



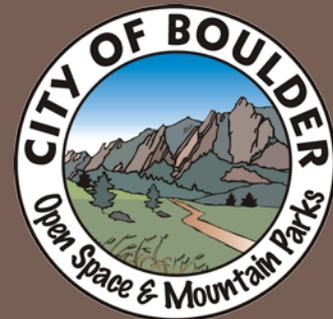
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

# North Trail Study Area Plan

## North TSA Plan Updated Refined Scenarios

OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 10, 2016



# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Background

- Planning process and community engagement
- Developing North TSA vision through refining scenarios
  - Preliminary scenarios (4)
  - Refined scenarios (2)
- Updated refined scenarios using input from January study session





# North Trail Study Area Plan

## North TSA Sideboards

- Area covered by the plan
- Types of changes that are within the scope of the plan
- Constraints the plan must account for
- What is essential for the plan to include

**North Trail Study Area Plan Sideboards**

**Scope**

**Clarification/Examples**

**Regulations and Legal Agreements**

**Clarification/Examples**

**Sideboards**

**What is a "Sideboard"?**

**Why are Sideboards Needed?**

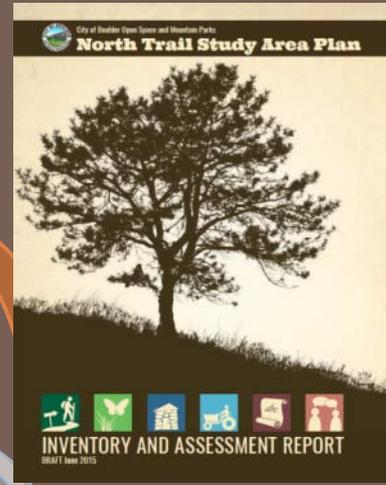
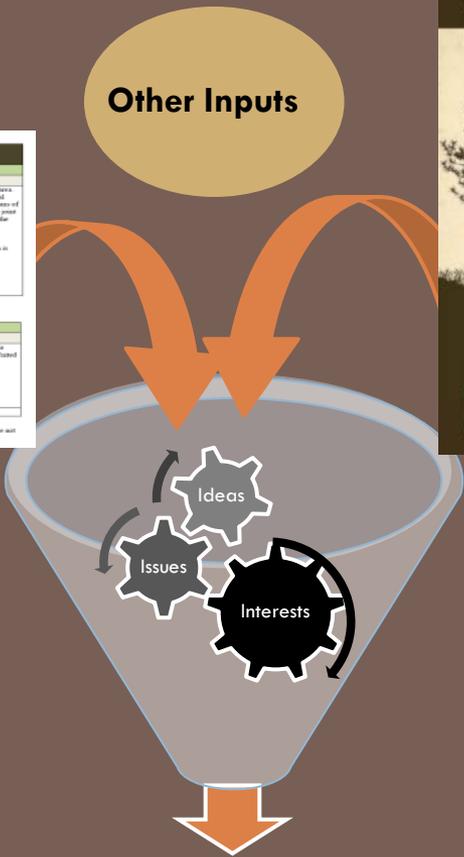
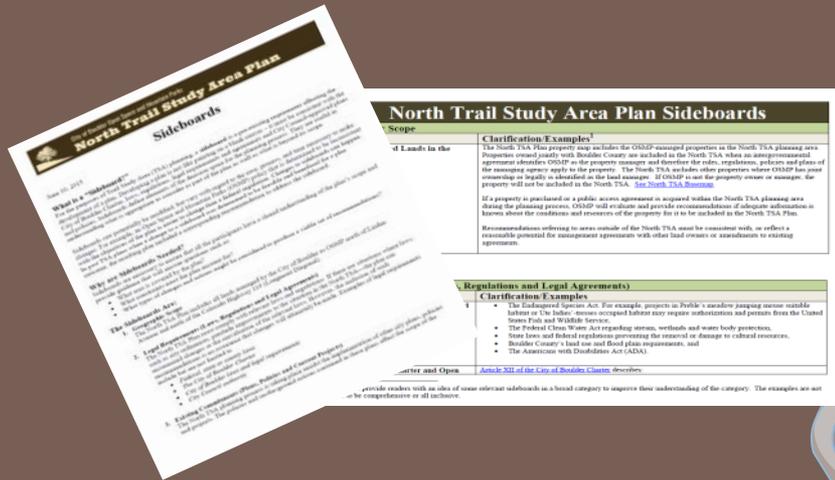
**The Sideboards Are:**

**Legal Requirements, Rules, Regulations and Legal Agreements**

**Clarification/Examples**

# North Trail Study Area Plan

## North TSA Sideboards



Scenario/ Plan Recommendations

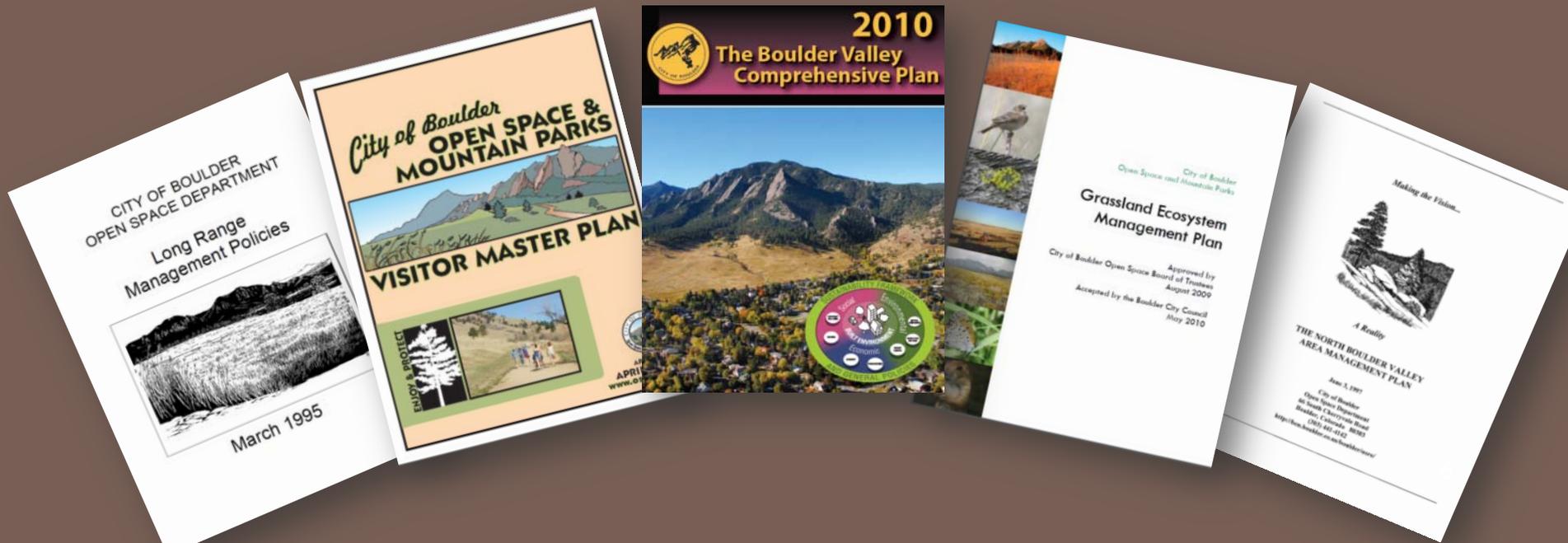
## Examples of the Use of Sideboard Guidance

- Allowed focus on trail connections on lands managed by OSMP.
  - Community interest in connections off of OSMP lands.
- Allowed staff to respond to request to reconsider decisions approved in the VMP.
  - Community interest in changing the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) designation on the West Beech Property.

# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Sideboards: Existing Commitments (Plans and Policies)

Guidance from the different plans and policies are generally compatible, but there may be situations where guidance from plans' directions conflict. This requires reconciliation in the TSA planning process.



## Sideboard Guidance and Adopted Plans

### Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan:

*Decisions about trails and visitor access in the Grassland Planning Area will be made in the context of TSA planning. The availability of specific information about the current status and desired condition of natural resources will improve OSMP's ability to balance resource protection and visitor access through TSA planning.*

## Visitor Master Plan

Guiding Principles: Creative Solutions to Site-Specific Conflicts.

*When there are conflicts between resource protection and visitor use, management priorities will be established by considering the context provided by the underlying management area designation. OSMP shall attempt, working with the public, to find creative solutions that mediate between providing new or enhanced recreational opportunities and avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the impacts of visitor use.*

## Joder Connection in the North Foothills HCA

### North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan

- *Plan trails to minimize the risk of invasive plant species introduction and spread. Do not place trails in areas with severe existing invasive plant species infestations. Keep trails out of wet areas. Avoid creating a trail corridor that stretches from an invasive plant species infested area into an area with relatively few or no noxious invasive plant species infestations.*
- *Plan recreational development to avoid or minimize direct, indirect, and cumulative negative effects on rare species, communities, and potential habitat.*



## Joder Connection in the North Foothills HCA

### North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan

- *Work with Boulder County and other departments within the City to provide trail linkages that meet regional recreational needs.*
- *Evaluate future potential trail and access opportunities from the north to south through West Beech.*

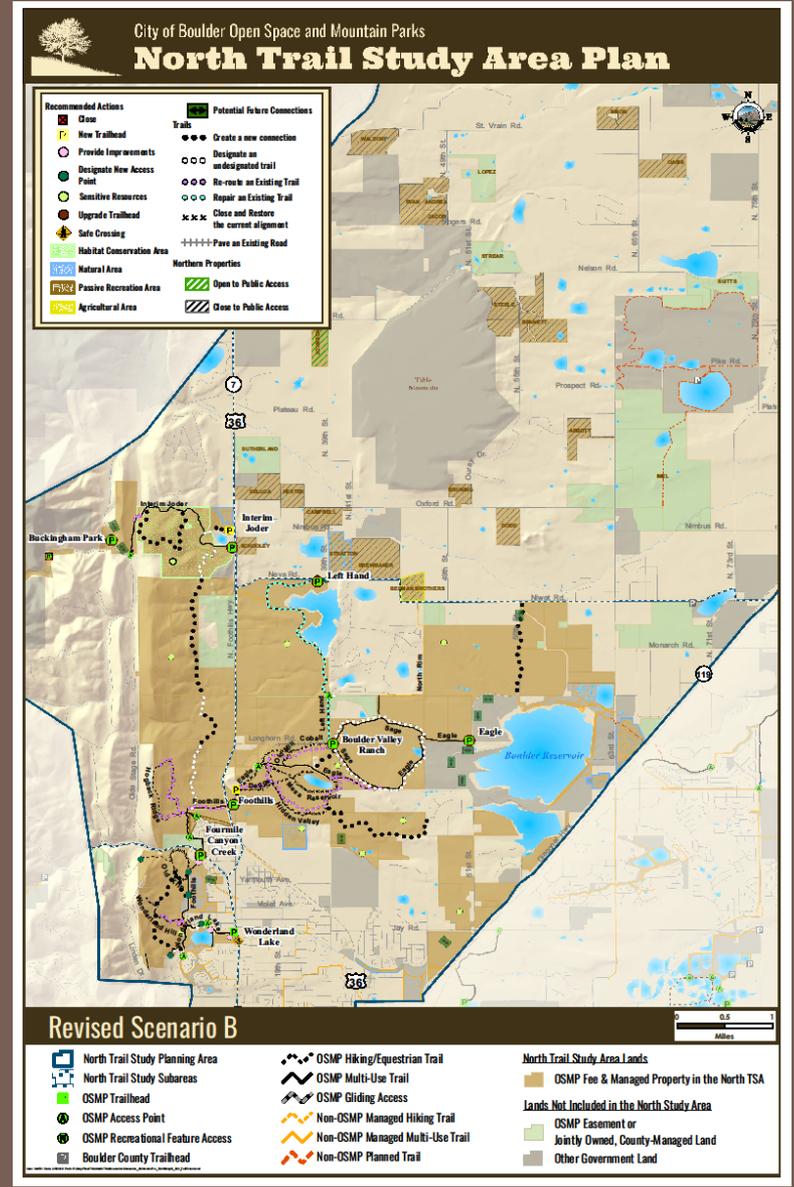
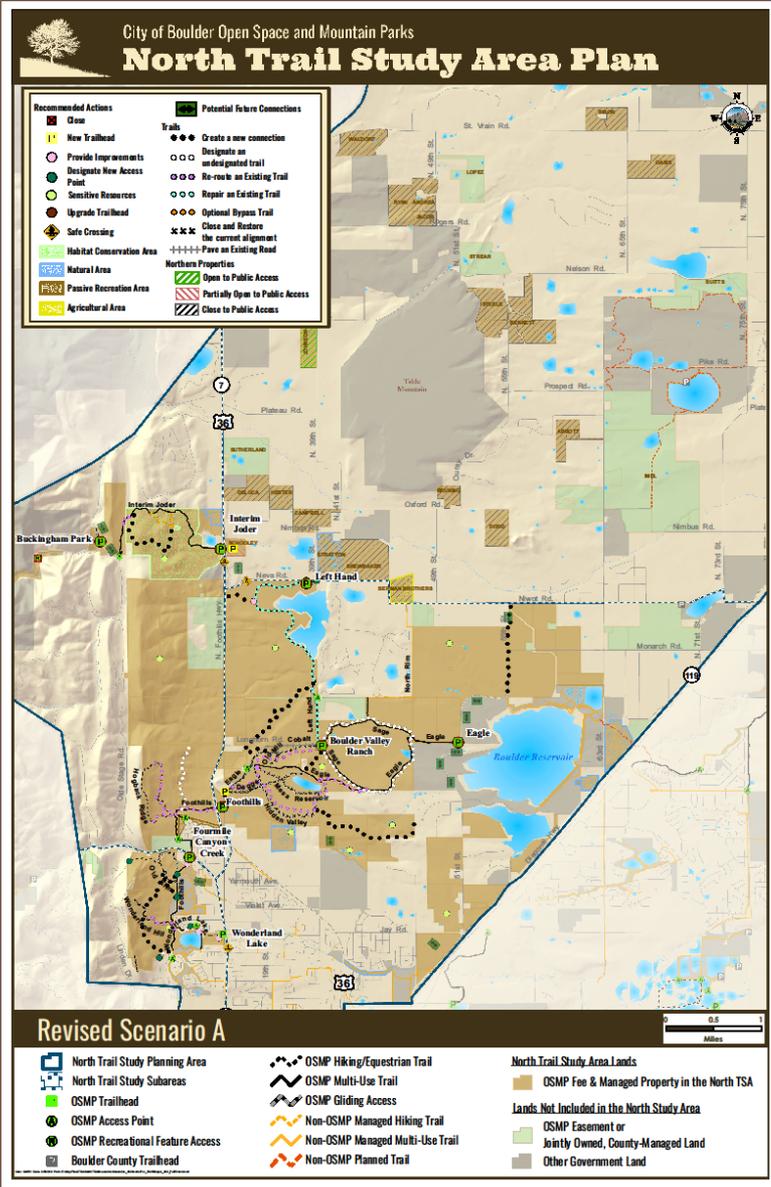


## Joder Connection in the North Foothills HCA

Examples of integrating plan guidance:

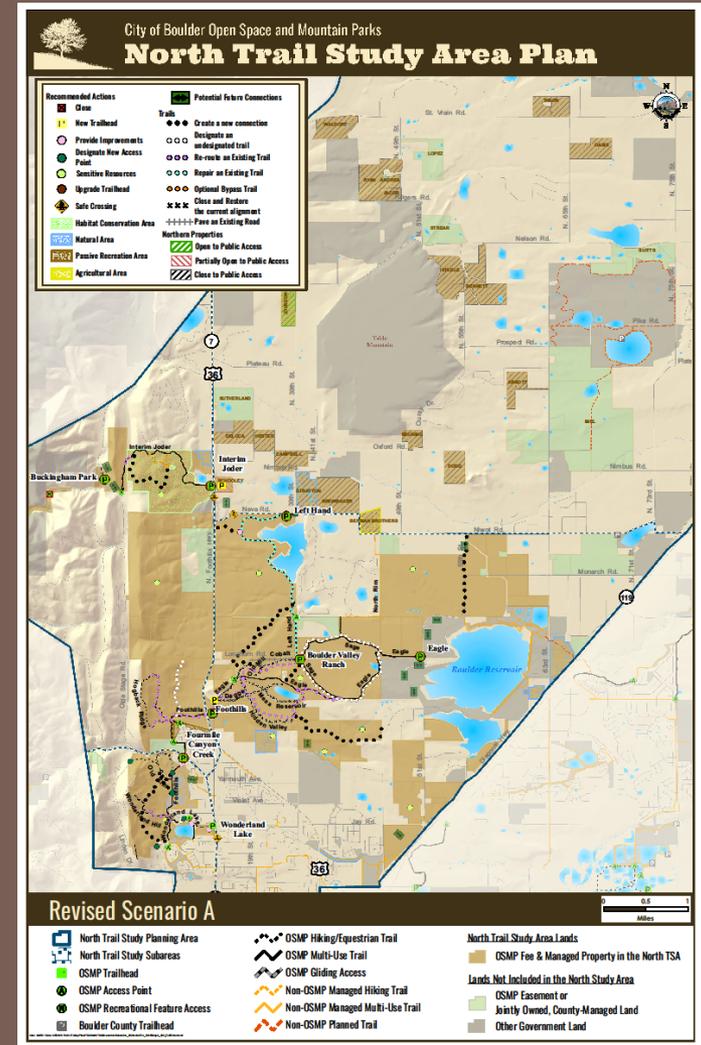
- Avoiding shale barrens and rare plants where possible.
- Crossing Schneider Draw where impacts are reduced (*Grassland Plan best opportunity area for riparian conservation*).
- Maintaining large habitat blocks both in North Foothills HCA and on East Beech.
- Minimizing undesignated trails and new trails (and trail density) and locating new trails to minimize impacts on habitat quality.

# Updated Scenarios A & B



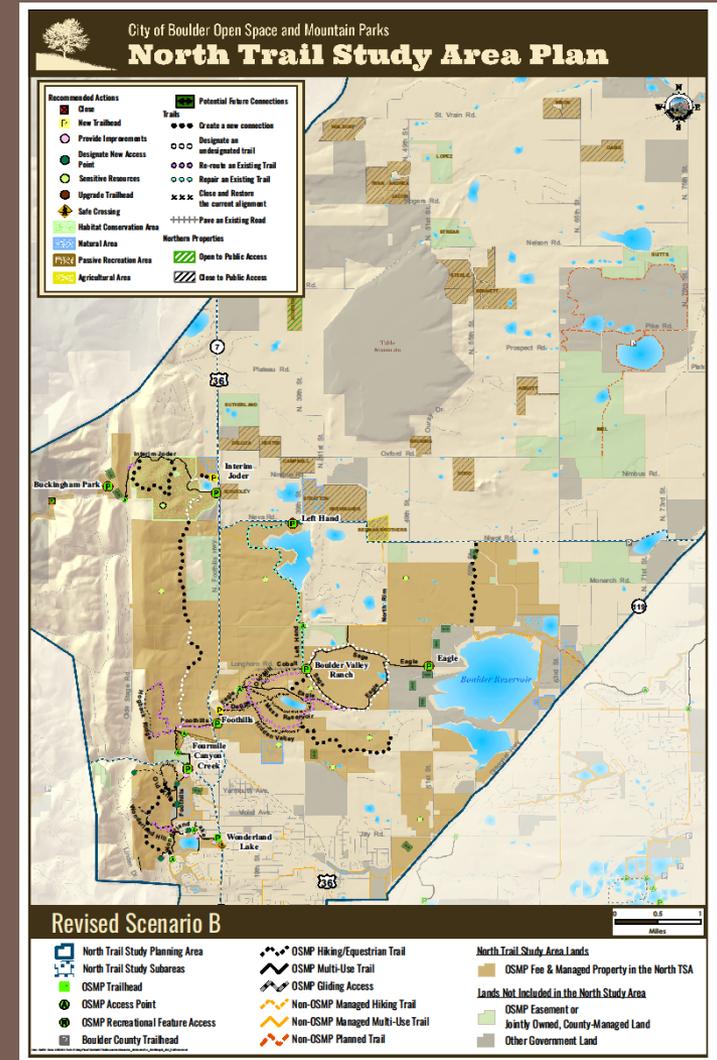
# Updated Scenario A

- Joder connecting trail on the east side of US 36
- North Foothills HCA allows for off-trail permits
- Joder Parking at Schooley Property
- Addition of a diagonal connection from Longhorn Rd. to the Lefthand Trail



# Updated Scenario B

- Joder connecting trail on the west side of US 36
- North Foothills HCA allows off-trail permits only east of Joder connector trail
- Joder Parking at Dagle Property





## Board Feedback from January Study Session

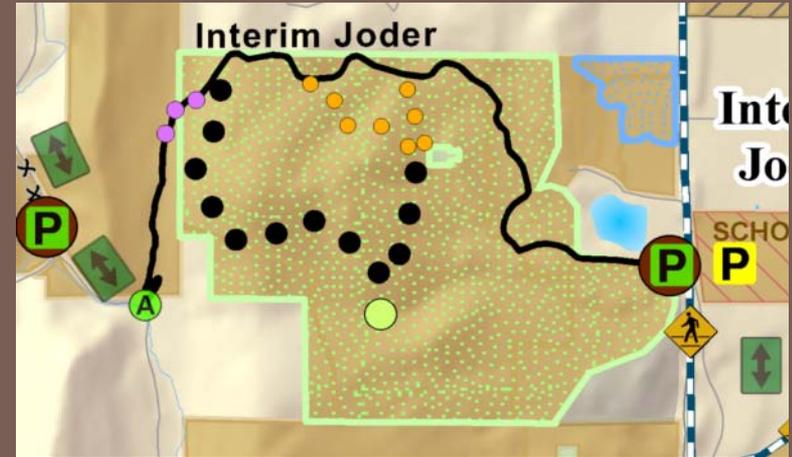
- Actions with consistent feedback
  - Amended the scenarios accordingly
- Topics with varied feedback
  - Board member feedback
  - Community input
  - Balance of interests
  - Best available information
  - Professional experience

# North Trail Study Area Plan

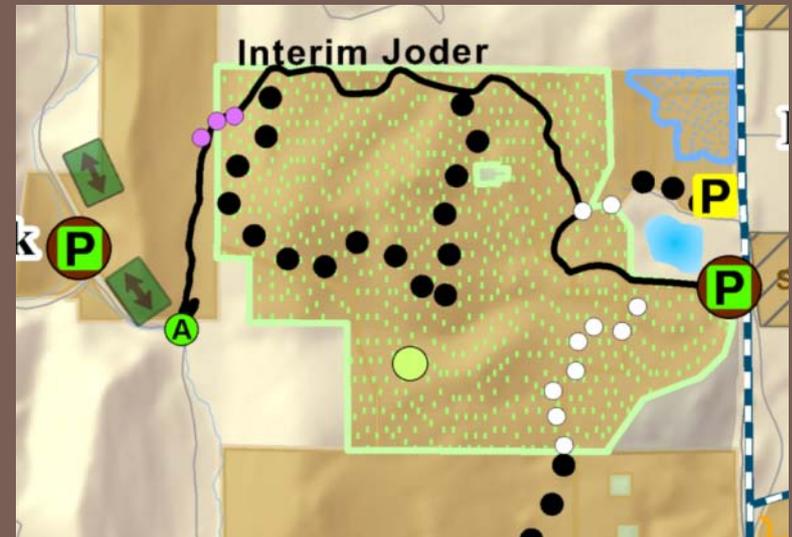
## Board Input Integrated into Both Scenarios

- Coordinate access to Six Mile Fold with Boulder County
- Reaffirm the HCA designation for the Joder property
- Establish a single loop trail on the Joder property

Scenario A



Scenario B





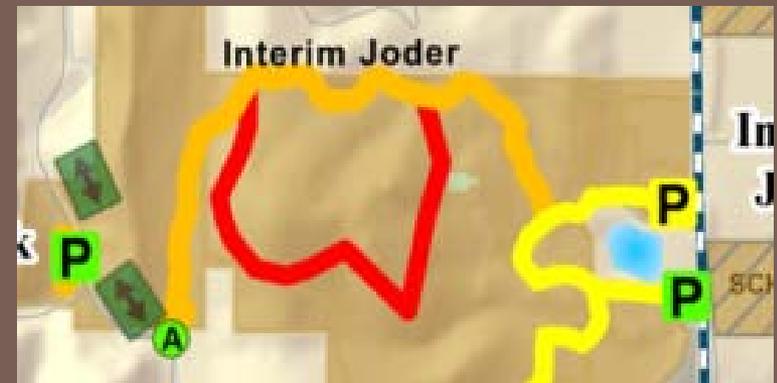
# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Board Input Integrated into Both Scenarios

- Allow Voice and Sight control on corridor on the Joder Interim Trail
- Establish no dog regulation on Joder loop
- Clarify that the plan will not preclude future extension of regional connection on the Buckingham property
- Add educational signage about the HCA and important resources



Scenario A

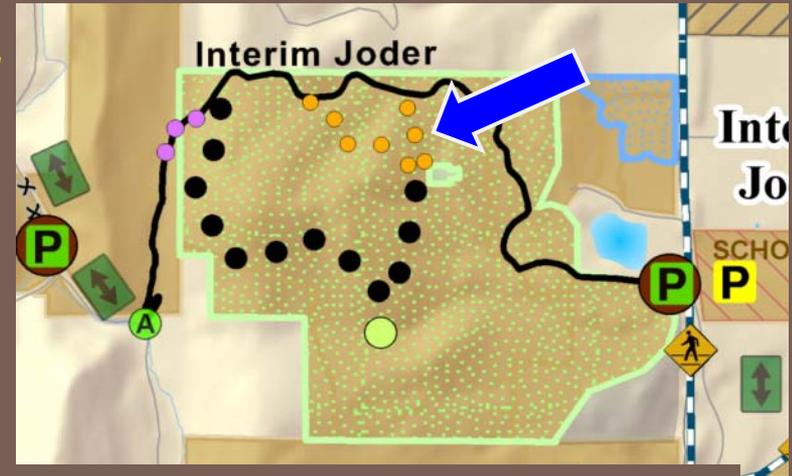


Scenario B

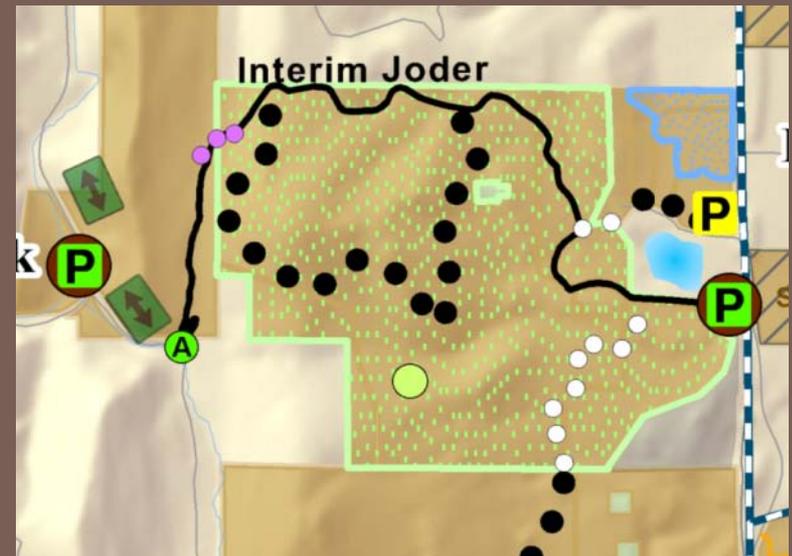
# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Additional Changes - Joder Property

- Two-year moratorium on off-trail permits inside the loop to restore undesignated trails.
- Scenario A only  
Reroute Joder Interim Trail  
Create optional bypass trail



Scenario A

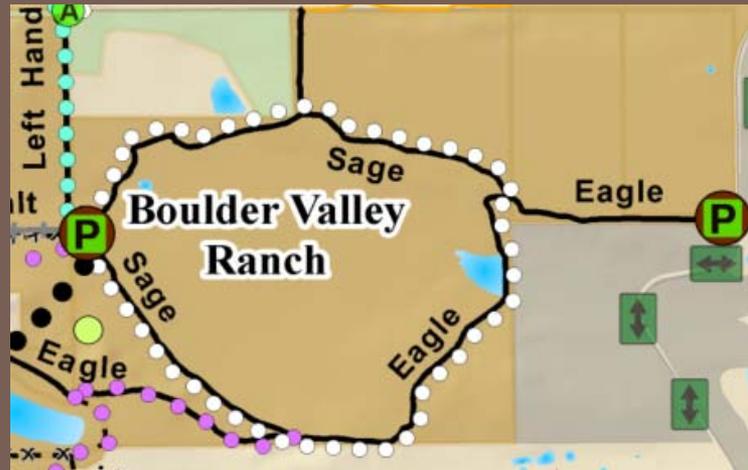


Scenario B

# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Board Input Integrated into Both Scenarios

- Provide a parallel single track next to Sage and Eagle trails.
- Post educational signs at BVR about dog access, important resources and safety concerns.



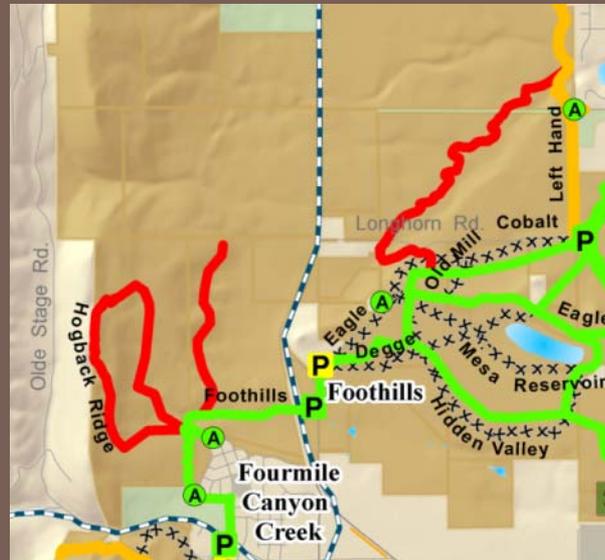


# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Board Feedback on Specific Scenarios

- Retain dogs on leash on Joder connector in Scenario B
- Retain no dogs on new diagonal connector in Scenario A

Scenario A



Scenario B



## Board Feedback on Specific Scenarios

### Scenario A

- Explore additional improvements to improve the sinuous design and the visitor experience on the Lefthand Trail.
- Retain the out and back trail on a portion of the railroad grade

### Scenario B

- Explore agreement or transaction to place part of the Joder connector onto adjacent property to the east
- Allow for consideration of “bike dismount” trail sections

# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Varied Feedback – Trails

- Retain a rerouted Wonderland Hill hang gliding trail to provide more direct access.
- Remove east side connection on the loop.
- No trail connection from North Rim Trail to 55<sup>th</sup> Street on the Axelson property.



# Varied Feedback – Dog Access

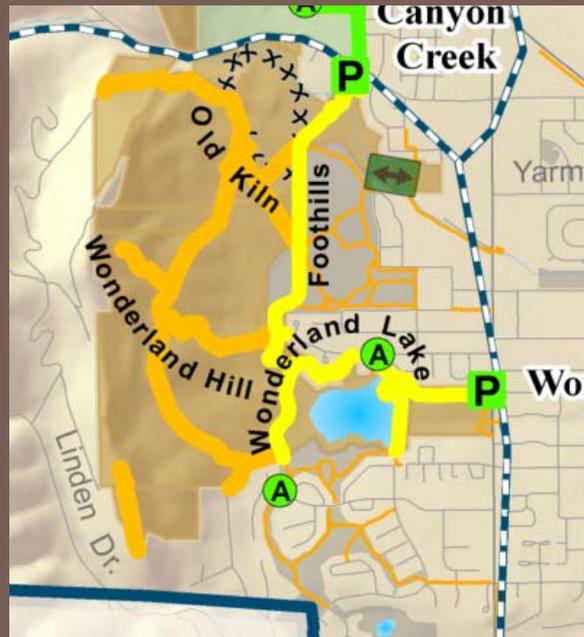
## Scenario A

- Allow “Voice and Sight On Corridor” dog control for Wonderland Hill

## Scenario B

- Retain dog on leash requirements

Scenario A



Scenario B



# Varied Feedback – Bike Access

- Include temporal separation on the Joder connector and Joder loop
- Include directional travel – Joder loop only

## Scenario A



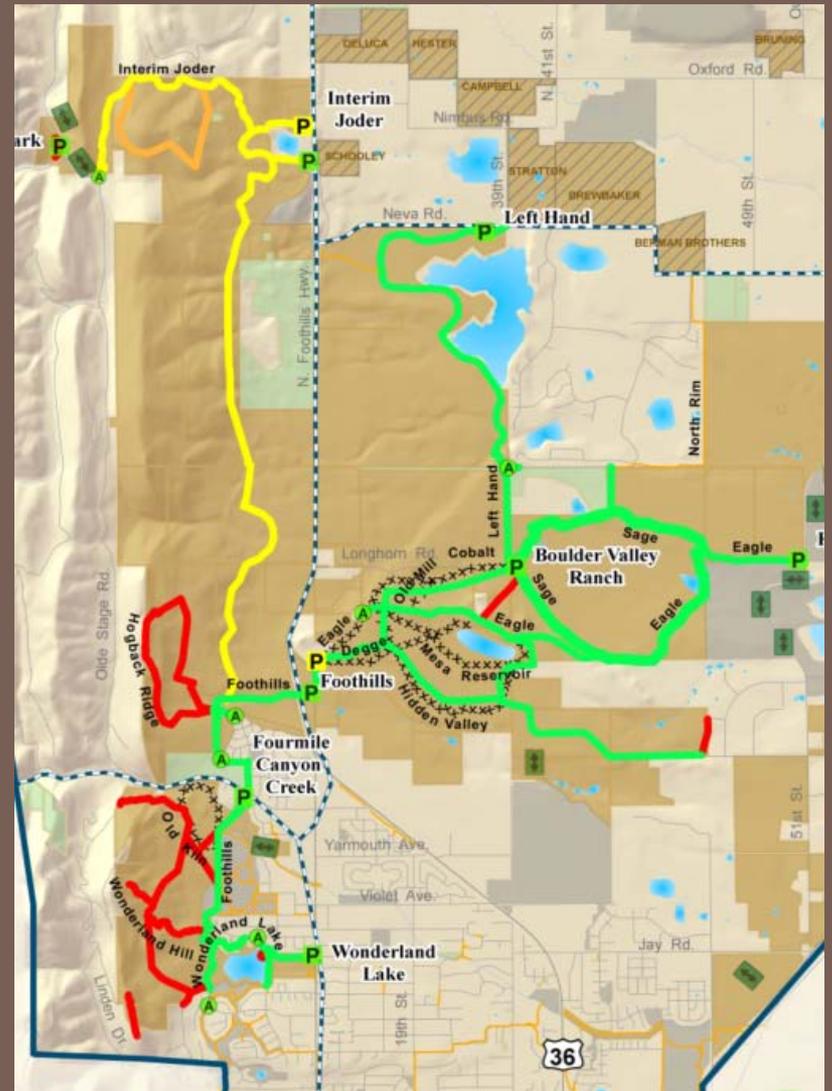
## Scenario B



# Overall Bike Access



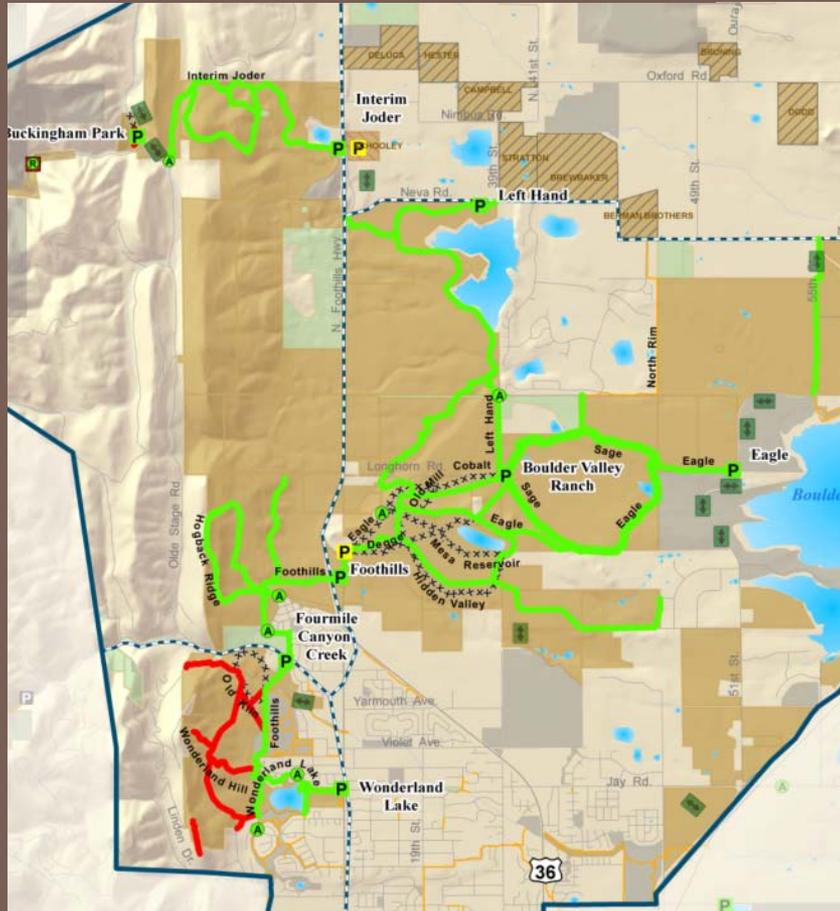
Scenario A



Scenario B

# Overall Horse Access

## Scenario A



Revised Scenario A Horse Regulations

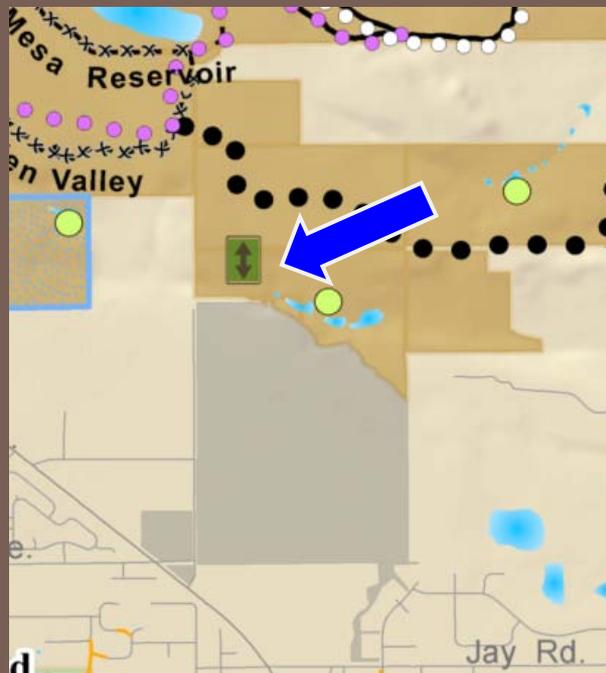
## Scenario B



Revised Scenario B Horse Regulations

# Additional Changes

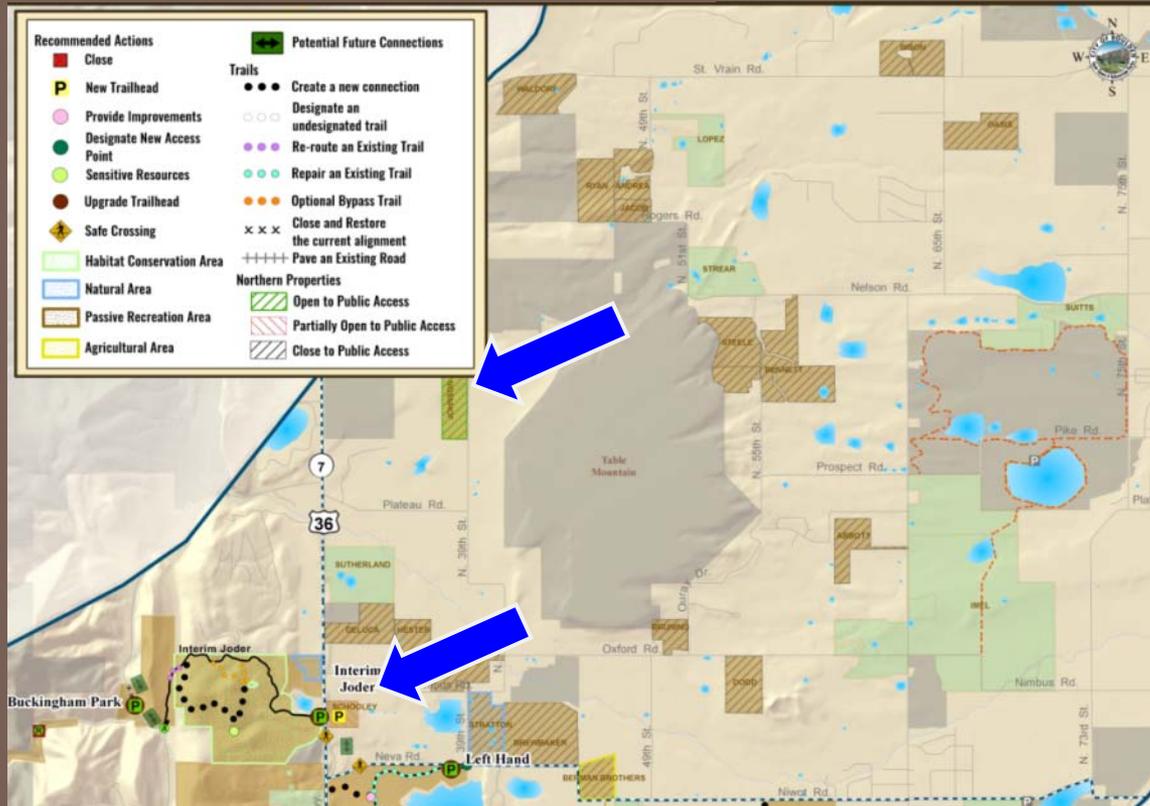
- Potential for future connection from northern Boulder neighborhoods to BVR through Area III-Planning Reserve.
- Assess alternative location for enclosed horse training ring near trailhead with trailer parking  
No trailer parking at BVR and public access to BVR arena



# Northern Properties

- Fewer open properties

## Scenario A



## Scenario B



# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Next Steps:

- Staff will integrate any revisions approved by the Board.
- Staff will develop the draft plan based on the Board-approved preferred scenario.
- The draft North TSA Plan will be presented to the board at the March 9th (and 10<sup>th</sup> if needed) OSBT meeting.

# **North Trail Study Area Plan**

## **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff requests the Open Space Board of Trustees approve Scenarios A and B as amended; and that the Board identify which of the newly refined scenarios (A or B) should be used for drafting the North Trail Study Area Plan.



# North Trail Study Area Plan

## Questions?

