

Comments Received at Marshall Mesa \ Southern Grasslands Task Group Meeting

OSMP Annex–August 18, 2005

Attendees:

Steve Haymes, Karen Hollweg, Chris Morrison, Eric Vogelsberg, Guy Burgess, Justin Reilly, Scott Severs

Whit, Heather, Lynn, Steve T., Glenn, Matt, John, Joe, Jim

Trails Map:

- Specify trail types – nature vs. multi-use
- Specify points of interest – viewpoints, historical, agricultural, ecological
- Interpret landfill, superfund site
- Find best nature trail alignment
- Re-vegetate closed social trails and roadbeds
- Greenbelt Plateau to Flatirons Vista via cattle culvert approved in 2000

Opportunities for Recreation:

- Interpret Rocky Flats pediment
- Interpret history, geology of Marshall Mesa – use short spur trails
- Map doesn't include old, unused but not closed trails/roads
- A lot of 'untrailed', 'unfragmented' language. Indicates a bias against new trails in the grasslands

Opportunities for Resource Protection:

- Enforce dog regulations at Marshall Mesa
- HCA must conserve habitat according to VMP
- Highlight accomplishment of restoration of Coal Creek corridor for wildlife
- Active not passive management to deal with uncertainty
- Monitoring and mitigation plan and budget allow you to work within higher uncertainty limits
- Educate why HCA's using evidence that supports preservation of large naturally functioning ecosystems that unfragmented in HCA's
- Preserve vistas from disruption of additional trail corridors
- Restore old roads to grasslands

Opportunities for Public Access and Trails:

- Consider some off trail access for horses in HCA's
- Greenbelt Plateau Trailhead – expand, provide for horse trailer parking
- Additional trails will degrade recreational activities such as observation of wildlife and plant communities

- Provide opportunities for quiet observation
- A trail to the south should go through NW Refuge – more desirable than along SH 93
- Add high quality points of interest to the map

Management Goals:

- Add active monitoring and mitigation
- Work with other land agencies to provide connections
- Provide long distance loops
- Why does OSMP need to deal with private owners concerning Marshall Lake
- Provide opportunities to view Coal Creek corridor
- Stick with the parallel trails already in use
- Consider habitat protection in relation to abundance and uniqueness throughout the entire system
- Hire someone to patrol trails for weeds

Wildlife:

- Evaluate minimum prairie dog colony size to re-establish burrowing owls
- Consider migrating species that use Coal Creek
- Add behavioral profiles for mobile species (Guy Burgess, 303.819.6748)
- Add seasonal profiles for sensitive species