

# Sustainable Recreation Monitoring Spring Brook Loop & Goshawk Ridge Trails

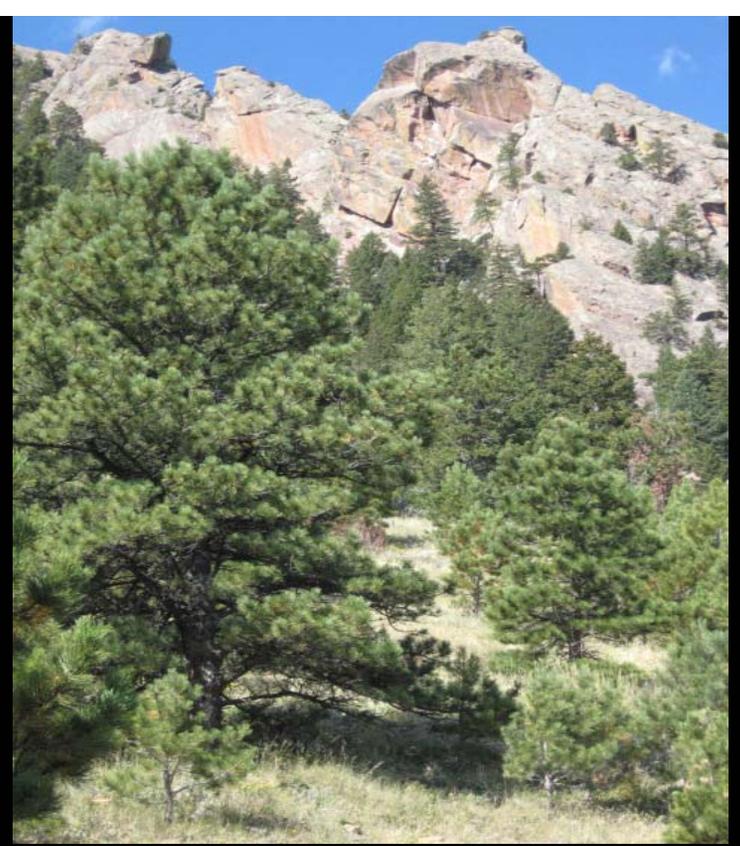
Community Meeting  
October 16, 2008

Eldorado Mountain / Doudy Draw TSA

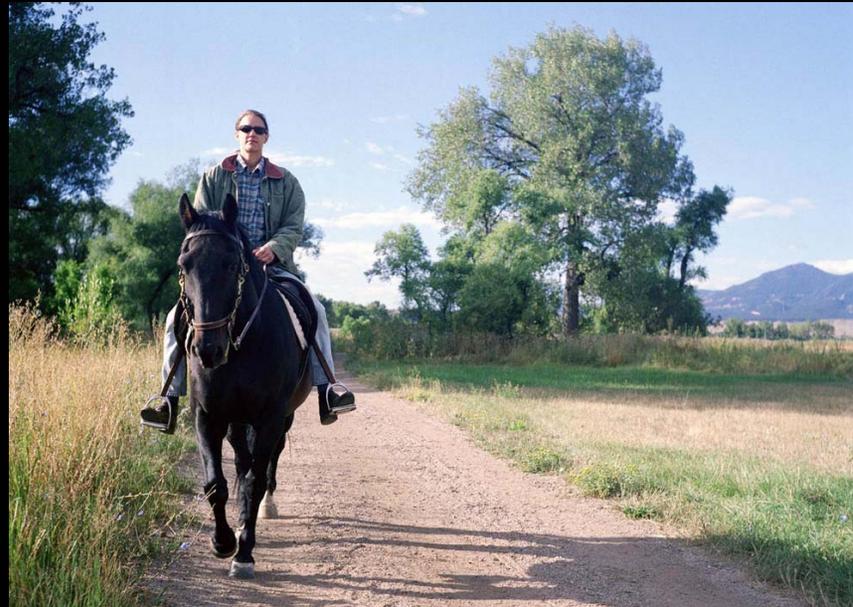
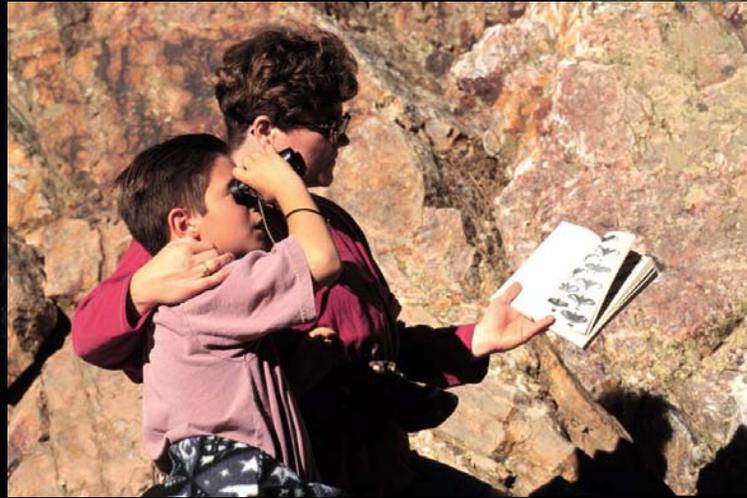
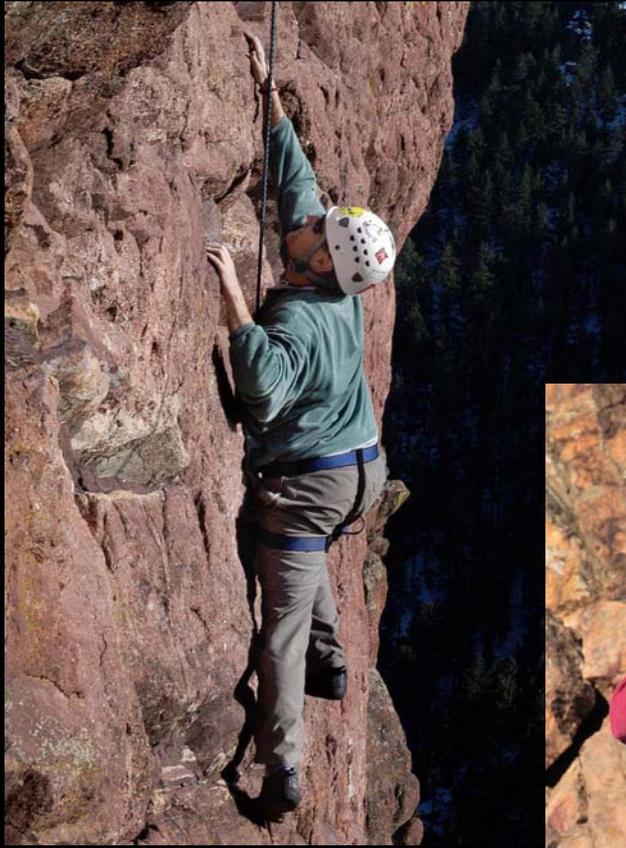
# Agenda

6:00-7:30

- Introductions and Meeting Purpose (10 min)
- Sustainable Recreation Monitoring (50 min)
  - Spring Brook Loop Proposals
  - Goshawk Ridge Proposals
- Wildlife Monitoring (15 min)
  - Update on monitoring underway







# Why all this Monitoring?



- **Sensitive Landscape and City Council Direction**
  - Hybrid On-Trail Requirements
  - Dogs-on-leash in Natural Area
  - *How effective are these strategies?*
- **New Activities for the Area**
  - Mountain Biking and Dog-walking
  - *Checking in on the quality of the visitor experience*
- **Trail “Experiments”**
  - Equestrian Travel & Social Trail Integration
  - *How is the trail holding up?*

# Monitoring Proposal

## Monitoring Objectives

*What are we trying to do?*

## Methods

*How are we going to do it?*

## Thresholds and Responses/Guidelines

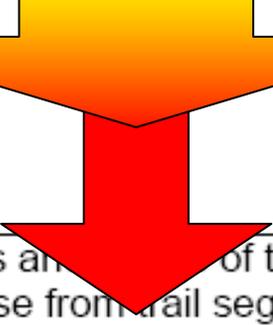
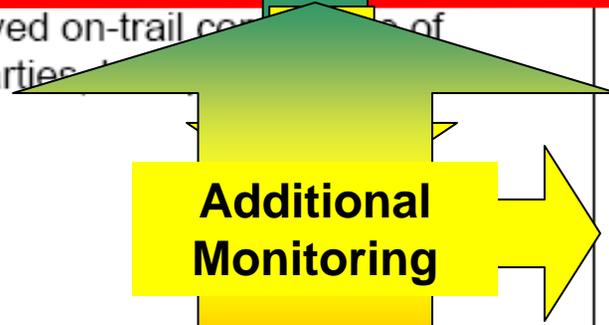
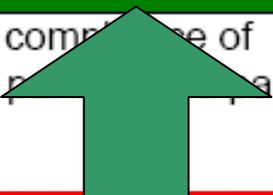
*How will we use this information?*

Threshold

Initial Response

Potential Future Response

Threshold	Response
<p>≥95% observed on-trail compliance of equestrian parties, bike parties with dogs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain compliance during levels of outreach, education and patrol</li> <li>2. Acknowledge Thank visitors</li> </ol>
<p>&lt; 95% observed on-trail compliance of equestrian parties with dogs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Close and restore undesignated trails</li> <li>4. Changes in education, outreach, signs, or enforcement</li> <li>5. Address maintenance concerns on designated trails that have resulted in off-trail travel</li> <li>6. Create physical barriers to keep people on trail</li> <li>7. Meet with stakeholders and implement strategies aimed at improving compliance</li> <li>8. Seasonal or temporary access restrictions</li> </ol>
<p>OSMP would use values and trends of this indicator, along with those from trail segment observation and undesignated trail monitoring to make determinations about prohibiting a particular activity</p> <p>regulations prohibiting specific activities would be considered after less restrictive strategies were demonstrated to be ineffective at achieving targeted compliance rates</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Prohibit off-trail travel by pedestrians</li> <li>10. Disallow one or more activity groups on Spring Brook Loop Trail</li> </ol>



**Thank Visitors  
Continue**

**“Least Restrictive Approach”**

**More Restrictive Approach**

# Proposed Trail & Activity Monitoring

## Spring Brook Loop

1. On-Trail Travel and Dog Regulation Monitoring  
Ranger Patrol and Contact (pg 3)
2. Undesignated Trail Monitoring  
Evaluation of Location, Condition and Extent (pg 6)
3. On-Trail Travel Monitoring  
Trail Segment Observation (pg 8)
4. Dog Regulation Monitoring  
Trail Segment Observation (pg 10)
5. Recreation Conflict Monitoring  
Visitor Survey (pg 12)

## Goshawk Ridge Trail

7. Equestrian Activity Sustainability
  - Evaluation of Changes in Tread Width and Incision (pg 13)
  - Undesignated Trail Monitoring (pg 16)
8. Physical Sustainability of Segment 2  
Trail Condition and Undesignated Trail Development (pg 16)



# On-Trail and Dog Regulation Monitoring: Ranger Patrol and Contact (pg 3)



- **Monitoring Objective:**  
Track the frequency of off-trail travel, dogs off leash, and dogs where not allowed
- **General Methods:**  
Ranger on patrol tallies # observed parties
  - on or off trail
  - in or out of compliance with dog regulations
- **Thresholds**
  - 95% observed on-trail compliance of equestrians, cyclists, and people with dogs
  - 90% observed compliance with dogs on-leash



# On-Trail Compliance: Undesignated Trail Monitoring (pg 6)



- **Monitoring Objective:**  
Locate, measure and characterize the condition of undesignated trails
- **General Methods:**  
Field measurements of various indicators  
Baseline developed prior to trail opening, and conditions reassessed periodically
- **Thresholds:**
  - No reduction in the condition/extent of existing trails
  - Worsening condition of existing undesignated trails
  - Development of new undesignated trails



# On-Trail Compliance: Observation (pg 8)



- Monitoring Objective:  
Estimate the percentage of cyclists, equestrians, pedestrians, and dogs that stay on trail
- General Methods:  
Observation
- Threshold:  
95% observed on-trail compliance of equestrians, cyclists, and people with dogs



# Dog Regulation Compliance: Observation (pg 9)



- Monitoring Objective:  
Estimate the proportion of dog guardians complying with dogs on leash and dogs where allowed rules
- General Methods:  
Observation
- Threshold  
90% comply with regulation



# Recreation Conflict: Survey (pg 12)



- Monitoring Objective:  
Estimate the percentage of visitors experiencing conflict with others
- General Methods:  
Single page questionnaire
- Threshold  
20% of visitors report *ever* experiencing conflict on the trail  
5% report experiencing conflict that *day*



# Equestrian Compatibility: Trail Condition (pg 13)



- **Monitoring Objectives:**  
Measure change in trail characteristics (tread width and incision)
- **General Methods:**  
Baseline developed prior to trail opening, and conditions reassessed periodically
- **Thresholds**
  - Tread never exceeds 45”;
  - At least 75% of sample points are  $\leq 30$ ”;
  - Tread does not incise more than 2” from the average baseline for more than 10 feet;
  - At least 75% of sample points are less than 2” deeper than the average baseline incision depth



# Equestrian Compatibility: Undesignated Trail Monitoring (pg 16)



- **Monitoring Objective:**  
Measure the number and condition of undesignated trails
- **General Methods:**  
Baseline developed prior to trail opening, and conditions reassessed periodically
- **Thresholds**
  - No improvement in the condition/extent of existing undesignated trails
  - Worsening condition of existing undesignated trails
  - Development of new undesignated trails



# Sustainability of Segment Two (pg 18)



- **Monitoring Objective:**  
Track physical condition of tread and structures in place or recommended for improving trail condition
- **General Methods:**  
Baseline developed prior to trail opening, and trail conditions reassessed periodically
- **Thresholds**
  - Inform if trail condition is failing and a reroute is needed.
  - Reroute consideration based on two or more indicators reaching unacceptable condition



# Next Steps

- Integrate comments from tonight's meeting and other public comment  
*Please provide your comments by October 23<sup>rd</sup>*
- Complete detailed protocols and training
- Begin baseline data collection
  - Undesignated trail monitoring
  - Trail condition monitoring Open trails
- Assess/reassess situation