

EMAIL FEEDBACK RECEIVED 3/4/2016-3/9/2016

Email Date	3/9/2016
Email Detail	<p>Board,</p> <p>I am a North Boulder resident, homeowner, business owner, parent, and open space trail user. I use the trail systems for mountain biking, running, hiking, and relaxing.</p> <p>I believe that it is imperative for Open Space to increase mountain bike trail access directly from town (Roads are dangerous(And boring) for bikes, and I really don't want to waste time and energy in a car). I am very excited and fully support the proposed trail on the west side of 36 connecting Foothills trail to Joder Ranch. This will expand the trail available to cyclists directly from town and increase safety by minimizing the time on the road necessary to access Hiel Ranch.</p> <p>I feel that this is the bare minimum to increase bicycle trail access and safety. The boulder cycling community requires and deserves dramatically more trail access, for safe and fun recreation and transportation. This should be a priority within the Boulder as a whole as the city continues to rapidly add more and more housing, cars, and people (with their dogs)</p> <p>As it stands Boulder (City, County, OSMP, etc) have failed to provide mountain bikers with adequate trail access close to town that can be integrated safely into their daily lives. From the North end of town, the general BVR area and Bettasso are the two areas that can be accessed by bike in a reasonable amount of time(Back to the intro, jobs, kids). Access to Bettasso is downright dangerous and the fact that plans to make access safer has existed since at least 2011, seems to show a complete disregard for the safety of mountain bikers(Not pointing fingers, just saying that it is actually very dangerous, and leads to the justified feeling of a collective disregard for the value of my safety, and anger that stems from that).</p> <p>The greater Boulder area is a beautiful place and I hope that it will provide the access necessary for residents to lead a healthy low impact lifestyle as it continues to grow.</p>
Email Author	Chris Rebula
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/9/2016

Email Detail	<p>Hello.</p> <p>My family and I wish we could make the meeting tonite to further discuss new trails and trail access in North Boulder however given the age of the kids, the meeting is too hard for us to make. Thank you for letting us write these comments in.</p> <p>We are in support of BMA and their recommendations of the blue sky trail would run north parallel and west of 36 to connect us to heil ranch. This would be a great experience for our kids to not have to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ride their bikes on 36 to get to Heil when they grow up, 2) Avoid them having to get in a car to drive to the trails. <p>This would give the experience from riding from North Boulder and enjoying all Boulder has to offer. You all do great work, but we do need that trail in place. It would be enjoyed across all generations.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
Email Author	Tom, Eleanor, Anna and Will Needy
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/9/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Staff & Council Members,</p> <p>Please make sure to include the North Sky Trail in your upcoming regional plans. It is important that we continue making progress toward trail connectivity throughout Boulder County. Not only does the North Sky Trail provide recreational opportunities but it is also an environmentally friendly upgrade. Such trail connectors allow bicyclists to get from home to trail or trail to trail via bike instead of having to drive there. In addition, North Sky Trail and similar trails provide recreational opportunities for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. In our efforts to get more people on bicycles (for fitness, recreation & environmental reasons) it is important to remember that not all people are attracted to road riding (dangerous, unattractive & unhealthy to suck in auto exhaust fumes) or hard-core mountain biking. Trails such as the North Sky Trail provide a safe and sane alternative for beginning & intermediate cyclists.</p> <p>Thanks for continuing to make Boulder County a desirable place to live by providing recreational opportunities for an active & healthy community.</p>
Email Author	Kevin Purdy

Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/9/3016
Email Detail	<p>I had hoped to be able to attend the OSBT meeting on tonight when the staff's NTSA proposals will be considered but it now looks like I wont be back in town before 8pm so I will mail my concerns.</p> <p>I am disappointed that in the final proposal OSMP staff has decided the close 17 out of 19 of the Northern Properties. During the process they proposed to open one set of properties or another, but not identify which were open from the road.</p> <p>I thought this was a ridiculous strategy as how would visitors know where they could park and walk to access these distributed lands?</p> <p>It now transpires staff proposes to close all but two of these properties to the public anyway.</p> <p>This makes no sense. OSMP has owned these lands for years, they must have known what was on them before this process started. It simply beggars belief that they suddenly found some rare or endangered flora or fauna on each property in the last few months, however I am sure they will claim they have.</p> <p>Its clear to me that OSMP Staff had a set of objectives from the start and this entire NTSA process has been simple conjuring to make the public believe their input and suggestions would be considered.</p>
Email Author	Tony Gannaway
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/9/2016

Email Detail	<p>I want to pass along my support for sticking with Scenario B and keeping the North Sky trail connector to Joder on the map. Outdoor recreation as a quality of life pursuit is a dominate reason why folks have/are moving to the front range and Boulder. We have done our best to provide responsible recreation on our open space properties, but the time has come to step up our ability to provide access to these resources from a broader perspective. Smart recreation planning must play a more prominent role in the conversation over open space access. Here are a few of the reasons to consider keeping the WEST side connector from my perspective:</p> <p>* Providing a connector trail on the WEST side insures a quality experience for folks, especially mountain bikers. The view shed is substantial and the terrain is more suited to a rugged/adventurous trail experience as opposed to being down in the loamy, prairie dog potholed plains. Trails are not necessarily about "A to B", but a journey of exploration.</p> <p>*It keeps fewer of these folks from hopping in the Subaru and driving from town to easily reached properties by foot or bike, like Heil Valley Ranch and Boulder Valley Ranch. This supports our county-wide goal to reduce carbon emissions as well as reducing the toll on our heavily used road infrastructure.</p> <p>*There is established human impact on the west side that will not be furthered by a two foot wide ribbon of dirt running through it. Despite what staff suggests, there is not enough data out there to prove that there will be an absolute negative impact on flora or fauna by having sporadic human movement along a narrow corridor that already sees human foot traffic currently from the Foothills trail north to the south end of the North Foothills Business Park. Not to mention the traffic around Foothills Business Park itself and Highway 36 running a few hundred yards parallel to the proposed trail corridor.</p> <p>(As an aside, staff would do well to set up monitoring to determine the overall impact of the trail to better enable future trail development on OSMP land if the concern remains this high.)</p> <p>In closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the board for taking the idea of recreation seriously and allowing the recreation community an opportunity to prove their side in this matter. As a trail builder myself, recreation management has been the missing link in the discussion of how to engage our open space responsibly. The North Sky trail is a wobbly, but important first step in showing that OSMP is on the right track with regards to stewarding our lands compassionately and fairly for all.</p>
Email Author	Michael Rutter
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/9/2016

Email Detail	<p>Dear Trustees:</p> <p>As we come to the end of the North TSA process, Open Boulder would like to thank the Board for its professional, even-handed approach over the past year. Our experience in engaging with staff and the Board on the NTSA was a great improvement over that during the West TSA, and we look forward to future public processes.</p> <p>The proposal now being considered by the Board for recommendation to City Council is very much a compromise. There are elements of it that are popular with the recreation community we work with, and elements that we very much would like to change. Creating such a plan is never an easy proposition, with strong competing claims for the same pieces of land. As such, the process has done its job.</p> <p>This having been said, we would like to direct the Board’s attention to one final aspect of the current plan that still does not make sense. This is the closure of so many of the little- used “Northern Properties” that range east to west across the top of the NTSA map. The current plan closes to public use the Abbott, Andrea, Bennett, Berman Brothers, Bison, Brewbaker, Bruning, Campbell, Deluca, Dodd, Jacob, Hester, Oasis, Ryan, Steele, Stratton, and Waldorf properties. In fact, the only Northern Properties on which the plan would allow public access are Johnson and Schooley, which provide extremely limited recreational potential.</p> <p>Staff has recently ascribed different rationales for these closures, from avoiding the disturbance of agricultural operations to protecting rare species. As you know, Open Boulder and the recreation community in general are strong supporters of land closures when they are needed to preserve ecological values. But we fail to see documentation, or any objective basis, for blanket closures of so many of these properties as a result of danger to these values. Some claims are stronger than others; for example, we can understand the need to keep large numbers of people away from ground-nesting bird habitat. Other claims, however, seem completely arbitrary.</p> <p>We note that many of these properties are listed as Natural Areas, which should allow for recreational access. We note further that agricultural and passive recreation activities can co-exist, including management strategies such as smart placement of trails and temporal closures, if necessary.</p> <p>Finally, we see several of the Northern Properties as potential sites for future regional trails. Closing these properties to public access forecloses on those possibilities, a decision that later will be very difficult to reverse.</p> <p>In summary, closing 17 out of 19 of these properties strikes us as out of balance and, ultimately, unsupported. Accordingly, we recommend more open (for pedestrian and equestrian access) and fewer closed (for ecological or agricultural protection) designations for the Northern properties.</p> <p>Thank you again for all your work!</p>
Email Author	Andy Schultheiss, Executive Director, Open Boulder
Staff Response	Pending
Email Date	3/9/2016

Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Trustees,</p> <p>Thanks for all of your volunteer time. I'm a volunteer for Boulder Mt. Bike Alliance. I'm also a long-time Sierra Club member and environmentalist. I think the North Sky Trail balances access and conservation. Please include the North Sky Trail in Boulder's northern trail system.</p>
Email Author	David Kreutzer
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/9/2016
Email Detail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I won't be able to make the meeting tonight so I would like to voice my opinion via email. I think you are doing great work considering all of the options. The people of Boulder love living here for the trails among many other things. I think the North Sky Trail is a critical connector to make the trail system more complete and enjoyable for all users. The views will be remarkable!</p>
Email Author	Scott Johnson
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/8/2016

<p>Email Detail</p>	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing today to express my opposition to the recommendation for the closure of the Northern Tier properties.</p> <p>As a homeowner at 7646 34th Ct, just south of Nebo Road, the Deluca, Hester, Campbell and Stratton Properties lie in close proximity to my four acres. My wife, two young children and I pass through the Hester and Deluca properties on foot approximately two to three times per month. My wife and I both work full time and unfortunately only became aware of this issue 24 hours ago. We were unable to attend today's neighborhood meeting though strongly support the effort to keep the disputed lands open to public use.</p> <p>I am no stranger to livestock. I am a licensed veterinarian at the Animal Hospital in Longmont. I grew up working farms in Pennsylvania. I spent three summers as a wrangler on the 7000 acre Breteche Creek Ranch in Wapiti, Wyoming. I was a bull rider with the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and I am an AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier. I am a horse owner and I have had multiple cow/calf pairs on my own land, and I can say without a shred of doubt that occasional light foot or hoof traffic through OSMP Fee and Managed Property has exactly no impact on livestock or crop yield.</p> <p>It is my understanding the proponents of closing these properties cite liability concerns and/or impact on livestock and hay production. There is no evidence to support these claims on the Northern Tier properties. None. The occasional passer-by has zero impact on the meat producing capability of a grazing heifer. Regarding hay production; light foot traffic pales in comparison to the impact imposed by hundreds of grazing bovines, EACH capable of consuming 27 pounds of grass per day. Citing unfounded and fantastical liability claims is the equivalent to a blanket fear of the open space concept. Open space is a privilege to border, not a burden.</p> <p>The closure of the Northern Tier properties would defeat the very nature of Open Space. From the OSMP Charter, Article XII, Sec. 176. Open space purposes (c). "Preservation of land for passive recreational use, such as hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing;" This section does not cite an exemption for lands under agricultural leases. The only thing being preserved by the closure of these lands is the monetary gain of one resident rancher. In essence, the entire surrounding community, who are among the rightful owners of these lands, are excluded to the great benefit one individual.</p> <p>My Great Great Grandmother Shattuck crossed the Oregon Trail in both 1849 and 1857. At that time, she covered roughly 2000 miles without crossing a fence line. Those days are long gone, but Boulder stands out in its efforts to retain what little remains of true "open space." Please, on behalf of my wife, children, and numerous neighbors, consider keeping these public lands open to gentle public use.</p>
<p>Email Author</p>	<p>Andrew Boal</p>
<p>No Staff Response</p>	<p>Email sent to OSBT</p>
<p>Email Date</p>	<p>3/8/2016</p>

Email Detail	<p>General principle: open space leased for agriculture should be closed to public access. In particular, close the DeLuca, Hester, Stratton and Campbell properties. If you want to open a leased property, then the city/county should assume all liability and enforce any rules that might exist. If a bull gores a horse, or human -- government pays, not the person leasing. If someone drowns in an irrigation ditch, government pays, not the person leasing. If recreation damages the crop/grass etc, government pays for lost productivity. We just had a local meeting and only two suburban folks from saddle club acres like ag land open to the public--everyone else wants to keep it closed.</p>
Email Author	Martin Walter
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/8/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees:</p> <p>Although I live in SW Boulder, I have been following the deliberations regarding the North TSA. I am a long-time Boulder resident and have strongly supported the acquisition of various properties over the years for Open Space purposes.</p> <p>The reason that I have supported Open Space property acquisitions was the belief that the primary goal of these acquisitions, and Open Space in general, was conservation. I was therefore very disturbed to learn of the proposed new hiking and biking trail west of US 36 behind the Beech industrial park and passing through a Habitat Conservation Area.</p> <p>Although I recognize the importance of recreational access to Open Space, this cannot be permitted to the extent that it materially interferes with conservation. All recreational uses are not appropriate on all parts of Open Space. The negative impact of fragmentation on both the wildlife and native plant life has been well documented in Boulder Open Space and elsewhere. The importance of these Habitat Conservation Areas cannot be overstated.</p> <p>I personally had the opportunity to observe this effect following the flooding in 2013. Many of the trails in the WTSA were washed out and closed for an extended period of time (some are still closed). The resurgence of the wildlife in the WTSA following these closures was amazing. In other words, when people come in, the wildlife goes elsewhere.</p> <p>If a N-S multi-use trail is warranted, it should be on the E side of US 36.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Email Author	Harriet G. Olson
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT

Email Date	3/8/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear planners and Open Space Board Members;</p> <p>Thanks you for your diligent service to Boulder Open Space, I know everyone loves open space to death and you are bombarded with a litany of suggestions for open space use. However, I would like to voice my support for Boulder Valley Ranch as a working ranch and horse boarding facility, even though there are plenty of voices to change it's current use. The ranch is an amazing place with diverse and abundant wildlife living in harmony with the cows and horses that call the ranch home. I've seen as many a five coyotes at one time feeding on the expansive prairie dogs colonies. Eagles and raptors hawks are frequently seen as well, a red tail nests in the lower valley in some cottonwoods. Additionally, preserving the ranch for it's agricultural history and ambivalent would be paramount to the mission of Open Space. It's such a joy to see the new born calf running the fields or the herd of horses spooked by an incoming storm. The barns, out building, farm house, grounds, and fields are a reminder of the old west and testament to the working ranches throughout Colorado.</p> <p>Selfishly, I'd love to see the ranch remain a boarding stable. I call it "horse heaven" ! The pastures used by the horses represent the most natural environment for horses to thrive. So many horse facilities have fallen prey to development or closed open space (I've lost 3 now) that there is very few options in Boulder County. Although there are plenty of privately held horse facilities, many don't board horses, or there are ridiculously expensive, or they offer stalls or pens only. Keeping a horse in a solitary pen or run is almost on cruel. Horses need fresh grass, room to run, and being a very social animal: they need a herd. Additionally, Boulder Valley Ranch has a huge concentration of trails to ride. My horse had a trailer accident years ago and will no longer tolerate a trailer, ergo the ranch is a perfect place for us. The community at the ranch are do not have fancy show or event horses. Many have elderly horses in retirement whose future would be dire if their owners could not continue to find affordable boarding situations. The owners are people such as photographers, retired school teachers, construction workers, administrative assistants, not the equine elite, and can not afford \$400-600 at a private facility to continue to keep their pet. Both the family that leases the ranch and the people who keep their horses there are excellent stewards of the land and strive for balance in it's use.</p> <p>Please keep Boulder Valley Ranch as it is-a unique and special place for horse lovers and nature lovers alike.</p> <p>Thanks you for your consideration!</p>
Email Author	Sue Baker
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/8/2016
Email Detail	<p>Members of the Open Space Board,</p> <p>At the February 10th OSBT board meeting, discussing West Beech Trail in the NTSA, the question of leash compliance was brought up, and the Springbrook study was referenced. The Springbrook study should not serve as an indicator of leash compliance for the overall system, or outside of Springbrook. FIDOS made this</p>

point explicitly at the time the study was released as we believed it was narrow in scope and ultimately showed a problem didn't exist in this area.

We ask that neither the board, nor staff, refer to the Springbrook study in the future. It was too controversial, and didn't support the context in which it is currently being used.

The main take-away from the Springbrook on-leash compliance study is that there were barely any dogs observed, let alone dogs off-leash. According to OSMP staff, after over 800 hours of observation, only 16 dogs were found to be off-leash, which amounts to one off-leash dog sighting for an entire 40-hour week of observation. With numbers these low, looking at straight percentages are often misleading as a single off-leash dog will have a considerable impact on the resulting percentages. It appears that those wanting an off-leash experience were not going to Springbrook, therefore the results of this study do not reflect the behavior of a typical off-leash dog walker. Ultimately, it was found that off-leash dogs were not a problem in Springbrook.

At the time, FIDOS outlined the following reasons as to why it is inappropriate to expand the results of Springbrook to other areas within the system. That was not the intent of the study, and Springbrook is not a typical leashed trail. These reasons include:

- The small sample size could have skewed the results.
- Dog owners may realize that the Spring Brook Loop lies within a Natural Area. In the Visitor Master Plan, the default dog management strategy is voice and sight rather than leash.
- Dog owners may realize that the trail has been aligned to avoid sensitive areas, so that the reason for a leash regulation is not obvious.
- Dog owners may believe that this trail is so remote they are unlikely to encounter rangers.
- User conflict, one of the main reasons put forth for leash restrictions in other parts of the system is virtually absent in the Spring Brook Loop area due to the low usage rate. Again, the reason for the regulation may not be obvious.

On-trail compliance was the second part of the Springbrook study. This portion of the study measured how many dogs had all 4 paws off the tread of the trail for more than 30 seconds, regardless of whether the dogs were on-leash or not. There were many problems with this study, the biggest of which was that OSMP was measuring compliance for something they never defined. Most dog walkers would assume if they never left the trail, and their dog was on-leash, they both would be considered to be on-trail. If the dog happened to lift its leg on a bush for more than 30 seconds, even though they were on-leash, this was considered to be out of compliance. Not only is this definition counter-intuitive, it was never explained to the public in any way. In fact, this definition of OSMP's expectation of on-trail is still not articulated in the latest informational video required to obtain a Green Tag. FIDOS believed at the time, that this was an example of OSMP designing studies that would ensure dogs would fail.

There was extensive debate and criticism of the Springbrook compliance study at the time it was publicized. The important points that these discussions revealed are now being omitted from current discussions, leaving the public with incomplete and misleading information. Please refrain from using this study to justify NTSA management decisions.

Email Author	Lori Fuller, FIDOS Board
Staff Response	Pending

Email Date	3/8/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that you reconsider the sudden recommendation to close the Northern Tier Properties.</p> <p>I own the property on the corner of Nebo Road and 35th Street (7675 35th Street). My family and I enjoy walking the properties in mention immensely and have made it part of our daily routine since moving here last year. These spaces are a true asset to our community and I know of several neighbors who feel the same and also enjoy them on a regular basis. Without these spaces, we have no close access to open space and would be forced to walk on the roads.</p> <p>I plan to attend the meeting on Wednesday to discuss the impact of losing these open space trails on our neighborhood.</p> <p>Please reconsider closing these trails for not only my family but also for the many neighbors who enjoy and respect these trails as much as we do.</p>
Email Author	Michael Montgomery
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/7/2016
Email Detail	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>As a long-time Boulder County resident and horse owner, I am writing to advocate for all horse lovers who value reasonable access to open space lands for riding. I have been riding in the Boulder area for over 50 years and have fond memories of riding at Boulder Valley Ranch (formerly Hidden Valley Ranch) when it was open to the public as well as numerous open space areas now closed to horses. I met Anna Best Joder and know how important the horse community was to her. I was concerned when Joder Ranch was initially closed to equestrians and am relieved that at least some the property has been re-opened. I am most recently concerned about the potential closure of the Northern Tier properties to equestrians, as these represent an opportunity for equestrians to enjoy some of the few remaining horse friendly open spaces.</p> <p>I want to thank you for all your hard work and passion related to managing and preserving our precious open spaces and recognize that there are many difficult decisions that have to be made. But please, don't forget the equestrian community when making these decisions.</p>
Email Author	Jane Kellogg
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/7/2016

Email Detail	<p>I agree with the OSMP staff recommendation to have only the Johnson and Schooley properties in the North TSA open to the public. All other Northern Properties in the North TSA plan should remain closed to the public. I live in the Northern Properties and we grow grass hay on our property. The majority of Northern Properties parcels are active leased agricultural properties. The public should not be able to access a farmer's irrigated hay field while he is trying to grow his crop or walk, ride their horse or train their dog among his cows, calves and bulls. Potentially it is a safety and liability issue waiting to happen, not to mention the conflict it may cause. I am an equestrian, like to hike, and have a dog but I do not think that it is appropriate to do any of those activities on a leased agricultural property where a farmer/rancher grows hay or other crops, or raises cows for their income. There are plenty of existing trails around Boulder County for the public to use for their recreational activities, agricultural properties should be closed to the public.</p>
Email Author	Sydney Keith
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/7/2016
Email Detail	<p>Thank you for all of your hard work on the North TSA. I am excited about the new opportunities available, especially the North Sky Trail connection.</p> <p>I have a comment--is it possible to create a separate singletrack trail on the east side of Joder Ranch so that users can have a trail experience instead of using the existing road? The road is extremely steep in places and does not provide nearly as pleasant of an experience as the singletrack on the west side does (or, for comparison, the Left Hand Trail.)</p> <p>Thanks for your help with this!</p>
Email Author	Eric Gordon
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/7/2016
Email Detail	<p>We are pleased that the draft plan includes a trail link to Joder in the hills west of US 36, a new loop in the beautiful Joder Open Space, and a formal loop into the foothills west of Wonderland Lake. These will be major new recreational resources for the county. Bravo for showing us that our open space money really will improve the quality of life in Boulder County!</p>

Email Author	Phil and Judy Straffin
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/7/2016
Email Detail	<p>Hi All,</p> <p>I have looked at the maps, etc. and strongly recommend that a Minority Report be prepared on this very important issue. I understand that a preliminary vote was taken at your last OSMP meeting, and the vote was 3-2 to recommend Scenario B. Personally, I would hope that Scenario A be the choice, because it does not put a trail through the Habitat Conservation Area –the most precious open space lands that we have. It is also the only land in the NTSA with that designation.</p> <p>In any case, I think the minority on the Board should have a voice; and most importantly, the City Council, which will be making the final decision, should have the best thinking and arguments available to make a rational and well-thought out decision.</p>
Email Author	<p>Ruth Wright A Founder of the Open Space Program n 1967 and former OSMP Board member</p>

<p>Staff Response</p>	<p>Hi Ruth,</p> <p>Thank you for your suggestion about preparing a minority report. Staff is intending to provide the City Council the North TSA Draft Plan and the alternative scenario that was developed through the planning process. The alternative scenario will include maps similar to what has been used to describe the scenarios and a companion document listing the items that are different from recommendations in the draft plan.</p> <p>As standard components of City Council agenda memos, we will be providing a summary of public input and recent “board and commission” feedback. The latter will recap the action taken by the OSBT at their March meeting. Our typical practice is to summarize the outcome of the Board’s vote and the factors associated with dissenting votes. Council will also be provided with a link to the compendium of public comment which presents the community’s feedback about the benefits and detriments of the alternative scenarios.</p> <p>We believe that by providing City Council with the OSBT recommended draft plan, the alternative scenario, access to the full range of public comment, and the agenda memo which summarizes the public comment, board feedback and analysis of the issues that contributed to the recommended plan; City Council will have access to the range of perspectives on the North TSA Plan as well as the thoughtful and creative work done by the public, OSBT and staff to resolve those perspectives into alternative scenarios and a plan.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Steve Armstead North TSA Plan Project Lead City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks armsteads@bouldercolorado.gov</p>
<p>Email Date</p>	<p>3/7/2016</p>
<p>Email Detail</p>	<p>Hello and thank you for all the work you have put into this.</p> <p>I would like to say how sad I am about building the connector trail along the west side of 36. I understand why and will enjoy being on that new trail for the view etc., but I do feel we are allowing our protection of wildness to be sacrificed to the demands of expediency. The east side route would be across pasturage that would suffer less from the inevitable degradation that will be the result of the human traffic.</p> <p>Also I am deeply concerned about the expansion of the parking area at Boulder Valley Ranch. This is a serious threat to the functioning of the ranch. The ranch itself is a gem. A functioning ranch only a mile or so from the edge of the city with a wonderful loop walk around it where people can see newborn calves, hawks and owls overhead, king birds and other pasture breeding birds, cowboys gathering up the cows, haying in the fields. It is such a treasure tucked down in the valley. One of your missions is to protect the agricultural heritage. Please honor that and guard the sanctity of the ranch and do not increase the parking area inside the ranch.</p> <p>Thank you so much for all you do.</p>
<p>Email</p>	<p>Helen Braider</p>

Author	
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/7/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Members of Staff and Open Space Board of Trustees:</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to encourage equestrian activities in the North Trail Study Area, not discourage them. Horses are an important icon of our American heritage, but we have lost many equestrian facilities to urbanization and open space purchases, especially in the North TSA.</p> <p>I currently lease a horse in the northern area and I would like to have trails available to ride him. It's a long way from where he lives to the closest Open Space trails, and there are no other trails in our neighborhood. I took my first riding lesson at Joder Ranch and rode the many trails that were available in the hills outside of Joder Ranch. I had been looking forward to exploring some of the agricultural and natural area OSMP properties, in particular Abbott, Dodd, Bruning, Bennett, Steele, Ryan, Andrea, Jacob, and Waldorf. I have been following the North TSA process and was enthusiastic to learn that some of the northern properties would be open for pedestrians and equestrians. However, I am now dismayed to learn that at the last minute staff has apparently decided to close all of them except for two small, rocky and isolated properties (Johnson and Schooley), which are not worth anything to equestrians or anyone else.</p> <p>It appears the decision to close these properties was made first, and then scientific-sounding reasons were "found" to justify the decision. That's not the way public land management is supposed to work. I question the weak justifications given in your document, since they invoke merely the same old plants and the same old animals that are always being brought in to justify closing more and more of our open space. The soils in this neighborhood are no more fragile than anyplace else, and agricultural activities can perfectly well coexist with dispersed off-trail use.</p> <p>Please reconsider this strange decision and let neighbors, at least, access these properties on foot and on horseback.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Email Author	Sheilagh Liston
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/6/2016

Email Detail	<p>To OSBT, I wanted to write in strong support for the North TSA plan, especially the North Sky Trail to Joder Ranch. I live in north Boulder and use all the adjacent trails several timer per week (Foothill, Hogback, Boulder Valley). This new connection would be a great addition for both locals and visitors in order to better enjoy the open space north of town.</p> <p>I strongly encourage all members to approve this new trail connection and continue to enhance the trail system that we all enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Email Author	Alex Ishimi
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/6/3016
Email Detail	<p>Scenario A should be chosen, for a variety of reasons. The original charter should be upheld for the natural preservation of the land for our children and the generations which follow.</p> <p>Scenario A would protect the land from erosion and provide for sensitive species. It would avoid fragmenting property that is essential to wildlife. In addition it would be easier to monitor. Having a trail populated by dogs, bikes and people would compromise all that the charter originally specified.</p> <p>Choose Scenario A and maintain the original vision of the Open Space charter.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Email Author	Martha Dick
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/6/2016

Email Detail	<p>I have been following the North TSA plan since its early stages of development. I am a bike patroller and recently attended a meeting of the review board on both the NTSA and Heil trail expansion. While I understand that there are many conflicting needs and many user groups, I feel that the review board is not adequately addressing the requests of the MAJORITY of trail users. Mountain bikers make up the largest user group. We are invested in the stewardship and maintenance of our trails. Mountain biking is becoming increasingly popular, particularly among our youth. However, our current board seems to represent an ethic from the past. One of the board members in particular, an elderly woman, voices an anti-mountain biking, pro environmental stance and continually attempts to thwart efforts for mountain biking trail expansion. I doubt any of the board members are avid mountain bikers and am disappointed that our voice and passion is not reflected by the current board members.</p> <p>While the current North TSA and Heil expansion plans do provide additional trails, they don't live up to the proposals put forth by the BMA. I would hope to see more multi-use trails developed in the future. At the moment I don't see trail expansion keeping up with the demands of the changing face and popularity of Boulder County's trail users. Mountain bikers are an under represented majority who's tax dollars are used to purchase open space.</p> <p>Thanks for all of your hard work in developing our open space. Please reconsider the proposals put forth by the BMA and recognize the requests of this ever growing user group.</p>
Email Author	Philip Schreiber
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>
Email Date	3/5/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Board of Trustees:</p> <p>I am writing to protest the new staff recommendation to close all Northern Tier properties to the public.</p> <p>I have been living in this area for 23 years and I occasionally walk my dogs on some of these properties (Hester, Deluca, Campbell). I see no reason why such use by myself and some of my neighbors would have more of a negative impact than the cattle that graze there during part of the year. (When I do see cattle on one of these lots I avoid walking there.)</p> <p>Open Space, in my opinion, should be open to those whose tax dollars are used to acquire these properties in the first place. I request that the Northern Tier properties remain just as they are - open and accessible to passive use. Moreover, I would like to see the Stratton property (west of 39th Street and south of Nimbus) reopened.</p>
Email Author	Ingrid Thoenelt-Winter
No Staff	Email sent to OSBT

Response	
Email Date	3/5/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I'm writing this evening to ask you to reconsider the recommendation to close the Northern Tier properties.</p> <p>I own the historic Bell Park Farm, at 3507 Nebo Road, and our property abuts two of these properties in question (the Deluca and Hester properties), so I'm quite familiar with them.</p> <p>In the two years since purchasing this property, I have seen only incredibly light use of the Deluca and Hester properties. The co-existence of recreation and agriculture on them is exemplary. They each abut our driveway, and we work from home, so are generally here most of the time.</p> <p>Once in a great while, we see a neighbor walking in one of those properties. I have seen an equestrian in them once, and it was not when the hay was high. These properties have locks on the gates, so it would be impossible for a neighbor to accidentally leave a gate open for the occasional grazing cows to get loose. The farmers who lease these properties do drive their trucks into them to check on the cows, but that seems to be the heaviest use they receive. The pedestrians have minimal environmental impact, and certainly do not require any trail amenities such as trailheads or formal trails. The real serenity and natural beauty of them is what has drawn us to live here! Indeed, hikers and horses are part of the historic mixes of use for these properties, and should be allowed to continue. These lands have hosted cattle, horses, hikers and wildlife enthusiasts for many decades!</p> <p>My two small children take immense pleasure in walking to the pond at the Hester property -- it is one of their favorite past times -- and it would be a significant loss to our family if we could no longer access it.</p> <p>I do know of three neighbors who enjoy the beauty of walking along the Campbell property, and would also be deeply saddened if these were to close.</p> <p>These properties are gems in our neighborhood, and knowing we would have access to them helped convince us to purchase our property. There are no designated trails in our neighborhood otherwise.</p> <p>Several of us in the neighborhood also plan to attend the meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss our dismay at the proposed closures with you in person. It would be a tragic loss to the quality of life for all of our neighbors to close these trails. I urge you to re-consider the staff's sudden suggestion to close them.</p>
Email Author	Helen Gemmill
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/5/2016

Email Detail	<p>Hello:</p> <p>I am writing to let you know of my strong opposition to the development of a biking trail in the North TSA, specifically the west side of HI way 36.</p> <p>This is a space that should not be opened to biking in order to protect the natural habitats of creatures, flora and fauna all living there quite nicely. There is more than adequate bike trail development on the east side of 36 being planned.</p>
Email Author	Linda Pounds
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/5/3016
Email Detail	<p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>I have submitted numerous comments over the course of the NTSA process, and will not repeat those here.</p> <p>In reading the current draft it strikes me as much as a work plan, than as an overview of the NTSA process. Significant concerns about a major new trail (North Sky) are not addressed, nor is much said about the sideboards beyond the graphic near the beginning of the document. There is little, if any, discussion of resource staff's concerns about the trail, nor the impacts anticipated in the resource inventory report.</p> <p>There are hints of how problematic the proposed route will be in the discussion about its construction and in the unique restriction of off-trail permits in that particular HCA. A suite of mitigation measures are mentioned, many with the caveat, "to the extent possible". These include muddy trail closures, dismount zones for bikers, siting of the trail's tread, etc. – all alluding to potential problems in the sustainability (and costs) of such a trail. Given the approval of the route, the decision to not provide off-trail permits, a measure I do support, bespeaks more of an act of contrition than as a sincere commitment to the protection of that area.</p> <p>Perhaps I am misreading the intent of this document, and a more thorough analysis will be presented to council in the coming months.</p> <p>I recently was part of a panel on open space issues at the university at which another participant read a familiar quote from Barry Lopez, "One of the great dreams of man must be to find some place between the extremes of nature and civilization where it is possible to live without regret." I fear the proposed trail bisecting the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area will come to be a source of profound regret – for the citizens of Boulder, for the department, and for the land itself.</p>
Email Author	Tim Hogan
Staff Response	Pending
Email Date	3/4/3016

Email Detail	<p>I writing to request that all the Northern Tier properties be open for pedestrian and equestrian use. Agriculture and recreational actives are compatible for the same property. There are no designated trails in the Northern Tier neighborhoods at this time. By opening these trails, hikers and equestrians can enjoy the regional trail system in the northern part of Boulder county without traveling miles to access open space.</p> <p>Please keep these properties available. Hiking and riding is a large part of the western culture that we need to support and should continue to support. I feel that OSMP and BCPOS should work towards acquiring additional properties to connect the missing pieces so the regional trails can become a reality.</p> <p>Thank you for you time in considering this important matter.</p>
Email Author	Rita Stern
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/4/2016
Email Detail	<p>When I moved here, I selected Boulder County as a place I wanted to live because of the commitment to open Space. I wanted to be assured that I would always have a place to ride my horse. It concerns me that the Staff has not given any good explanation whatsoever for suddenly closing all of the Northern Tier trails. This recent change is unacceptable and should be overturned.</p> <p>I close with stating once again I moved here because of the commitment to buying and creating open space for all to enjoy, not just hikers and bikers.</p>
Email Author	Lynda M. Dehn
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/4/2016
Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing to ask you, for the sake of preserving rare plants and ecological communities, riparian drainages, and diverse wildlife in the area, to please keep the West Beech property unfragmented! As also recommended by the Boulder County Audubon, CO Native Plant Society, Boulder County Nature Association, Friends of Boulder Open Space, PLAN–Boulder County, and the Sierra Club, please designate a north-south multi-use path on the east side of Route 36.</p>
Email Author	Carol Smoot
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/4/2016

Email Detail	<p>Dear OSBT Member,</p> <p>I understand that there is currently a plan before the Open Space Board of Trustees to place a major (biking and hiking) trail in the North TSA through critical wildlife and plant habitats. I urge you to keep the West Beech property unfragmented, thereby preserving the rare plants and ecological communities as well as the ten riparian drainages and the diverse wildlife that depend on this area.</p> <p>A reasonable alternative would be to vote in favor of the multi-use north-south trail on the east side of Highway 36, a trail that is supported by Boulder County Audubon, CO Native Plant Society, Boulder County Nature Association, Friends of Boulder Open Space, PLAN–Boulder County, and the Sierra Club.</p>
Email Author	Jessie Goldfarb
No Staff Response	Email sent to OSBT
Email Date	3/4/2016
Email Detail	<p>Steve - Thanks very much for your explanations. I wish I had more time to study the properties more thoroughly before the upcoming meetings; tomorrow I'm headed south to Tucson for two weeks to hone my astro-photography skills with several friends there.</p> <p>I am pleased to learn that not all properties were summarily closed and that possibilities remain for important regional trail connections in the future. Unfortunately, my experience tells me that once a property is closed it is almost never reopened for many varieties of reasons. Please try to interject my hope that some of the closed properties may be considered for re-opening even if they are "fragile" or agricultural. I believe trails through such properties can be designed to address all concerns, but we have never been given the opportunity to try.</p>
Email Author	M.J. Post
Email Date	3/4/2016

Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees:</p> <p>I have recently learned that the "Northern Tier properties" have been moved to Closed Space management under the NTSA project. It is my understanding that this was a very recent change and that the reason for it is undisclosed.</p> <p>I live in the North TSA and for several years I and my family have enjoyed walking on and occasionally riding our horses on these parcels. We have always avoided the properties when they are being utilized for cattle grazing and we have never had a single conflict with any of the local ranchers, or anyone else on them. We simply enjoy the peace and solitude that they offer and would be extremely disappointed to see access suddenly denied. The opportunity to enjoy these open spaces is one of the primary reasons my family and our neighbors live outside of town.</p> <p>Please overturn the new staff recommendation that the Norther Tier properties be closed to all recreation.</p>
Email Author	<p>Rob Hacker</p>
No Staff Response	<p>Email sent to OSBT</p>
Email Date	<p>3/4/2016</p>
Email Detail	<p>Dear Board, my family and I (4 in total) just want to lend our very enthusiastic support for the draft of the North Trail Plan you will be considering on Wednesday. We live very close to the area (19th and Upland) and are frequent visitors to the Wonderland Lake and Hogback areas. We are particularly happy with the increased consideration for allowing bikes on some of the new trails as my kids and I frequently ride the wonderland lake area. It will be nice to have a bike-permitted connector to Joder Ranch, which we probably would never visit otherwise given how difficult/dangerous it is for children to bike there along 36.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Email Author	<p>Danny Hassan and family</p>
Staff Response	<p>Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p>