the fire recovery, including having volunteers build small check dams, rebuilding fences, and carry out small seeding projects.
- We are taking advantage of the many researchers interested in studying the fire. We are supporting three fire projects through our small research grant program.
- The BOCC approved 104th Street Trail IGA with Louisville and Lafayette. We anticipate design work to begin this spring and construction later in the year.
- We made a public presentation of the Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion Strategic Plan to the BOCC and will be having a follow-up discussion with them soon to discuss it further.
- The BOCC will meet on April 1 at 5pm to hear the staff (and POSAC) recommendation to sign an IGA with partner cities and counties to approve the Federal Lands Access Program grant application for the Rocky Mountain Greenway.
- The Longmont Farmers Market opens April 3. At this time, they are promoting the market “simply [as] a spot to shop.” Shoppers can make a reservation for a timed visit, but walk-ups will also be welcome. They will be following COVID protocols such as: wearing a mask, 6-foot social distancing, and one-way flow of traffic. Up to 150 people will be allowed in market at one time.

Lastly, I want to mention that we, along with Louisville and Lafayette, will be working with a group of graduate students from the CU Boulder Masters of the Environment program to develop a management plan for Mayhoffer Farm. This is a specific objective in the Board of County Commissioners’ Strategic Priorities. Because the property is co-owned with the two cities, we will be looking at the possibility of a shared public meeting with all three advisory boards in late September. We’ll discuss this possibility with you as we develop a clearer timeline for the management plan process and assess the feasibility of conducting a joint hearing.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM



Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Therese Glowacki, POS Resource Management Division Manager
AGENDA ITEM:	Elk Management Update
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation for Approval of modification to Ron Stewart Preserve Elk Management Plan

Boulder County POS has been implementing elk management in two areas of the county to address non-migrating elk populations that are causing resource damage on valuable natural landscapes at the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain and Red Hill. This management includes using licensed, approved hunters to attempt to harvest elk from open space properties to reduce the refuge created on our open spaces. This is our annual update on elk management, including numbers and movement of elk and progress on meeting our objectives.

Ron Stewart Preserve

Parks and Open Space concluded the 4th year of hunting lands associated with herd using the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain. Hunting around Rabbit Mountain continued to move animals away from congregating on Ron Stewart Preserve, dispersing the herd and contributed to the reduction in the overall herd size. The season lasted from September 21, 2020 through January 31, 2021. It included weeklong breaks associated with the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We received positive feedback for suspending the hunting during those holiday weeks and on the Martin Luther King holiday.

Harvest Overview 2020-2021

- 1) Total participants = 50
- 2) Total harvest on BCPOS = 19 (38% success)
- 3) Harvest data from the subunit is 70 (the subunit includes both herds)

Recent counts of the Rabbit Mountain herd conducted in February 2021 was 81 elk. Our objective for this herd is 30 elk using Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain if they are migrating, 70 if they are non-migrating. We will continue counts this summer to determine how many are not migrating.

Since we haven't reached our objective, we plan to continue the elk management in the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain area in the fall of 2021 with the same time parameters as 2020.

Attachment: ELK_Memo_April_2021_final (4897 : Elk Management Update)

Red Hill

Red Hill refers to the east side of Heil Valley Ranch where a migrating herd use the area regularly. This herd used to migrate to the continental divide every year, but a portion of the herd, as many as 120, have stopped migrating and now spend the summer in the area.

The fall of 2020 marked the first season of elk management on the Red Hill herd and open space properties east of US Highway 36 near Heil Valley Ranch. This program was conducted similarly to the hunting at Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain with required orientation and proficiency testing. The program also required short-range weapons only (archery, muzzleloader, shotgun).

The season ran from August 17, 2020 to November 7, 2020 with a week off at the end of October due to the Cal-Wood Fire. This short season attempted to harvest and influence non-migratory elk.

There was good communication with neighbors, residents, and commuters via several avenues. We held a concerned neighbors meeting, established an extra safety zone relative to a small residential enclave west of US36, and employed up to 3 lighted highway road signs warning of potential elk crossing.

Harvest Overview

- 1) Total participants = 37
- 2) Total harvests on BCPOS = 13 (35%)
- 3) Total subunit harvest is 70 for the season, six of these from the Red Hill area.

We are not requesting any approvals or changes to the Red Hill Elk Management Plan. Last year it was approved for the first 2 years so 2021 will be year two. We plan on conducting a second season this fall with the same time parameters. We also plan on some changes relative to efficiency and safety. We are adding an additional parking point to allow an access from the north, restricting archery to west of Highway 36 since it was not effective on the properties east of Highway 36, and reducing the number of hunters from 4 to 3 per week since 3 hunters can put the same pressure on the herd and coordinate their activities better.

Proposed Changes

The Red Hill Elk Management Plan allows BCPOS to coordinate lethal hazing on county owned properties that are under an agricultural lease. This provision was not put into the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Management Plan because it was not an issue when we began elk management 4 years ago. We are requesting to modify the plan to allow this for the following reason.

Game damage issues arose on open space agricultural properties east of Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain in 2020. Tenants at both the John Clark and Darby properties, located about a mile east of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain, experienced damage from elk. Elk are eating the vegetables and hay produced on those properties. However, due to our restrictions on the use of firearms on county land, only limited measures

could be taken to deter elk or attempt to move them out of the crops, like using noise making devices.

We are proposing to add a game damage hunting procedure to allow approved, program hunters to attempt harvest on properties east of Rabbit Mountain, just like the process approved for the Red Hill hunt and adjacent agricultural open space properties. We are working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the tenants on the methods and timing for this lethal hazing. This will reduce the likelihood of elk moving from Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain and finding refuge on county open space where hunting is not allowed.

Action Requested: Recommend approval of the modification to the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Management Plan to allow BCPOS program hunters to be used for lethal hazing on leased agricultural land.

POSAC Action Requested

Recommendation to the Boulder County Commissioners for approval of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Management Plan amendment, as described above and as further described by staff at the POSAC meeting.

Suggested motion language: I move approval of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Management Plan amendment as staff has described.



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Mac Kobza
AGENDA ITEM:	The Northern Redbelly Dace Recovery Project
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

The northern redbelly dace is a native fish which is listed as endangered in Colorado. It is also a CPW species of greatest conservation need, and a Boulder County Species of Special Concern. A once wide-ranging front range species, it now occurs naturally in only one drainage called Plum Creek. A coalition of partners being led by BCPOS has launched an unprecedented effort to recover this species back into the St. Vrain and Lefthand Creek watersheds. We have partnered with the CPW Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa which holds some of the last threatened fish species in the state.

Students and teachers from the St. Vrain Valley School District and staff from Ocean First Institute, along with CPW and BCPOS biologists, are leading the charge to breed these fish in classrooms and release the young into local ponds, including Webster Pond at Pella Crossing. The first goal is to stock ponds containing these fish and secure the future of the species in Colorado. The second goal is to take fish from these ponds and release them back into the watersheds from which they have been lost. This project is perhaps the first of its kind to raise an endangered Colorado fish in the classroom, train high school students in applied conservation biology, and serve to recover a county Species of Special concern back into habitat supported by county open space.

Mac will present some examples of the successes we have had during the first year of the project.

Attachment: Dace Memo_April (4898 : The Northern Redbelly Dace Recovery Project)



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Strategic Plan Overview: Administration Division and Education and Outreach Workgroup
PRESENTERS:	Judy Dvorshock (Administration Division) and Pascale Fried (Education and Outreach)
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

Background

In 2019, staff embarked on an internal planning process to ensure that our work reflects strategic priorities and moves us toward our desired future conditions and goals. The result of this work is an internal strategic plan for each workgroup in the Parks & Open Space Department that sets forth Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), Goals, Strategies, and near term specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound (SMART) Objectives.

An overview of the strategic plan was provided at the January POSAC meeting, including process, themes, principles, and how this framework will help inform the Department’s priorities going forward. Throughout the remainder of 2021, staff from each workgroup will provide an overview of their 2021 SMART objectives to POSAC.

April presentations will be from the Administration Division and the Education and Outreach workgroup, which is in the Resource Management Division. The remainder of this memo provides a summary of strategic plan information for each of these groups for your reference.

Administration Division Desired Future Condition

Planning processes are reflective of all open space values, consider community input, and advance the mission and goals of Parks & Open Space.

Administration Division Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Create and implement standard business practices.

Objective 1-1: Standardize Processes and workflows: develop/enhance NeoGov eForm module in 2021 by completing at least three eforms: Personnel Action Notice, Mobile phone stipend, and Mobile phone device request.

Objective 1-2: Continue to enhance the hiring experience: upload all onboard and offboard forms and tasks in NeoGov to allow for integrated transitions by 12/31/21.

Goal 2. Be proactive, not reactive, in addressing best practices to deliver excellent customer service.

Objective 2-1: Continue to develop Oracle reporting features: identify Pcard best practices for expense reporting and create expectations for improving approval timeline by 12/31/21.

Objective 2-2: Automate processes through technology: bring an online payment option to POS (Colorado Interactive) and pilot for at least two Divisions by June 1, 2021.

Goal 3. Provide opportunities for productive learning and working together.

Objective 3-1: Use Microsoft Teams to train and record online sessions: investigate options for online learning library for POS by 7/1/21.

Objective 3-2: Create and share “How-To Quick Guides”: create at least 3 guides based on department needs by 12/31/21.

Objective 3-3: Seek out new opportunities to partner with other departments to enhance our ability to offer dynamic and diverse services:

- Workforce: by working together we can increase our hiring pool.
- Hire one intern position through Workforce by 7/1/21.

Education and Outreach Workgroup Desired Future Condition

The community connects with natural, cultural, and agricultural resources and values the importance of county open space.

Education and Outreach Goals and 2021 Objectives

Goal 1. Inform the public about the county’s open space resources, management practices, and visitor opportunities.

Objective 1-1: Offer 20-minute talk to shelter reservation groups, May-October.

Objective 1-2: Update 12 (all) park kiosk welcome panels to be in both English and Spanish, by June.

Objective 1-3: Begin work with the Sign Team to create bilingual signage in parks this year.

Goal 2. Offer opportunities throughout Boulder County that meet the interests of our diverse population.

Objective 2-1: Lead monthly seniors-only hike at different county parks, May–October.

Objective 2-2: Lead fall classroom presentation and outdoor field trip for preschoolers at all four Lafayette elementary schools (through the GOCO-sponsored grant with City of Lafayette and Thorne Ecological Institute)

Objective 2-3: Lead fall field trip to Heil Valley Ranch for 2nd grade students in at least three Lafayette elementary schools (through GOCO-sponsored grant with City of Lafayette and Thorne Ecological Institute).

Objective 2-4: Collaborate with the *El Paso Movement* (an organization devoted to advancing Latinx children’s early development) to schedule two to three educational programs, by December.

Objective 2-5: Update exhibits at the Agricultural Heritage Center to be bilingual and include indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups, by July.

Goal 3. Evaluate the department’s services and programs to better meet the public’s needs.

Objective 3-1: Conduct volunteer program evaluation surveys, by December.

Objective 3-2: Conduct the Five-year visitor study at parks (and for regional trails in 2022) to look at long-term trends in visitor demographics, preferences, attitudes, and behaviors, beginning Memorial Day weekend.

Goal 4. Recruit, train and offer volunteer programs that meet interests of our diverse community.

Objective 4-1: Consult with HHS, CS, PH county department volunteer coordinators to learn about their recruitment efforts for Latinx volunteers and how POS could market our volunteer opportunities with their clients and programs, by December.

Objective 4-2: Share volunteer opportunities on the county's Spanish Facebook page and CRISP partners' websites in 2021.