

**“Sticky Note” Public Comments on the Draft Marshall Mesa-Southern
Grasslands Trail Study Area Plan Received at the
November 15, 2005 Meeting**

Corrected 12/1/05

Page #

A. Plan Vision

A.1	Opportunities for Additional Public Access and Trail Improvements	05
A.2	Opportunities for Resource Protection	06

Comments:

- *I am disturbed by the extreme emphasis on conservation, at the expense of recreation. Recreation is not a bad thing!!*
- *Yes, more trails.*
- *Open Space is not for recreation at the expense of wildlife and plants.*
- *The plan is basically a hike on county roads. It adds very little to the visitor experience.*
- *Overall Impression – Well done plan. It’s clear staff tried to address everyone’s concerns. Most of the folks I spoke with feel they can live with it (everybody has some concerns and some praise). I strongly recommend leaving the plan in its present state. It’s good, don’t screw it up.*

B. Planning Context 06

C. Plan Goals

C.1	Visitor Experience / Recreational Opportunity Goals	07
C.2	Visitor Facility Goals	08
C.3	Resource Protection Goals	08

Comments:

- *p.7 Goal – Use parallel trails to separate dogs and no-dog users and other conflicting users. Important goal – Should be enacted in the plan (e.g., in the PRA).*
- *p. 7 Access to water will cause degradation. P. 8 “Fairness” issue relative to grazing is silly.*
- *Current plan accurately reflects VMP requirement to maintain integrity of large area HCAs. Good! Lax off-trail permits should not circumvent this objective.*
- *p. 8 Visitor Facility Goals (last bullet) Coordinate planning for trails and trailheads... add Superior O.S. Their bond passed and they have prioritized land acquisition in this area. p. 8 “Low impact access to water...” is an oxymoron! How is this to be accomplished?...by paving the access?*
- *Although your plan is quite good, the tone worries me. 9/10 of all discussion focuses on natural resources and less than 1/10 on recreation. In implementation*

please involve local experts (e.g. BOA / IMBA) in trail routing and design to ensure quality recreational experience.

D. Public Desires

D.1	Common Ground	09
D.2	Key Differences	09

E. Major Issues and Recommended Issue Resolution

E.1	Access in the Southern Grasslands Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)	10
E.2	Dog Management	11

Comments:

- *Trail systems do bring in invasive weeds! Do not allow dogs off-leash.*
- *Please allow dogs off leash along corridor along Cowdrey Draw Trail.*
- *Relegating trails (and visitors) to the periphery does not offer a high quality user experience and does not breed the stewardship of our natural lands. Science does not support that a well-designed trail system “fragments” habitat or brings in invasive weeds... these trails certainly have less impact than grazing. Lastly, enforcement may be very difficult and undesignated trails may develop.*
- *Please keep dogs on leash on Greenbelt Plateau Trail where it abuts the HCA. There’s no way to let them run free to the west and stay out of the HCA on the east.*
- *Trails do not fragment habitat. Science is lacking to support this conclusion.*
- *Precedent to close all interior to trails is dangerous. It would likely set standard that inhibits sustainable design of trail and adds to enforcement burden.*
- *p. 10 Support HCA limiting access and limited amount of off-trail permit.*

F.1 Trail Study Area Recommendations

Recommendations Affecting Multiple Places in the Trail Study Area
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F.1 Implement a Program to Manage Undesignated (Social) Trails.

F.1.1	Implement Tiered Priorities for Management of Undesignated Trails for the Passive Recreation Area, Natural Areas, and Habitat Conservation rea (HCA).	12
F.1.2	Designate A Limited Number of Undesignated Trails to Provide Viewpoints or Interpretive Opportunities.	13

Comments:

- *I like the overlooks, loops, and spurs.*
- *Good job.*

Map Location 1 New spur trail to Marshall Lake / Greenbelt Plateau overlook

Comments:

- *Yes – When I was there with OSMP staff we all stated that so many people ignore the “trail closed” sign that 1) people want to go here and 2) a designated trail would direct people “on-trail” and 3) there is a good view.*

Map Location 2 New loop trail to Marshall Mesa overlook

Comments:

- *Yes – when I was there with OSMP staff I stated that so many people visit this overlook that trail improvements and interpretive signs on the mining and geology are good here.*

Map Location 3 Possible new loop trail to Marshall Mesa Highpoint

Comments:

- *Yes – When I was there with OSMP staff, 2 of us stated the mining and geologic features here and 3 of us stated the views. The addition of creating a loop by connecting to the new Cowdrey Draw Trail is excellent.*
- *Can be spur trail, does not have to be a loop.*

F.1.3 Utilize the Trail Suitability Criteria to Evaluate How to Manage Specific Undesignated Trails. 14

Comments:

- *This was a lot of work (I helped a little!) but the results are good. THANKS.*

F.1.4 Evaluate and Implement Strategies to Minimize Undesignated Trails Created by Cattle. 15

Comments:

- *p. 15 text missing after F. 1.4.*

F.2 Implement a Package of Trailhead Improvements and Associated Management Actions that Best Provide Desired Visitor Access in a Physically and Environmentally Sustainable Way.

F.2.1 Close and Relocate the Current Marshall Mesa Trailhead to the City Limits Property, but Maintain Current Public Access through the Pedestrian Gate. 15

Comments:

- *I agree old M.M. trailhead will be too dangerous after highway widened. People and dogs in the road already under current conditions.*
- *Great!*

Map Location 4 Current Marshall Mesa Trailhead

Comments:

- *Please add bike racks so people can lock their road bikes by the entrance to the new pedestrian gate.*

- *No – Keep the current Marshall Mesa trailhead open as a second trailhead. Yes-build the new City Limits trailhead. Other trails have more than one trailhead. This also saves money.*

F.2.2 Build a New Marshall Mesa Trailhead at the City Limits Property and Connecting Trails to the Community Ditch Trail. 16

Comments:

- *Build all three trails (Including F7). 5a and 5b = opportunity for short hike near new trailhead.*
- *p. 16-17 F.2.2 5b and Community Ditch should be no-dog trails (see p. 7 goals)*
- *Yes – 5, 5a, 5b. Build new trailheads with sanitary facilities.*

Map Location 5 New Marshall Mesa Trailhead at City Limits

Comments:

- *Yes – Build the New City Limits trailhead. Yes to 5a and 5b. Yes to new and expanded loop option of 5b, 10, and existing Marshall Mesa and Community Ditch trails.*

Map Location 5a Connecting trail to Community Ditch Trail

Map Location 5b Connecting trail to Community Ditch Trail

F.2.3 Defer Consideration of Possible New Trailheads near Marshall Rd. and S. 66th or S.H. 128 / Coalton Rd. Intersection. 17

Comments:

- *Good – 6a and 6b.*

Map Location 6a Marshall Rd. and S. 66th

Map Location 6b S.H. 128 and Coalton Rd.

F.2.4 Defer Consideration of the Possible Expansion and Improvement of the Greenbelt Plateau Trailhead until Improvement Needs for the Flatirons Vista Trailhead Are Investigated in the Eldorado Mountain-Doudy Draw Trail Study Area. 18

Map Location 7 Greenbelt Plateau Trailhead

Comments:

- *I oppose ANY suggestion that BCOS put a trail from 66th to Coalton.*
- *Pg 18 rationale bullet 1: less than 4 miles from new city limit trailhead. Additional pull-through horse trailer parking construction is not needed.*

F.3 Collaborate with Boulder County to Provide Trail Connections between Superior-Area Trails and Marshall Mesa-Area Trails.

- F.3.1 Work with Boulder County to Evaluate a Possible Trail Connection to the Coal Creek Trail by Extending the Cowdrey Draw Trail east of S. 66th Street. 18

Map Location 8

Comments:

- *Proceed w/ Loc 8 & 9. Trail should follow old interurban route.*
- *#8: a great idea. Cowdrey Draw is beautiful new trail & would be even more wonderful w/an extension.*
- *F 3.1: this will be a great connector. BOA is willing to help identify sustainable trail corridor.*
- *F 3.1 on the map: this is a good connection. However, locate trail along contour rather than in road corridor.*
- *F 3.1: avoids HCA! Good!*
- *#9: old roads make for boring user experience.*
- *An extension of the Cowdrey trail (thanks for that one btw) is preferable to a route along Coal Creek Dr. Please try to get a trail constructed at map position 8.*
- *Please work aggressively w/the County to get this trail built. It's a significant improvement over the 66th St. alignment & will draw users away from Coal Creek.*
- *8 & 9 good ideas for more diverse type of land.*

- F.3.2 Further Investigate the Possibility of Extending the Coal Creek Trail on or alongside Coal Creek Drive west to S. 66th Street. 19

Map Location 9

Comments:

- *Town of Superior wants to annex/close Coal Creek Dr. from 5th Ave (town limits) to 76th St. – City of Boulder needs to work w/town for Coal Creek trail so Coal Creek Dr. IS NOT closed.*
- *Proceed w/ Loc 8 & 9. Trail should follow old interurban route*
- *Accelerate BCPOS trail connections. Necessary for stacked loop trail system.*
- *8 & 9 good ideas for more diverse type of land.*
- *Coal Creek Dr. is beautiful setting and impacts will be low (private inholdings here). Let's do this.*

F.4 Implement Best Management Practices for Trail Construction and Maintenance. 19

F.5 Stabilize, Restore, Protect, and Interpret Cultural and Paleontological Resources. 20

Comments:

- *Monitoring after the fact is great – but what is the baseline for measuring impacts? What do we know (for example) about eagle & osprey use of Marshall Lake, about migratory or breeding bird use of adjacent meadow & ridge, and of raptor / badger use in lg. prairie dog village bisected by Trail #14?*
- *You will need to budget extra money to accomplish this. Please include enough funds for serious monitoring of usage & compliance.*
- *P 20: monitoring must include aerial photos of the area NOW as baseline and construction of maps like in VMP pg 11.*
- *Cultural & Paleontological resources: Yes & no; they should be protected but visiting should be permitted before they are destroyed by natural causes.*

F.6 Establish Appropriate Monitoring for the Trail Study Area.

20

Recommendations Affecting the West Marshall Mesa Passive Recreation Area

F.7 Build A New Trail from the New Marshall Mesa Trailhead at City Limits to the Vicinity of the Current Marshall Mesa Trailhead. 21

Map Location 10

Comments:

- *Excellent. Locate trail for sustainability & recreational experience.*
- *Excellent alignment – City Limits – Marshall Mesa.*
- *F 7 # 10: As a homeowner on the south side of Marshall Rd/Cherryvale intersection, we appreciate you staying as far away from the railroad berm as possible. South of Community Ditch would be great! The traffic by our home would dramatically increase and limit our privacy. Thanks!*
- *There will be 3 nearby parallel trail segments running SW – NE. Make one of these (the old “Marshall Mesa Trail”) no dogs.*
- *Map location #10: yes – this will add a larger loop trail w/5b and existing trails.*
- *#10: this trail offers opportunities for interpretation of coal beds & plant fossils along the ditch. (Be careful of the plat fossils).*
- *I do think one of the “parallel” trails (10,2,1) ought to be no dogs!*
- *Pg 21 – monitoring: What is “a variety of techniques”??? Need to be more specific so we know what to expect - & what we can count on!*
- *With 3 parallel trails on Marshall Mesa, can’t you make one “no dog” or “no bike”? or at least “leash required”?*

F.8 Build A Trail Crossing under S.H. 93 Using the Existing Community Ditch Underpass. 22

Map Location 11

Comments:

- *VERY IMPORTANT*
- *F 8: underpass will be a HUGE safety improvement.*
- *#11: Please build a bridge over Community Ditch here.*

F.9 Re-Route the Trail Connector between the Community Ditch Trail and the Greenbelt Plateau Trail to Improve Physical and Environmental Sustainability. 22

Map Location 12

Comments:

- *Measure impacts & minimize them – not necessary to eliminate all impacts.*

F.10 Make Sustainability Improvements to Existing Trails. 23

Comments:

- *F 10: Sustainable trails can be fun too! Be sure to include local trail building experts when rerouting or building new trail.*
- *For the “mud pit” trails, reroutes will make for better user experience.*

F.11 Provide Enhanced Education and Enforcement to Improve Compliance with Dog Regulations. 23

Comments:

- *Seems like a daunting task – Marshall Mesa area has become a de facto dog park. Many user complaints here (can be verified & counted!)*
- *Use science to make decisions – limits of acceptable change (some impacts acceptable).*

Recommendations Affecting the East Marshall Mesa Natural Area
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F.12 Construct A Trail Connection along S. 66th in the Road Right-of-Way. 23

Map Location 13

Comments:

- *Map location 13: Maybe? – If this is in the road right of way, then is it really a trail?*
- *#13: You still need a connection between 66th & Coalton Trail*
- *The private land next to Cowdrey reservoir is subject to development & application by Xcel Energy to rezone it to industrial in soon to be filed. Can you enjoy our open space if the center becomes industrial?*

- *P 23: F 11: Need to add enhanced education & enforcement to improve mtn. bike use.
The trails in PRA are NOT being managed sustainably now – e.g. see numerous trails cutting off from n. side of Community Ditch ??? ruts & erosion & vegetative loss.*

F.13 Remove the Pedestrian Gate on Marshall Road (S.H. 170 near S. 66th Street). 24
Map Location 14

Comments:

- *#14: Leave gate open*
- *This gate should remain open until the study of Davidson Mesa is complete.*
- *Leave gate #14 open – greatly needed (& appreciated) by long-time equestrian users.*
- *F13: Please leave the gate (#14) until the tallgrass TSA is completed. Very few non-equestrian users are likely to cross Marshall Rd. to use it. There is little use now, but the use is of great value to equestrians. It seems like prejudging the Tallgrass TSA process to remove this gate before that process starts.*
- *#14: The area affected by the gate closure is used to graze cattle. Hiker/equestrian usage is minor regarding impacts to vegetation relative to cattle impacts.*
- *Pg 24 F 13: YES. Remove the gate.*

F.14 Require Dogs to Be On-Leash in the East Marshall Mesa Natural Area and 24
Institute a Regulatory Closure of the Cowdrey Draw Drainage and Wetlands.
Map Location 15

Comments:

- *This is good.*

Recommendations Affecting the Southern Grassland Habitat Conservation Area—Coal Creek Subarea

F.15 Maintain Restricted Public Access for the Coal Creek Riparian Restoration 25
Area.
Map Location 16

Comments:

- *F 16 & F 15: Build a trail connecting south end of 66th to corner of “Coalton Trail”. This will help manage visitors who will otherwise travel this anyway. No trail will likely result in multiple social trails.
The Terra corridor is still public land and not a private park for those who recreate by counting birds & pulling weeds. Claims that such a crossing of the Terra corridor (at the property corner) destroys the goal of preservation are simply an un-scientificallly-supported assertion. Don’t get bullied.*
- *Trails do not fragment habitat.*

- *F 15 & 16: A second crossing of Coal Creek to connect S. 66 to the bend in the Coalton Trail would significantly improve the recreation experience and could be designed to minimize impacts in resources.*
- *Trails DO fragment habitat. Check the research.*
- *This is good. Not building trails in the map numbers 16, 18, 20 – excellent.*
- *Strongly support restricted access in the restoration area.*
- *Yes to F 15. Can't we leave one riparian area intact?!!*

F.16 Allow only one new trail crossing of Coal Creek, which is close to S.H. 128 and will accommodate the new Coalton to Greenbelt Trail. 26

Map Location 17

Comments:

- *F 16 & F 15: Build a trail connecting south end of 66th to corner of “Coalton Trail”. This will help manage visitors who will otherwise travel this anyway. No trail will likely result in multiple social trails.
The Terra corridor is still public land and not a private park for those who recreate by counting birds & pulling weeds. Claims that such a crossing of the Terra corridor (at the property corner) destroys the goal of preservation. Are simply an un-scientifically-supported assertion. Don't get ballied.*
- *F 15 & 16: A second crossing of Coal Creek to connect S. 66 to the bend in the Coalton Trail would significantly improve the recreation experience and could be designed to minimize impacts in resources.*
- *Trails do not fragment habitat!*
- *Trails DO fragment habitat. Check the research.*
- *The south portion of the trail on S 66th (13) should continue south and connect w/the Coalton trail.*
- *Need a crossing to the Coalton Trail.*
- *Pg 26 F 16: We need to know more about the “bridge” & exactly how riparian degradation will be prevented. (to show that the plan is sustainable).*
- *Avoiding the core of this HCA is acceptable, but shouldn't be taken as establishing a rule that no new trails can be built or designated within the interior of any HCA.*
- *The trail area #17 will fragment habitat.*
- *We should try to make a wooden walkway on map #17 because gravel will greater harm this marsh area.*

F.17 Allow Limited, Permitted Guided Hikes into the Coal Creek Riparian Restoration Area. 26

Map Location 18

Comments:

- *F 17: Does the agreement between the city & Terra allow hikes in the Coal Creek riparian restoration area?*
- *YES: 2 times a year, not during nesting season, led by Open Space or Audubon*

- *Guided hikes should be conducted by OSMP staff only. No other organizations. Group size should be small, & guided hikes very few.*

F.18 Provide An Interpretive Sign Explaining the Coal Creek Riparian Area Restoration Process at the Crossing of Coal Creek on the Coalton to Greenbelt Trail (at S.H. 128). 27

Map Location 17

Comments:

- *Let's spend a little money and do a really thorough job of this (Coal Creek restoration project: educate).*
- *#17: You need a real viewpoint not just a roadside sign. People need to experience the area.*

<p>Recommendations Affecting the Southern Grasslands Habitat Conservation Area—Greenbelt Plateau Subarea and the Doudy Draw Natural Area</p>

F.19 Build a New Marshall Lake Trail with an On-Trail Requirement and Prohibition on Dogs. 27

Map Location 19

Comments:

- *No dogs here. Wildlife will be stressed enough with people close to lake.*
- *I've concerns the long list of qualifications could serve as future excuses to eliminate this trail. We are trusting OSMP to make a sincere effort to create this alignment.*
- *On the map, this is a good connection. The actual alignment needs much work. Do not simply follow the existing road. The road is not an attractive route to most users and trail braiding is likely. Rather, place the trail as dictated by the contours and drainage of the land. Let users get a feel for the land and topography. Narrow, winding trail is preferable.*
- *Support prohibition of dogs here!*
- *Agreed- No dogs on trail around Marshall Lake*
- *Would like to see dogs on this trail!*
- *Boulder County already has too many "trails" on old roadbeds – so flat and dull!! Please consider putting trail off old road and make the trail winding!*
- *Yes (but dogs should be allowed). Would the cost of putting in a bridge over the ditch be very expensive? – Steve Haymes*
- *Nice views, trail experience, but I'm very concerned about species diversity suffering here (I know eagles use the lake and shore; raptors hunt in prairie dog village – could we have burrowing owl here again? And no one knows other uses by wildlife yet. No studies!*
- *Oppose this trail. You don't need to build it just to prove you will build trails in HCAs. You're already adding one long trail that will provide excellent recreational opportunities. (And other trails in the PRA.) If you build it- NO DOGS.*
- *How long will the loop incorporating the new Marshall Lake Trail be?*
- *I support prohibition of dogs here. Good job.*

F.20 Do Not Construct A New Trail North of Coal Creek. 31
Map Location 20

Comments:

- *You need ecological observation spurs. People need to appreciate and understand the area.*

F.21 Do Not Construct A New ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-Accessible Loop Trail Connected with the Greenbelt Plateau Trailhead. Continue to Explore More Suitable Sites for ADA-accessible Trails. 32
Map Location 21

F.22 Institute A Seasonal Wildlife Closure in the Doudy Draw Natural Area and A Corresponding Seasonal On-Leash / On-Trail Requirement for the Greenbelt Plateau Trail. 33
Map Location 22

Comments:

- *Love seasonal closures but do we have the manpower to enforce? I doubt it. Dog owners still frequently do not leash up in Dowdy during bear season.*
- *(P. 33) “No off-trail permits in breeding bird season”- Yes!*
- *I think the on-trail and on-leash requirements are sufficient- give people the benefit of the doubt (no closure) unless otherwise demonstrated by bad behavior.*
- *Unnecessary.*
- *Allow dogs under voice and sight control along Greenbelt Plateau Trail corridor May 15 – July 15.*
- *Seasonal wildlife closure in this area is essential. We don’t have sufficient staff to observe demonstrations of bad dog (and human) behavior.*
- *Good!*

F.23 Continue the Status Quo that Allows Off-Trail Visitor Travel through the Matterhorn Cattle Underpass under S.H. 93 west of the Greenbelt Plateau Trail (except for A New Restriction of A Seasonal Wildlife Closure to Protect Ground-Nesting Birds, see recommendation # F.22), until A Decision Is Made on Trail Use of the Community Ditch Underpass. Then Close the Matterhorn Underpass to Public Use and Direct Equestrian Use to the Community Ditch Underpass. 34
Map Location 23

Comments:

- *Yes – keep open.*
- *Keep this open until decision made on community ditch.*
- *How will weed-spread from horse sh** be prevented in natural areas?*
- *This is fine so long as you guarantee some equestrian connection.*

F.24 Designate and Improve the Undesignated Trail that Runs Parallel to the East Side of the Greenbelt Plateau Trail, Sign This Trail for Bicycle Use, and Eliminate the Undesignated Trail on the West Side of the Trail.

35

Map Location 24

Comments:

- *Please create decent single-track trail here rather than strip beside road.*
- *Allow all visitors to use this trail: bikes, people, horses, and dogs.*
- *Thanks, this is smart. BOA can help with improvements here that runners, horses and bikes alike enjoy.*
- *Thanks for keeping the single-track open to bikes! We may need to reroute parts for sustainability.*
- *The text indicates (at least the logical extension of the text) that to get a parallel no-dog trail we need to create it by our off-trail use and then ask you to designate it as a no-dog trail. What a way to protect natural resources!*
- *Please keep it narrow. Where will bikes go while they are passing each other? Not into the HCA...*
- *We appreciate staff recognition of the importance of natural surface single-track alternatives to old roadways. Please consider realigning of some of the social trail to improve the sustainability and quality of the trail.*
- *I love the parallel trails, esp. the single-track – thanks so much for keeping it around.*

**Recommendations Affecting the Southern Grasslands Habitat Conservation Area—
Rocky Flats Subarea**

F.25 Maintain Restricted Public Access by Not Building Trails in This Subarea.

36

Map Location 25

F.26 Do Not Allow Off-Trail Access in The Rocky Flats Subarea, Consistent with Habitat Conservation Area Resource Protections, unless They Are Approved under An HCA Off-Trail Permit.

36

Map Location 25

Comments:

- *This section refers to dog training and airplane flying. These do not belong in an HCA. Ban them here, not contingent upon the off-trail permit process.*
- *Excellent concepts here which show both environmental sensitivity and understanding for human needs to enjoy the trails and vistas. Please continue to allow for special use permits to honor the popular requests for non-profit, charity promotions which use trails for running events.*
- *This overgrazed pasture has no business as an HCA.*
- *Preserve this area from trail.*

Recommendations Affecting the Southern Grasslands Habitat Conservation Area—Core Area

F.27 Construct A New Coalton to Greenbelt Trail with An On-Trail Requirement and An On-Trail, On-Leash Requirement. 37

Map Location 26

Comments:

- *The trail alignment here is too invasive into Grasshopper Sparrow nesting area. This bird is declining nationwide and we have one of the few locations in the country here. In an HCA, users' deserve to get away from roads should not override the ecological preservation needs!!! Also, expense to mitigate the problems in building on flat land should not be a controlling factor. This is an HCA!!! Preservation should always be the paramount consideration in an HCA.*
- *You really need wildlife observation spurs in Coal Creek Area. Otherwise, nobody will learn what you are protecting.*
- *It is possible to build a trail that feels "away from the road" while still considering HCA. Please remember recreation needs! (Without a nice trail, you'll probably just see more social trails created.)*
- *The Coalton to Greenbelt Trail is the most positive part of this TSA from a recreation perspective. Thanks for recognizing recreation as a valid and appropriate interest.*
- *Yes, important trail. Rationale is right-on. If properly designed to be an attractive recreational experience, will limit how much fencing is needed. (Note: trail braiding and social trails indicate unmet need for high-quality outing.) Consider extending trail (not road) east staying along the periphery of the HCA/restoration area, north of Coalton Trail. Do not simply follow on Coalton Trail Road.*

F.28 Selectively Install Fencing on the Coalton to Greenbelt Trail where There is A Localized Need to Direct Visitors to Stay On-Trail and to Protect Resources. 39

Map Location 26

F.29 Do Not Construct A New Trail South of Coal Creek. 40

Map Location 27

Comments:

- *Construct new trail across Coal Creek at Rothman to connect to Coalton Dr. Tr.*

F.30 Do Not Allow Off-Trail Access for Hang Gliding, Paragliding, or Any Other Off-Trail Activity in the Southern Grasslands Habitat Conservation Area, unless They Are Approved under An HCA Off-Trail Permit. 41

Map Location 28

Comments:

- *Support. The proof of whether this plan and other parts re HCA will work is based on the final nature of the Off-Trail Permit plan. If it's as it stands, we will not have habitat in the HCA.*
- *Good! Eliminate the phrase “unless they are approved under an HCA off-trail permit.” Do not allow hang-gliding, etc. in this area.*
- *I can't say yes or no to the off-trail permit recommendations without knowing the details of the permit process. If it's overly restrictive shutting off the hang-gliders, is not acceptable.*
- *Off-trail permits should be limited to research activities in the Southern Grasslands HCA.*

G. Costs and Scheduling for Recommended Trail Study Area Programs and Projects 42

“Other Comments”

- *Historic Industrial Mine – Contact Jim Hutchinson regarding coal mines.*
- *Good start at protecting the HCA! In HCAs, protection must be the main consideration. No matter how much pressure you get from the public to relax protections, you must stick to the vision of the charter and VMP.*
- *Concept of developing “baseline” appears to be used as a stall tactic against trail development.*
- *Please reconsider a trail to connect from 66th to the corner on the Coalton Trail. This is a huge loss. Without the white-dotted proposed trails in place, there is no loop...*
- *It's good to see the provisions for the season wildlife closures for things like ground-nesting birds. Good job!*
- *Please get more education out to public so they understand specifically why areas are HCA... special plants, birds nesting, etc.*
- *Thanks for working so hard on this TSA! I'm glad to see new recreational opportunities close to town so I don't have to drive!*
- *Above all, protect the HCA areas!*
- *Invasive weeds should also be monitored in control areas away from visitors.*
- *Experiments can often do a better job of assessing visitor impacts than observation only - include in plan.*
- *General Mindset: I feel like the tone at the outset is that recreation always comes at the cost of preservation. That assumption is an incorrect way to start. Preservation and recreation are not mutually exclusive. Trail does not necessarily segment habitat. Similarly, we are making a huge assumption that the only way to preserve habitat is to allow no travel in the “core”. This may get in the way of proper trail design.*
- *Must have public involvement in details of monitoring plan.*

- *Make sure you have enough money to do what you promise otherwise people will feel betrayed.*
- *Neither HCAs nor trails should be the main consideration. You are doing a good job of balancing competing public demands. I'll keep looking for win-win solutions.*
- *Out-of-county trail users need to pay to use our trails. Daily fees and/or seasonal fees i.e. horse trailers and cars have displayed permits! Copy after Larimer County.*
- *Additional staff to be on the ground to do education throughout the TSA is essential to making this plan work. \$ to staff this must be added to costs- especially as new trails and management are started.*
- *Open Space hold the line where possible. Natural areas were original to the plan- primary (and this was said by a hiker).*
- *I hope to see rangers on the ground in the HCA, enforcing the on leash and on trail regulations.*