

INSPIRE BOULDER FEEDBACK 6/23/2015 - 7/20/2015	
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b>North Trail Study Area Plan Interests</b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Create off-highway bike trail between Boulder & Lyons
<b>Idea Detail</b>	How wonderful it would be to bike to Lyons on a bike-friendly path that avoids the noise and danger of riding along 36.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roger M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	42
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	Multi-use trail don't work for hikers. They are a miserable experience for hikers, especially single-track. When encountered head on, about half of the bikers yield, but most hikers step off of the trail to avoid conflict. When approached from behind by a biker, hikers are frequently surprised and frightened by bikes and it makes no sense for bikes to yield to hikers in front of them. Hikers or bikers must step off the trail to allow the bike to pass. The hikers I know avoid multi-use trails like the plague. That said, I believe that there should be bike trails but to call them multi-use trails is not representative of the situation on the ground.   By Bev G
<b>Comment 2</b>	Mickelson Trail is a great multi use trail. <a href="http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/mickelson-trail/">http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/mickelson-trail/</a>   By Randy W
<b>Comment 3</b>	I'm excited about the idea of more community connections. Boulder to Lyons to Longmont and back to Boulder - all off road! Intersecting with trails heading to Wyoming and New Mexico. Offer visitors an option to buy a day pass to support the trail system like what I bought to be on the Mickelson Trail in South Dakota.   By Elaine E
<b>Comment 4</b>	Agree - Bike Path out North of Boulder would be great. Hwy 36 is a busy mess.   By Stephen H
<b>Comment 5</b>	Agreed, need a recreation focused single track route utilizing NTSA areas, Joder Ranch, and Heil Valley Ranch.   By Richard H
<b>Comment 6</b>	How about making it a recreation focused single track route utilizing NTSA areas, Joder Ranch, and Heil Valley Ranch. This would be a great mountain bike or trail running route!   By Jason V
<b>Comment 7</b>	I ride along 36 from Boulder to Lyons twice a week. I don't find the bike lane all that dangerous because there's a decent amount of room but it's DEFINITELY not kid or elderly friendly. Even a bike friendly dirt path would be better than what we have now.   By D H
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like regional recreational trail connectivity
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Lyons to Boulder along the foothills, the Trail Around Boulder, linking Boulder to Niwot, realizing the trail around the Res called for in the Boulder Res Master Plan. All of these trail opportunities are available in the NTSA. The most important is probably a recreational single track trail connecting Wonderland Lake to the Beech Property to Joder Ranch to Heil Valley Ranch to Lyons. These trails should be designed for recreation, not transportation. There are already transportation routes available, such as the Cottonwood Path, the proposed Feeder Canal, and the LoBo trail. This should be about getting people out into nature to have fun and develop or renew their land ethic.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason V
<b>Number of Stars</b>	39
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Why is the IBM Connector loop not in place yet? I attended meetings about that years ago. I'm so ready to get out into the North TSA without riding on Highway 52.   By Elaine E

<b>Staff Response Comment 2</b>	Thanks for your question, Elaine. The IBM Connector trail is not in place yet because in order to install the required new railroad bridge over Little Dry Creek, the BNSF railroad must shut down for about 24 hours. The BNSF railroad is working to identify a time when it would be possible for them to shut down the railroad line long enough to install the bridge and estimate it can be done later this year. In the meantime, the city and county are working hard to ensure all the documents required to complete this work are finalized, so it can move forward as soon as the railroad is able.   By Juliet B
<b>Comment 3</b>	A key element here, I believe, is to create trails that are fun and interesting. Allow users to explore with their feet/hooves/tires interesting contours, fun obstacles, natural vistas, and wildlife/plants. It's critical that these trails aren't "A to B", not a means to an end (the destination), but an end unto themselves. The experience of being on a trails and traveling regionally is critical to the North TSA area.   By Kevin B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Very much agree. I would add that completing the IBM connector and linking up the trail routes out of Boulder proper (e.g., LoBo is partially paved road) are important to realizing these goals.   By Dave J
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like more trails not roads b/c > quality experience
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Most of the so called "trails" in the NTSA are actually old ranch roads. There is a reason that most people do not choose to recreate in the NTSA, and that is because the old roads are *boring*. We could dramatically improve the quality of the recreation experience by providing single track trails that feel like you are part of the environment rather than old roads that feel intrusively constructed by man.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason V
<b>Number of Stars</b>	35
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I feel that roads are a poor choice for a recreation experience (unless you are driving a car). Trails reduce conflict by reducing speed. In addition, if the intent is to utilize the places like Boulder Valley Ranch that currently don't see high use, it's probably wise to consider areas that currently do (Marshall Mesa, Dowdy Draw). Those areas have relatively few wide roads and the areas with highest use are single track.   By Kevin B
<b>Comment 2</b>	For singletrack to work well, the City needs to get over its refusal to designate direction-of-travel rules and single-sport (either overall or by day-of-week) usage. It is not a better experience if you are having to constantly stop and get off trail for someone coming the other direction. The "roads" have the advantage that there is less user conflict and it is possible to ride side-by-side. However, singletrack would be a good addition if it is implemented and managed properly.   By Dave J
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like a trail on the hogback west of 36
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The hogback on the westside of US36 would have gorgeous views and interesting geology that many people would enjoy. Ideally this multiuser trail would connect from the Hogback Ridge Trail to Joder Ranch taking a path roughly along the western boundary of Boulder Open Space.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jim M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	33
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like multiple loop trail opportunities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Out and back trails are less fun, generate more conflict, and provide for fewer management options. Loop trails are what most users want, especially longer distance users such as trail runners and mountain bikers. Ideally, you could provide multiple loop opportunities of different lengths for people of different abilities or with different amounts of available time.

<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason V
<b>Number of Stars</b>	32
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think "right sizing" loops is probably relevant here. Big loops are great to get people out to places far away without running into each other. It's also a great idea to place smaller loops in areas where focused human activity causes less impact. The caveat to the smaller loops is that making them too small creates unnecessary environmental impact without creating a fun user experience.   By Kevin B
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree with longer loops. Shorter loops break up the landscape, create more bi-directional user conflict, and reduce isolation. There are many places to go for a short walk or ride, but fewer to go for a long loop ride without having to get on a paved road. A "loop" in the stack should be at least three miles.   By Dave J
<b>Comment 3</b>	stacked loops are a fantastic idea. They're a good way to disperse traffic and minimize overuse and trail conflicts.   By Elizabeth R
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes please, multiple loop opportunities of different lengths and levels of difficulty. Recreation + preservation = winning all around.   By Richard H
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like to see trails engineered by/for mountain bikers
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The populous has spoke time and time again. The current trail system north of Boulder consists of dirt roads, long, straight, boring, eroded trails that do not serve what the populous (us bikers, us taxpayers) crave. Take advantage of the existing, eager manpower that already exists in Boulder. Let us (BMA, IMBA, Volunteers) design, maintain, and rebuild the trails. We paid for it (taxes). We deserve it!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Philip S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	29
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I find this comment a bit dismaying. I would like to see the bikers have trails but also the hikers, dog walkers, equestrians, wildlife watchers etc. who also pay taxes. The tenor of the meeting on July 24th was excellent as the moderator kept everyone on interest based comments rather than positional comments. Go to the meeting on the 27th and see how the process is conducted.   By Randy W
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like a way to cross the fences w/o stopping my bike
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The current cattle guard crossings are a great start. There are so many gates that have to be opened and closed in this area that it feels like you are constantly stopping and starting again to open and close gates when on your bike. I understand that equestrians have raised some concerns about the current "cattle guard" ramps that have been installed by OSMP. Let's hear out their concerns, resolve those problems and implement these crossings in the NTSA and system-wide. This would provide a much higher quality visitor experience.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason V
<b>Number of Stars</b>	28
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, please implement "cattle guard" crossings in the NTSA and system-wide. This would definitely provide a much higher quality visitor experience.   By Richard H
<b>Idea Title</b>	Connect buses and trails more seamlessly

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see a more seamless connection between the bus system and the trail system so that we don't need to use our cars to access trailheads, including the North Trail Study Area. Wouldn't it be cool to have a dedicated HOP-style bus route that circulates frequently among trailheads while intersecting nicely with transfer points on other city bus routes (SKIP, JUMP, BOUND, etc.)?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jack G
<b>Number of Stars</b>	23
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like a truly stacked loop system in the NTSA
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I quit riding here when the Marshall Mesa/Doudy Draw system came online because aside from the Left Hand trail, we have roads that serve as trails. It's not about getting from A to B, make the journey interesting!
<b>Idea Author</b>	mike B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	19
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Looped systems in general, and in the N TSA in particular make a lot of sense. Rather than an out and back trail in which hiker A will likely run into hiker B twice (once on the way out, and once on the way back), a looped trail means that person A may meet person B at most once. This decreased perceived crowding, potential conflict, and impact on trailside wildlife (fewer times a person passes a particular spot).   By Kevin B
<b>Comment 2</b>	agreed. the current minimal, 2-way, out-and-back design conventions on tightly constrained corridors only contributes to user conflict and overuse / increased maintenance wear and erosion problems. Disperse users, create a branched network with opportunities for differentiating direction of travel, ability, and use separated trails. following this formula will see a happier trail environment, less conflict and more buy-in from volunteers to build and maintain.   By Elizabeth R
<b>Idea Title</b>	More bikes
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I live in NoBo and would like to see that trail system open up more to bikes. If we're willing to block off entire lanes in Boulder and dedicate them to bikes then the trail system should be open to providing for that mode of transport as well. Personally I don't really care much about the prairie dog ecosystem because those things are everywhere in East Boulder already and they tend to destroy/take over the habitat - I much prefer seeing the birds and flowers on hikes in that area (e.g., Hogback) than a bunch of prairie dogs clearing the land.
<b>Idea Author</b>	D H
<b>Number of Stars</b>	17
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Lets not mix messages. Prairie dogs aside, more bike access in this area is critically important. The Marshall Mesa/Doudy Draw area is intensely used because there are a lot of mountain bikers in this town and not very many trails. Staff and City Council decided that no more bike access should occur in the Boulder mountain backdrop - so the NTSA is the only remaining logical area to develop facilities for this under served and overcrowded user group.   By Jason V
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preservation of habitat.

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see more emphasis on the preservation of the unique ecosystems in this planning area. We are losing species at an alarming rate and are in the midst of what scientists call "The Sixth Great Extinction." Humans are causing these extinctions and it is our responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species, as well as their habitat, where ever they occur. The rain forests of Madagascar, South American and SE Asia aren't the only places where we need to focus our attention. Sometimes the most interesting and critical species and habitats are in our own backyards. We need to step back and analyze just how many areas we already have to recreate and really join efforts to save these special places.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Linda M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	15
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	To prioritize conservation of wildlife and plant communities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	With increasing population growth and visitation along the Front Range, our wildlife and wildplaces are being severely compromised by overuse. This continual fragmentation does not bode well for long term sustainability for all but the most common species. This TSA has an amazing variety of birds, insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, some of them threatened or endangered. Dogs should not be allowed on or off leash. They are often neither sight nor sound controlled; untrained they are a threat to about anything that moves, as well as a vector for weed seeds. There are dozens of other places that accommodate dogs. I would hope that the user groups would take a step back and reflect on the difference between wants and needs. The animals and plants in this TSA NEED these intact ecosystems that allow them to live and thrive. Our selfish wants should not take precedence.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pam P
<b>Number of Stars</b>	15
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserve habitat and animal travel corridors
<b>Idea Detail</b>	As an avid hiker, I selfishly think some carefully located trails are appropriate. I would love to see this area preserved primarily for plant and animal habitat. So much of our foothill habitat has become fragmented that I believe this unique area should be carefully considered before it is destroyed as other foothill areas.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Bev G
<b>Number of Stars</b>	14
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserve unfragmented habitat blocks for wildlife.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There are many important ecosystems and species of concern in this area, as documented in the Resource inventory. It is our responsibility to pass them on to future generations, not degrade them for short-term gratification.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Raymond B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	think about what we want to leave for future generations

<b>Idea Detail</b>	The big challenge for all of us in this TSA plan is to find a way to “Enjoy” AND “Protect”. I have been studying the Natural Resources section of the Inventory Report and reading the many things listed on this website that people want to have in and from the lands in the North TSA. There are many species of special concern, unique and diverse organisms, and sensitive animals that depend on specific types of habitat in this part of our open space system for their continued existence. I wonder whether it is possible to provide access for our many recreational uses to the extent desired and expressed in this list and also ensure that our native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Karen H
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Legacy Roads and Trails vs Proper Trail Design
<b>Idea Detail</b>	User conflict by design - that's what happens when ranch roads become the trail system, and the BVR is full of them. Wide roads make for bigger speed differentials between user groups, creating perceived user conflict. I get it that this is a property that has many uses, but what do we want - a dysfunctional trail system or something that works for everyone? Remember, most user conflicts are a result of poor trail design.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mike B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like some quiet trails for contemplation and center
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Quiet means no mountain bikes; children and dogs on leash OK
<b>Idea Author</b>	Catharine H
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Support BOSMP staff expertise
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I have been involved in these discussions for at least 15 yrs. To be honest, I wish that Council would support and acknowledge the expertise that the open space staff has in all areas of the management of the parks and open space. They know what areas need to be preserved, where they can build sustainable trails, and how these trails need to be managed. This process has continuously forced people to chose a side and it isn't necessary. The bike folks would like a north-south connector trail and that seems reasonable. Highway 93 is dangerous to them and aggravating to drivers which causes conflicts, so it would give them a good, safe and interesting route to use. We can't get away from more people using the trails, but multi-use trails are logical. We need to learn to get along with each other. More trails in intact habitat isn't the answer. Those areas just can't afford to be more fragmented, some species will not adapt. Let the staff put the plan on the table and let Council vote.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Linda M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1

<b>Comment 1</b>	You know, I would trust what comes out of the staff room if there were a proper mix of professionals in the room. Historically, staff has been flush with expertise in flora and fauna...but devoid of expertise in understanding the species with the biggest impact to these lands...humans.... When there are recreation professionals on staff with the same level of credentials as resource staff, that's when I'll trust staff.   By mike B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Wildlife First
<b>Idea Detail</b>	We value Open Space primarily for wildlife habitat. 99% of prairie dogs are gone (so they are indeed an endangered species) and fragmented habitat has little value. We should put wildlife first. Open Space was never intended to be for people first and then bikes and horses etc etc etc. Open Space is successful when it first protects wildlife and then prevents built environments. We would like to see this WILDLIFE AND HABITAT FIRST model applied to every step of the plan.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Milo P
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserve Wildlife First
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Disturbing wildlife habitat with horses, dogs and bikes should be avoided. Unfragmented habitat has the most value. This is a case where preservation should be chosen over "development" for recreation purposes. We have plenty of trails, biking, etc. I say keep the North TSA natural!
<b>Idea Author</b>	karen S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	12
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Expand Voice & Sight Opportunities in the NTSA
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The NTSA is a rare opportunity to expand access for those of us who like to hike with our dogs off-leash in compliance with the new V&S tag program. Expanding access will reduce congestion on trails throughout the system. As Boulder's population continues to grow through the development of more medium density housing we must provide more trails in city Open Space for ALL forms of recreation. An opportunity to do so on this scale will not come again for a long time.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jim I
<b>Number of Stars</b>	11
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	As much as I like to see well behaved dogs on trail there are always going to be a small percentage just about every time one is on trail for a long period of time, that are not as voice controlled or well behaved as they should be. Not sure if anything can be done about this as it is the nature of things but it does create an unpleasant experience for non dog walkers or dog walkers with dogs on leashes where other dogs are aggressive towards them.   By Randy W

<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Randy, I don't disagree with you; in just about every aspect of modern life and society there are always a small subset of scofflaws and outliers. Now, here comes the 'but'. We rarely punish or restrict an entire segment of the population, in this case people hiking with their off-leash properly permitted dogs, for the actions of that small minority of bad apples. Instead, we put in place reasonable societal expectations in the form of regulations, etc combined with a credible fear of enforcement for offenders. We've done that and the new tag program needs time to work. Pending the results of the 2016 OSMP monitoring study dog guardians like myself are unwilling to miss this rare opportunity for an expansion of voice and sight opportunities.</p> <p>By the way, thank you for your comments. It's heartening to see that civil discourse, especially online, survives. Cheers, -Jim   By Jim I</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like to see more multi-use trails in the NTSA
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The NTSA Coalition has submitted an excellent map of some desirable regional trails through and across OSMP land in the NTSA. To make these trails a reality, I urge OSMP to collaborate with other public land management agencies (BCPOS, Forest Service, etc), and to acquire any missing links needed. Consider trail easements if acquisitions are not possible. Now is the time to get this done!</p> <p>I also support the Trail Around Boulder (TAB), a 34-mile multi-use trail that will encircle the city on OSMP land. More than 80% of the TAB is already in place, with only about 7-8 miles left to build. The TAB will unite Boulder and will allow access to and appreciation of Boulder's amazing geographic setting. Learn more about the TAB at <a href="http://www.bouldertrails.org">www.bouldertrails.org</a>. Part of the TAB is in the NTSA -- let's plan for it now!</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Suzanne W
<b>Number of Stars</b>	9
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Use angled cow grates
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Whatever the trails, The angled cow grates are great for easily riding over. I am an avid runner and cyclist and many times I approach a gate to see it left open. Grates will block cattle from crossing yet will allow for bikes to roll over. They are not difficult to step over either. They seem to need less maintenance as well, versus gates.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Siga A
<b>Number of Stars</b>	7
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More Voice & Sight Trails in the North TSA
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see more Voice & Sight trails for hikers with dogs in the North TSA. Hiking with my happy and well-behaved off-leash dog brings me great joy. Many of my favorite Voice & Sight trails are no longer Voice & Sight, since the increased restrictions of the Visitor Master Plan and the West TSA. It is time to finally add some Voice & Sight trails to disperse users, especially with the ever-increasing population in Boulder. I would love to see Voice & Sight loop trails at the Joder and West Beech properties, as well as V&S on the Left Hand Trail.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Eileen M

<b>Number of Stars</b>	7
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like to strike a balance between...
<b>Idea Detail</b>	...habitat preservation and the provision of recreational opportunities. Both are important to our community and both are provided for in the charter for use of the city's open space properties.
<b>Idea Author</b>	catherine S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	7
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More multiuse paths and hiking opportunities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	More biking and hiking opportunities please. Complete the railroad underpass off 4-mile creek that's been proposed for awhile now.  Continue dog friendly options in these areas.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James D
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like more trails available to hikers with dogs
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The trend has been to reduce the number of trails available to dogs (leashed and voice and sight). I'd like to see that trend reversed. I'm a biker and my wife likes to hike with a dog. Currently there are limited areas north of Boulder where we can go together.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Dan M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would also like to see the trend reversed. Leashed or not, it's important to me that dogs can enjoy the trails along with all other users.   By Mike B
<b>Idea Title</b>	More no-dog opportunities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Many users (for different reasons) want to hike in areas where they do not have to deal with dogs. Some of the blocks with sensitive resource considerations in the North TSA are well-suited for such opportunities.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Raymond B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More Voice and Sight!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	We need more Voice and Sight trails for dogs!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Andy M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, since our dogs can't login and make comments (at least my dog can't) we need to be their voice. Here's another vote for the blue tags.   By Mike B
<b>Idea Title</b>	more trails

<b>Idea Detail</b>	anywhere. I love them all but do them over and over and over and over and over and over ....know what I mean. : ) !!!!
<b>Idea Author</b>	marianne M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Control prairie dogs to increase species diversity, beauty
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Where prairie dogs populations are not controlled (as in much of the NTSA) they consume all plant life and force out other species. The result is a barren, ugly, dust-choked, and unnatural landscape. Allowing populations to spike and then die off of starvation, plague, and road kill is substantially more cruel than proactively and humanely controlling the population.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Dave J
<b>Number of Stars</b>	5
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Research on prairie dogs strongly suggest that they are a "keystone species" of the plains in the same way the beavers are to streams. Beavers were/are often derided, but an entire ecosystem of plants and animals depend on their damming of streams. Same is true for the plains with prairie dogs. The problem facing management is not the removal of prairie dogs, but the control of weeds and the allowance for the natural range shifts that occur year over year for prairie dogs. Historically, prairie dogs would shift their dog towns in different directions over the years. This is critical in keeping unnatural scrublands from forming in the plains (the result of removal of prairie dogs and bison) as well as increasing the biodiversity of the area. Grasslands, while primarily grass should naturally vary between times when grasses are denser to those when forbs (non-grass low plants including many wildflowers) and small shrubs. Prairie dogs allow this process to happen. Without them, the grasses outcompete the wildflowers. Eventually, shrubs and cacti will outcompete the grasses. Then, we no longer have a grassland.   By Kevin B</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Your analysis relies on there being a sufficiently large unpopulated grassland, along with various and sufficient species of predators. These things no longer exist in Boulder County - it is 2015, not 1840. Today, the areas of open space devastated by prairie dogs do not come back until they die off from plague or other events, and then only slowly. There is nowhere for the prairie dogs to "shift" - they consume all available open space and then are boxed in by private property and population centers. As to shrubs outcompeting grasses, I have not seen evidence of this in Boulder County on lands where prairie dogs are controlled, but even if so, it would be far preferable to a moonscape.</p> <p>Let's manage open space based on today's reality, not "historical" conditions that have not existed since long before any of us were born. We should manage it to be beautiful and diverse and only secondarily to suggest its pre-frontier character.   By Dave J</p>

<b>Staff Response</b>	Thanks, Dave and Kevin, for your comments and interest in prairie dogs within the North TSA. Management of prairie dogs actually falls outside the scope of the North TSA planning process which seeks to improve visitor experiences and increase the sustainability of trails and trailheads while conserving the area's natural, cultural and agricultural resources. Other aspects of management including prairie dogs, agriculture and many others are included in other plans and planning processes. OSMP manages prairie dogs according to the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan that was accepted by City Council in 2010. Prairie dogs on Open Space are an issue that received extensive community interest and involvement during the creation of the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan and the plan addresses the numerous challenges associated with their conservation and management. A difficult balance was incorporated into the Grassland Plan to meet the diverse community desires and interests. If you have further questions about prairie dog management on OSMP, please see the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan at <a href="https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/final-grassland-plan-1-201305101529.pdf">https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/final-grassland-plan-1-201305101529.pdf</a> .
<b>Staff Response continued</b>	If you would like to discuss prairie dogs and the Grassland Plan, please contact our wildlife ecologist, Heather Swanson at <a href="mailto:swansonh@bouldercolorado.gov">swansonh@bouldercolorado.gov</a> or 720-564-2054.   By Juliet B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Develop Joder Ranch for multiple interests
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This is (or was) a historic ranch and horse facility with 8 miles of trails. OSMP forced the premature demolition of all the ranch infrastructure before the NTSA could evaluate it. But the trails are still there, and an interim trailhead has been approved to open at the same time the North Joder Trail opens. The NTSA should approve expansion and construction of a permanent TH at the bottom of the Joder driveway/Hwy 36, with sufficient vehicle parking, horse trailer parking, kiosk, picnic tables, and restrooms. The NTSA should approve designation of at least one complete pedestrian/equestrian loop trail as well as multi-use trails that connect to West Beech, Buckingham and Heil Valley Ranch.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Suzanne W
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Restore functional public access to BVR Homestead Area
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In recent memory the riding arena was open to public use, but no more. There used to be excellent horse trailer parking near the old Silver Nickel Saloon, but no more. There used to be a horseback riding lesson program at the arena through Parks & Rec, but no more. There used to be a livery, but no more. There even used to be horse shows at BVR, but no more. The Silver Nickel used to be a great meeting space (and even a dance hall!), but no more. The place used to be tidy with decent facilities, but no more. This topic needs to be a specific management plan within the NTSA. Please, NTSA participants, staff, and Council -- restore Boulder Valley Ranch to its previous glory as a showplace for OSMP!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Suzanne W
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More trails for responsible dog owners:
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Some suggested trails for Voice & Sight access in the North TSA: Trails at Joder Ranch Trails at West Beech Open Space Left Hand trail north of Boulder Valley Ranch Old Kiln and Foothills trails north of Wonderland Lake
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jude H

<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like to see a diverse and creative trail system
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Less emphasis on existing boring dirt roads outlining old agricultural properties. More emphasis on challenging hiking and mountain biking loops, not necessarily exclusive, but utilizing the varied terrain of ridges, gullies and plains. Preservation of some dog-free trails. Take Goshawk Ridge, Lion's Lair and Skunk Creek Canyon as exemplars.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jim B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Off street trail from Cottonwood Tr. to Twin Lakes and Lobo
<b>Idea Detail</b>	It would be great to not have to ride on Jay to Spine to pickup the Lobo Trail.
<b>Idea Author</b>	M S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More technical Mountain Bike Trails.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is a dearth of challenging/technical Mountain Bike Trails in Boulder. There are plenty of prairie trails with almost no hills. Opening up existing trails with the Betasso-like compromise would instantly create such trails. Even just a couple of days a week.
<b>Idea Author</b>	M S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Extend mountain bike trails to Left Hand Canyon.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Currently, the only practical way to get to Heil Valley Ranch is to drive or ride a bike on 36 out to it. The trail from Boulder Valley Ranch ends at Neva.
<b>Idea Author</b>	M S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	4
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like more Voice and Sight control trails
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Please add a few more areas where dogs can be off leash. Dogs deserve areas where they can run and play safely. They benefit from variety. It is much more fun for me and my husband to walk our large dog off leash. Dogs prefer it too. They greet and interact with each other more normally when they are off leash.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Mary F
<b>Number of Stars</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Maintain a presence of horses in our community.

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I mentioned this at the meeting but thought I'd mention it here as well. There is a heritage and love of horses in this community. The PowWow grounds were on 28th St. and Mapleton. My wife had her first horse on what is now Mt. Sanitas Open Space and used to play hide and seek on horseback in and around the Mapleton Hill area. Of course the Joder Ranch Open Space was once a working Arabian Horse Ranch and Boarding Stable. Other horse operations were Van Vleet Arabian Ranch, Bell Park Arabian Ranch, Snow Stables, Blue Cloud Riding facility and Flatirons Stables. People used to be able to more easily ride directly from where their horses lived. Most of us these days have to trailer our horses to get to trails so adequate and designated trailer parking is important. I know it is frustrating to see empty trailer spots when car parking is full but it is equally frustrating to haul to an area to ride to find inadequate trailer slots or trailer slots filled with cars.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Randy W
<b>Number of Stars</b>	2
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	The NTSA is a good opportunity to redesign trailheads to accommodate horse trailer parking, as well as to make them more welcoming and functional for everyone else, by including elements such as landscaping, kiosks, and rest rooms.   By Suzanne W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Respect all interests and the ecosystem
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like the NTSA to respect the originals owners, the Joder's vision. To allow horses to be an integral part of the landscape, allow wildlife and the ecosystem to thrive and also take care to design the trails and loops for an enhanced user experience. I think the wildlife should be protected and dogs should remain on leash where there is sensitive habitat. I also am concerned about the possible use of a trail that might allow night bike users with headlamps, since this is a user group with high impact that might effect wildlife. On trails that may be open to all user groups and have blind curves I vote for the restriction of any type of ear buds on these trails so that users can hear each other. I have had many close calls with cyclist wearing ear buds that can not hear you calling to them.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Linda P
<b>Number of Stars</b>	2
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Open access for horses to ALL open space.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	REMOVAL OF INTERIOR FENCES within open space, and open entrances on all sides for horses, which do not degrade a natural area the way that multitudes of hikers and bikers do. I say this as an avid hiker and biker. The fields should be open to horses first, yet we buy up all of the horse properties and close them off. If I knew I would not be allowed on the open space I've been voting to increase taxes on every year for 18 years, I wouldn't have voted for it. It was already "protected from sprawl" as a horse property, a beautiful, open, agricultural property... Unless there is a protected species on it, which could be easily marked with signage, horses should be grandfathered in as first right to explore these open lands. They need no trail and leave no trail. They are only good for the grasses and ecosystems here.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Amelia H
<b>Number of Stars</b>	2
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Sustainable trails to the paragliding launches

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see sustainable trails designed and built to the paragliding launches. In May, a landslide obliterated a few hundred feet of trail and now a new trail has formed on the fall line from hikers skirting the landslide. Hikers are the majority user here so they would benefit the most and the paragliders would be the secondary beneficiaries.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason H
<b>Number of Stars</b>	1
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	not sure how to do this
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Not sure if this is going to register. If this is how to submit my comments could you email me back <a href="mailto:mccler@colorado.edu">mccler@colorado.edu</a>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roz M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Staff Response</b>	Hi Roz, I just sent you an email. Yes, this is how you submit your comments. We look forward to reading your feedback. Thank you!   By Juliet B
<b>Idea Title</b>	I would like to see more Voice & Sight trails for hikers
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see more Voice & Sight trails for hikers with dogs in the North TSA. Hiking with my happy and well-behaved off-leash dog brings me great joy. Many of my favorite Voice & Sight trails are no longer Voice & Sight, since the increased restrictions of the Visitor Master Plan and the West TSA. It is time to finally add some Voice & Sight trails to disperse users, especially with the ever-increasing population in Boulder. I would love to see Voice & Sight loop trails at the Joder and West Beech properties, as well as V&S on the Left Hand Trail.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tricia S
<b>Number of Stars</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	go away...
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Bad idea, you are disrupting my life. I cant sleep at night due to your noise pollution. I thought Boulder had rules about how late you can make loud construction noises... Outraged.....
<b>Idea Author</b>	Nick M
<b>Number of Stars</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Staff Response</b>	Hello Nick. OSMP is interested in knowing more about this situation and we welcome you contacting us with the details of the situation. Please feel free to contact us at <a href="mailto:northtsa@bouldercolorado.gov">northtsa@bouldercolorado.gov</a> or by contacting Steve Armstead at 720-564-2059.   By Juliet B