



# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2022

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## **PLAN Jeffco Academy Presents: Stewardship of Open Lands**

**Jefferson County Open Space parks are a fabulous public resource that we all enjoy. Did you know thaa PLAN Jeffco was the driving force behind the development of this outstanding program? Come help us celebrate 50 years of open space! Learn how open space conservation started in Jefferson County, why such lands are important, and increase your understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of open lands.**

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**October 29th 9 am to 4 pm**

**The American Mountaineering Center  
710 10th St, Golden**

**Optional October 28th  
4 to 6 pm field project TBA  
\$35 for the full day, includes a one-year  
membership in PLAN Jeffco**

# STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN LANDS

## We will talk about:

PLAN Jeffco's role in the origination and development of the Jefferson County Open Space park system

The history of land stewardship in Jefferson County.

The geological and ecological significance of our open lands.

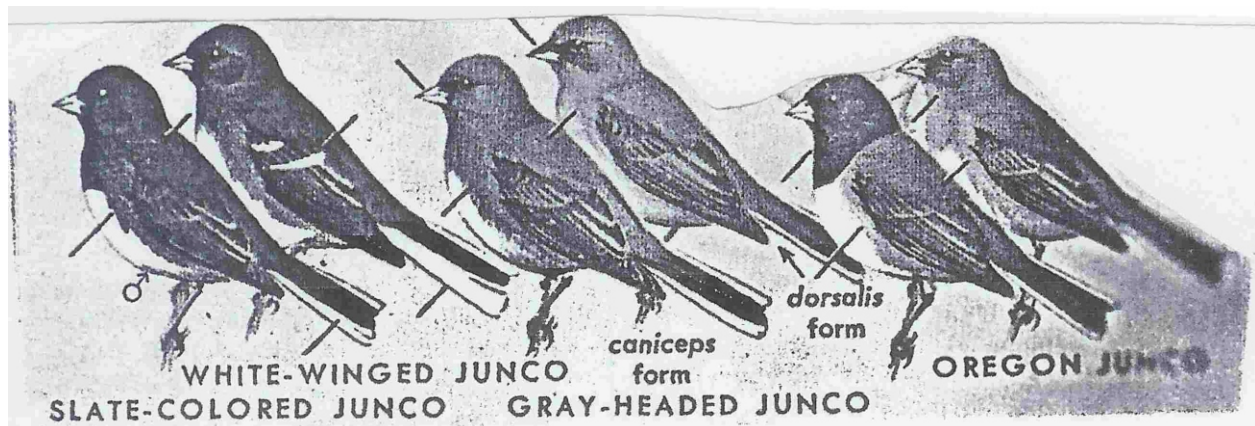
Issues facing our ecosystems, especially along the Front Range, and how we can help address those issues

Ensuring that open space parks are welcoming for all visitors

How individual actions impact the land, other visitors, and maintenance needs and costs

How you can help that our open lands remain healthy into the future

**PLEASE JOIN US! Register at: <https://www.planjeffco.org>**



## Conservation Awards - 2022

### PLAN Jeffco Co-president Michelle Poollet wins conservation award

Michelle Poollet's contagious enthusiasm for Jefferson County Open Space parks, along with her expertise in high tech, are among several qualities that made her the outstanding new volunteer in 2022.

For her work as a volunteer information specialist at the Open Space Welcome Center, Poollet received the Aspen Award, which recognizes outstanding service by a volunteer in their first three years.

She was one of five individuals who received their awards at a celebration and ceremony with videos and dignitaries on April 19 at the Lakewood Cultural Center in Lakewood.

In addition to working the desk at the Welcome Center, this year Poollet volunteered for a new program collecting surveys at slash collection sites. A professional IT specialist, Poollet was described as having "no fear of technology," in particular, when it came to using electronic tablets to collect and save information in the field.

At the Welcome Center, Michelle is known for being friendly and easygoing. She is just a joy to be around," said Teddy Newman, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator, in the awards video.

"She is so eager to share her knowledge of Open Space. I love the enthusiasm she has for what she does," Newman said.

Poollet connected with the Welcome Center opportunity at a recruitment event in January 2020. As soon as she signed up, she got put on Covid leave for a year and a half. But she never wavered in her determination to be a working volunteer.

"Michelle deserves this award because she just jumped in with so much enthusiasm and with everything that came her way, she still pursued

what she wanted to do," Newman said.

She now works at the Welcome Center once a week.

"Stewardship of the land is incredibly valuable to the human race. Reconnecting with the land, becoming a steward of the natural places, gives a person the opportunity to reconnect with themselves. And that's stewardship to me," Poollet said.

#### Complete List of Award Recipients:

**Aspen Award:** For outstanding service by a volunteer in their first three years of service: MICHELLE POOLET, Welcome Center information specialist

**Rocky Mountain Juniper Award:** For outstanding service with a stewardship project or education initiative: STEVE LEIBOLD, park host, and LAMESE HURRELL-COUPÉ, patroller

**Blue Spruce Award:** For an organization that creates programs or initiatives that connect people to healthy nature-based initiatives: TEAMWORKS

**Douglas Fir Award:** For outstanding partner advancing conservation in Jefferson County; TRAIL RUNNER VOLUNTEERS

**Gambel Oak Award:** For pioneers in preserving park lands and open space: JEFFERSON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**John Litz Award:** For significant and longtime volunteer contributions to JCOS and conservation: SYLVAN RUUD, patroller and information specialist, Covid Team Volunteer

## *Bradley loses bid to build solar array on South Table Mountain*

Jeffco officials side with the public in defending majestic mesa top against proposed development.

By Vicky Gits  
PLAN Jeffco Board

The Jefferson County Board of Adjustment voted 4 to 1 against a proposal to build a solar array, transmission lines and fences on 11 acres of South Table Mountain on private property owned by Bear Creek Development Corp. of Morrison.

The solar panels would have been located on the highest point of the mesa, which provides a scenic backdrop for the city of Golden.

The vote came after a four-hour, hybrid hearing on April 6 at the Jefferson County Administration Building. About 50 people were in the room and 33 addressed the board both in person and online.

The controversial decision came before the Board of Adjustment as the body which has the responsibility to approve proposed solar energy conversion systems. Under the county zoning rules, solar systems have to meet six criteria before they can be installed on someone's agricultural land.

This would be the end of the matter unless the landowner, Jeff Bradley, decides to appeal to the district court.

Bradley, president of Bear Creek Development, owns a total of 390 mesa-top acres, most of which have been in his family for 100 years. Open Space has repeatedly tried to buy it for the last 20 years.

Bradley's father, Leo, over the years sold large parcels on Bear Creek and Clear Creek to Jeffco Open Space.

### **Development Versus No Development**

While giving a nod to the benefits of renewable energy, most of the speakers opposed the idea of a solar array on grounds of possible fire danger related to transmission lines over raw land, incompatibility with surrounding recreational

uses, possible harm to wildlife and damage to scenic values.

The debate about putting solar on the mesa echoes the controversy of 1998 when Leo Bradley attempted to make a deal with Nike Inc. to build its corporate headquarters there for 5,000 people. Public opposition eventually torpedoed the idea. The solar proposal raised similar issues. "Green energy is important, but I want the mesa to be here without a project that could be a springboard to another project, to a building, to houses and commercial success for one man at the expense of the community," said one longtime area resident.

Others expressing opposition to the project were PLAN Jeffco, Jefferson County Open Space and the Jefferson County Horse Council.

The four board members voting no agreed the proposed solar array would conflict with the mostly recreational and scenic values of the mesa, which dominates the skyline and has 14 miles of trail on 1,500 acres of mostly parkland.

Board member Elizabeth Blumer conceded Bradley had some limited rights to develop the land. "However, I think the adjacent area in this case, the open space, holds more importance than if this were just adjacent to undeveloped property. The fact is this is a very unique piece of property...as someone said, it is an oasis. The sound of the birds and the winds and the quiet is as important as the views. It's a very fragile ecosystem and to make this solar array viable it requires the construction of some significant transmission lines," Blumer said.

Blumer mentioned how much people in the community treasure the mesa and how disturbed she was by the possibility of electrical lines causing wildfires.

In voting against the solar array, board member Greg Romberg said he could not get past the community character and view issues.

## *Bradley loses bid to build solar array*

The Jefferson County Planning Department recommended the proposal be approved if Bradley could prove he had legal access, an issue still being litigated. The county filed a lawsuit contesting Bradley’s access; a district court decision favored Bradley and the issue is now being appealed.

The planners concluded the property’s agricultural A-2 zoning included the right to build 35-foot-tall houses, barns, and other structures with more significant environmental and recreational impacts.

Under the planning analysis, Bradley’s solar proposal was deemed to have met all six criteria required to obtain permission to build a solar array on agricultural property. The board, which makes the decision, disagreed.

### **Solar As a Good Neighbor**

Speaking in person to the board after the public comments, Bradley defended the industrial structure, saying electrical lines already were in place elsewhere on the mesa.

He said the solar panels absorbed light so they appeared gray-colored to the eye rather than reflective from a distance and would not be a detriment to the views.

The National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden built a solar plant on the mesa and no one objects to that, Bradley said. “Solar is a good neighbor. There’s not a lot of sound, no odor, no run-off, and it shuts down at night.”

Bradley said Jefferson County Open Space has never made a serious offer reflecting the true value of his property on South Table Mountain.

### **A Wave of Public Sentiment**

Bradley is facing what someone described as a “tsunami” of public determination to preserve large swaths of open space for future generations.

**Over the years, about 90 percent of the mesa has been acquired as public land, including 1,500 acres of designated Jefferson County Open Space. Among the privately owned parcels are Bradley’s 390 acres. (Three parcels of 290, 40 and 60 acres). The state of Colorado and the federal government also own significant pieces of the mesa.**

Bradley inherited the property from his mother, Patricia Quaintance Bradley. The road to the mesa top, which is now a hiking trail, once led to a pavilion on Castle Rock where the public was invited to visit and hold gatherings. At one time, motorists could drive to the mesa top.

For years there were no complaints. Then in 2018 Bradley announced he wanted to install solar panels. Open Space objected to Bradley using the road on Open Space property, saying he owned the land but did not have legal right of access. After two years of litigation, the outcome tentatively favoring Bradley was announced in March 2022, but the decision is now being appealed.



**WESTERN MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY**  
*Cercocarpus ledifolius*

## Mount Tom Conservation Area

For years, Jefferson County Open Space has wanted to expand the Douglas Mountain Study Area, so that Mount Tom, which lies to the northeast of the Study Area, was included, as well as conserving areas to the east of Mount Tom. Fourteen years ago, properties on the west slope of Mount Tom were acquired and JCOS began unsuccessful negotiations on properties on the south and east slopes of the mountain.

JCOS efforts recently were continued by the Conservation Fund. The Fund was able to put together more than 3,130 acres of land, including Mount Tom and lands to the north, east, and south, whose owners were willing to sell in fee or sell their development rights for Conservation Easements. See the map on the facing page. The Mountain Area Land Trust already had a Conservation Easement on part of this property.

The Conservation Fund’s efforts convinced Colorado Parks and Wildlife to acquire parcels F and G to expand the Ralston Creek State Wildlife Area by more than 1,080 acres. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will contribute \$6,000,000 to the acquisitions. Jefferson County Open Space will contribute \$8,560,000 to the acquisitions. The land owners also made land value donations. The Conservation Fund brokered a \$9,564,500 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to help fund the acquisitions that will have a total cost of about \$25.6 million. The fee purchases will average \$10,500 per acre and the conservation easements will average \$3,700 per acre.

There may be some boundary adjustments after the closings to make management of these

### Join PLAN Jeffco or renew your membership today

Online at [www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org)

PLAN Jeffco works for open space and we work for you!  
Please sign up or renew your membership now!

**Our membership rate is:**

**\$35 per year**

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:

PLAN Jeffco  
11010 W 29th Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80215

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

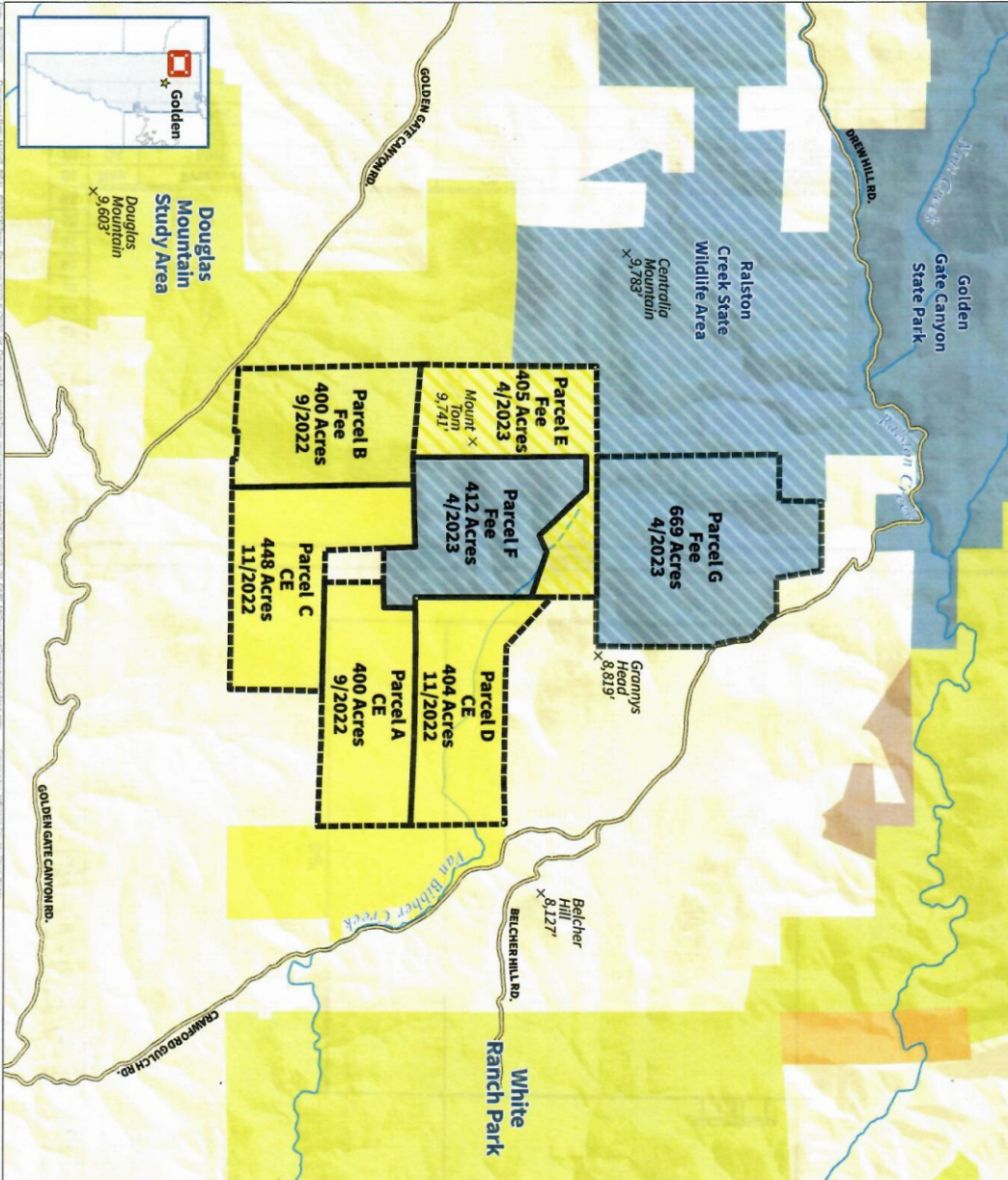
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Douglas Mountain - JCOS22-06

## Mount Tom Land Conservation Area



**Legend:**

- Project Site
- Major or Park Access Road
- Stream or River
- Jeffco Open Space Owned In Fee
- Agreement Held by Jeffco Open Space
- Jeffco Open Space Conservation Easement
- Jeffco Open Space Owned In Fee (Conservation Easement held by Others)
- Private Conservation
- Colorado State Park
- Colorado State Wildlife Area

**Scale:** 0 0.5 1 Miles  
Scale is 1:48,929 when printed at 8.5" x 11"  
Last Revised 6/23/2022

**JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO**  
Open Space

**jeffco.us/open-space**

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Data Sources: USGS, Jeffco IT's, Jeffco Open Space, NHD, CDDI

## 2022 Jefferson County Open Space Forest Management Plan

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) manages over 25,000 acres of forests along the central Front Range of Colorado. Like many other organizations in regions across the western United States, JCOS has recognized the need to implement proactive restoration of dry coniferous forests to continue contributing to a healthy ecosystem and sustain the services we value from these forested landscapes.

The 2020-2025 Conservation Greenprint includes a goal under the Healthy Lands theme to update the Jefferson County Open Space Forest Health Plan and reduce tree density and fuel sources on 1,000 of the 25,000 acres of forested lands.

JCOS has included forest management since its early days. In the 1980s, the focus was on pest control, primarily mountain pine beetle. In 1988, an initial detailed plan was developed that included the individual parks. In the 1990s, efforts focused on creating fire breaks and pest control. In the 2000s, prescribed fire was used in several parks and small clear cuts were made in stands of lodgepole pines. In the 2010s, digital inventorying of the forests began, collaborating with various partners.

The present plan establishes desired future conditions (DFCs) at multiple scales for the forested parts of the parks. When the DFCs are compared with current conditions, staff can determine where restorative actions are needed.

The management Objectives include:  
 Reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire;  
 Reduce forest stand density and canopy cover to historic norms;  
 Increase the presence, size, and diversity of forest openings;  
 Restore and maintain a mosaic of ecosystems and vegetation cover across the landscape that provide wildlife habitat diversity;  
 Promote fine-scale variation in tree spatial patterns;  
 Protect and enhance old-growth features;  
 Where appropriate, reestablish fire through the use of prescribed fire as a management tool;

- Promote long-term ecosystem resilience to natural disturbance;
- Assist with ecosystem adaptation to climate change;
- Create aesthetically pleasing forest stands and diverse recreation opportunities.

The Forest Health Plan development used the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute’s Risk Assessment Decision Support (RADS) tool to inform management planning by assessing wildfire risk to community assets and prioritizing to decrease risk most cost-effectively to those assets. The final outcome is to show land managers where to implement treatments that have the greatest impact for the lowest cost.

Highly Valued Resources (wildlife habitat, vegetation, etc.) and Assets (structures, communication towers, etc.), referred to as HVRA, were grouped into categories and assigned a relative importance weight.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>
Life Safety	100
Infrastructure	90
Water	90
Vegetation cover	90
WUI	50
Wildlife	50
Recreation	50

WUI adjacent private property relative importance

Each HVRA was then assigned a wildfire vulnerability value.

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>Percentile</u>	<u>Probability</u>
Low	25th	0.01
Moderate	50th	0.09
High	90th	0.20
Extreme	97th	0.70

The JCOS forested park system was divided into management units of similar vegetation. Three types of fuel reduction were considered:



*Open Space Forest Management Plan*

*Continued*

1. Tree thinning only;
2. Prescribed fire only;
3. Thinning followed by prescribed fire, where prescribed fire involves broadcast burning of the understory.

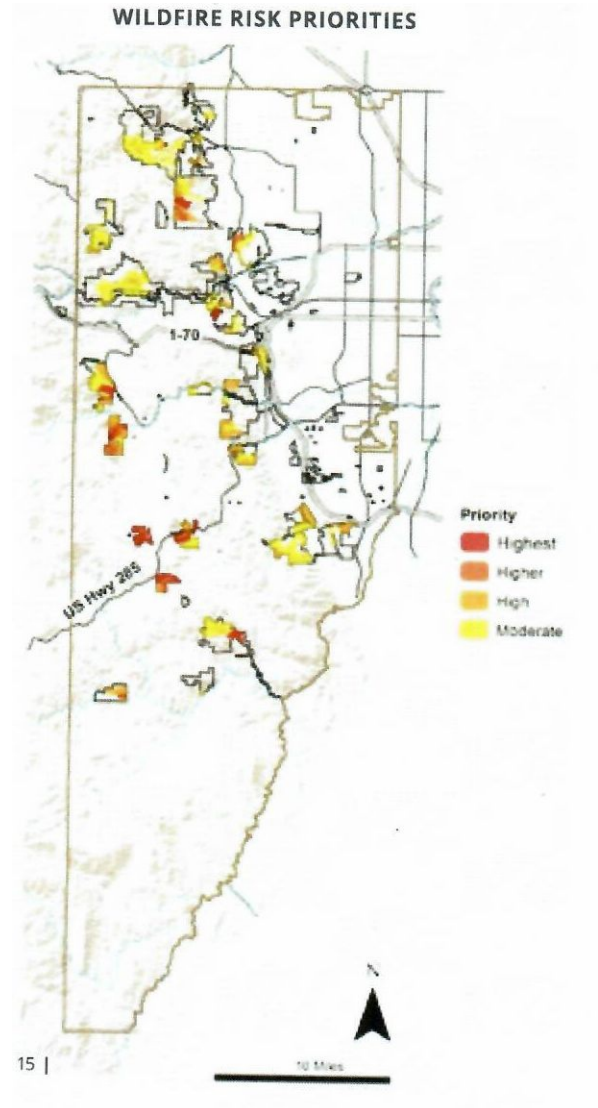
Relative HVRA response to wildfire was scaled from -100 (total loss) to +100 (entirely positive benefit.)

- Constraints that may affect the type of treatment possible include:
- Land management designations (wilderness and roadless);
  - Forest presence for thinning ( $\geq 10\%$  canopy cover);
  - Appropriate forest types for prescribed fire.

When 43,600 acres of Open Space lands in the Front Range were evaluated, 41,500 were feasible for some type of treatment. 25,300 were feasible for thinning, 16,200 were suitable only for prescribed fire, and 40,000 were feasible for thinning and prescribed fire. If every feasible acre was treated, the parks showing the greatest risk reduction would be: Lookout Mountain Preserve, Beaver Ranch, Flying J, Reynolds, Alderfer/Three Sisters and Meyer Ranch.

The model indicated that spending \$5 million to treat the highest-risk areas would reduce the overall risk by 23%. Treating the higher-risk areas would reduce the risk by 7% at a cost of \$5 million. Treating the high-risk areas would reduce the risk by 20% at a cost of \$15 million. Treating the moderate-risk areas would reduce the risk by 15% at a cost of \$25 million.

The adjacent map shows the wildfire risk priorities on Open Space Parks.



## Courtesy Sign Experiment Produces Mixed Results

### Multi-agency GOCO study aims to reduce trail conflict

By Vicky Gits  
PLAN Jeffco Board

**SUMMARY:**

- > **Posting reminder signs improves numbers of bikers following the rules from 24 percent to 40 percent),**
  - > **Signs targeting trail runners appear to have little effect. About 11 percent of runners will slow down and communicate with or without the sign.**
  - > **A high percentage of both groups fail to slow down and communicate with or without reminder signs.**
- Note: Observations were made between Aug. 11 and Sept. 26, 2021.**

A new study commissioned by Great Outdoors Colorado shows that signage has a limited effect on the behavior of bikers and trail runners as observed by researchers who posed as hikers on three local trails used by trail runners and bikers.

The purpose of the \$150,000 study was to evaluate the effectiveness of trail courtesy signs and to develop messaging that--based on visitor feedback and field observations--is most effective. In the future the results of the study are likely to be visible in state parks as well as local open spaces.

Initially, researchers experimented with various sign designs and then posted the selected signs on sandwich boards at locations along the trails of three open space parks, Marshall Mesa, Crescent Meadows—Walker Ranch Loop (Eldorado Canyon State Park) and North Table Mountain. The relevant agencies involved were Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Colorado State Parks, and Jeffco Open Space, respectively

Between Aug. 11 and Sept. 26, 2021, researchers

logged 240 hours of field research, collecting observations of hiker-biker interactions and hiker-runner interactions. Corona Insights of Denver, a market-research concern, designed and executed the study on behalf of GOCO.

Signs were posted not at the typical place at the trailhead, but somewhere along the trail, within 500 feet and 1,400 feet of the observer.



**Slow down and communicate before you pass.**

Colliding with someone will ruin everyone's day.  
**Don't ruin your ride.**



The most prominent message on signs directed to both bikers and trail runners was “Be Considerate When Passing.” The behavioral prompt was “Slow down and communicate before you pass.”

In its conclusions, Corona Insights identifies several study limitations, including the difficulty of obtaining accurate and consistent measurement of behavior.

## Courtesy Sign Experiment

*Continued*

### Mountain Bikers vs. Hikers

**Wording:**

**Be Considerate When Passing**

Slow down and communicate before you pass.  
Colliding with someone will ruin everyone’s day.  
Don’t ruin your ride.

The researchers’ first step was to conceive of an advisory poster, which was tested and revised. The study compared the behavior of mountain bikers without the sign to their behavior when a single sign was posted.

Four researchers posing as hikers logged 120 hours observing mountain bikers in the three areas equally; about 60 hours when the sign was posted and 60 hours when the sign was not posted, generating 424 observations.

**Results:**

The results showed 24 percent of the mountain bikers slowed and communicated without a sign, while 40 percent did so with a sign posted. However, as the study points out, even with the sign posted, 60 percent of the bikers passed hikers without slowing.

More than half of the mountain bikers interviewed after the ride said they had never seen the sign.

Mountain bikers were more likely to announce their presence when approaching from behind than head-on. They were more likely to slow down when approaching from behind, although this was less frequent than for announcing.

### Trail Runners Vs. Hikers

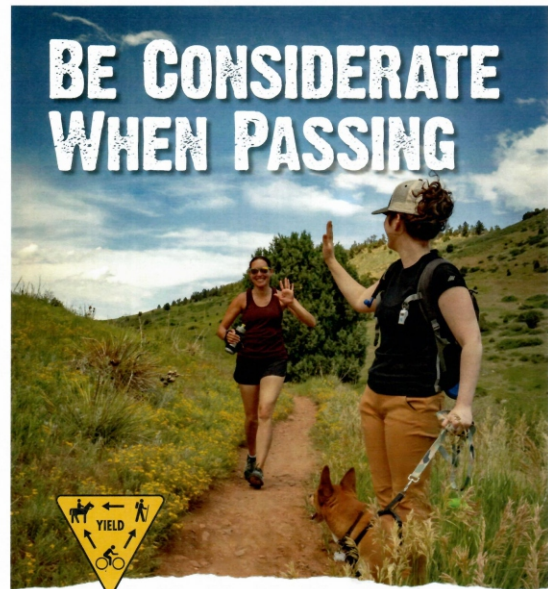
**Wording**

**Be Considerate When Passing**

Slow down and communicate before you pass.  
Do this to make a better experience for everyone.

The trail running phase of the study followed the same pattern: First the sign was designed, tested and revised, then the sign was posted on the trails. Researchers logged 120 hours observing trail runners in three parks, 60 hours when the sign was posted; 60 when it was not posted; and generated 167 observations about trail runners.

The posted behavioral advisory was, “Slow down and communicate before you pass.” The desired behavior consisted of performing both actions.



**Slow down and communicate before you pass.**

Do this to make a better experience for everyone.



**Results:**

The number of trail runners who both slowed down and announced their presence was about the same regardless of whether a sign was posted or not. There was no evidence the sign influenced trail runner behavior. Before the sign was posted, only 11 percent of trail runners both slowed and communicated when they were passing,

## *Courtesy Sign Experiment*

## *Continued*

The proportion was the same when the sign was posted: about 11 percent slowed down and announced when passing. About 18 percent communicated with the hiker but did not also slow down.

There was no relationship between the act of slowing and the act of announcing oneself. Slowing did not make it more likely to also announce and announcing did not make slowing more likely.

Most trail runners said they planned to slow down and announce themselves, and most self-reported they did it, but in fact the behavior was rarely observed. In other words, intentions did not match actions.

### **Discussion and Implications**

The study raises the question why was the trail-runner sign seen and remembered but then mostly ignored? The study authors suggest runners may have believed they were appropriately slowing and announcing while the observers rated them as noncompliant.

Another possibility is the desired behavior was so uncommon that runners felt little or no normative pressure to perform it.

Runners were more likely to announce when passing head-on because the hiker can seek the runner approaching. Some trail runners interviewed said the sound of their breathing or their footsteps was a sufficient or even preferable way of announcing their presence.

There was a hint of a slight shift in beliefs that slowing and announcing may make runners seem more friendly and polite to hikers. Though the message was not included on the sign, the title asks runners to “be considerate,” and shows a friendly greeting.

While the mountain biker sign appeared to be more effective than the trail-runner sign, still most mountain bikers (60 percent) failed to perform the desired behavior. This may or may not be an acceptable ratio for most land managers.

Only 9 percent of the mountain bikers recalled the message, “Colliding with someone will ruin everyone’s day.” This implies that the sign had too much information compared to mountain bikers’ speed. “It might have been overly optimistic in how much content bikers could read while passing the sign,” the analysis suggests.

It might also be unrealistic to expect mountain bikers to announce when they are approaching a hiker, since the hiker can see the biker coming. Approaching from behind, mountain bikers may think the sound of their bike is sufficient.

If the goal is to get trail runners and mountain bikers to slow down when passing other trail users, the researchers conclude that other communication channels, such as social media, may be needed.

Signs are effective at producing short-term change, as opposed to long-term attitude change, which requires more “thinking-time.”

Away from the trail, the design could put more emphasis on the persuasive statement, such as, “Colliding with a hiker would ruin everyone’s day.” Plus using multiple media would mean bikers receive multiple messages and more reinforcement.

*Courtesy Sign Experiment*

*Continued*

**Trail Courtesy Study Results Sidebar**

Mary Ann Bonnell, Director of Visitor Services

May 21, 2022

**What do you take away from the finding that the sign appeared to have no effect on trail runners’ behavior, even though most runners saw it and remembered it?**

**Bonnell:** Some of us believe that runners may not perceive themselves as moving at a speed that could generate passing conflict...Our takeaway is that we have work to do with the running community; we need to turn their courteous intentions into courteous actions.

**What is your reaction to the finding that more bikers responded to the message by slowing down and communicating?**

**Bonnell:** We were encouraged because it showed us that the sign does make a difference. We know putting out a sign is not the 100 percent solution. ...It is a fantastic facet of a multi-faceted approach that includes signs, trailhead education, social media, outreach and one-on-one interactions with staff and volunteers.

**What changes can we expect to see?**

**Bonnell:** Expect to see the messaging and sign deployed in other parks in Jeffco and in our partner agencies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Boulder OSMP.

**If you could do anything, what do you think would be the most effective way of encouraging the “Be Considerate When Passing” rule?**

**Bonnell:** I have found in many cases the Platinum Rule—do unto others, considering

their preferences—is a more effective principle as it considers and respects how the person would like to be treated. ...Politely asking the equestrian for passing advice allows you to understand and respect the individual horse and rider’s preference...As visitation increases, we all need to work harder to understand and respect other visitors’ preferences.

**PARK REGULATIONS**

**C.24 Passing on Trails:**

C.24.a. It shall be unlawful to fail to yield on Open Space trails. Yielding Order: When Passing from any direction on Open Space trails, all visitors must give the right-of-way to equestrians; bicyclists and other wheeled visitors (except wheelchair visitors) must also give the right-of-way to pedestrians. Fine: \$50.

C.24.b. It shall be unlawful to fail to pass safely on Open Space trails. At no less than 15 feet of approach from any direction, slow to a walking speed, communicate and gain the attention of other visitors. Pass safely, in single file and when oncoming traffic is clear. Stop when necessary to allow safe passage. Fine \$50.



Lanceleaf cottonwood

# OSAC NOTES, OSAC NOTES, OSAC NOTES

## **December 2, 2021 - Regular meeting**

Approved partnering with Westminster in the acquisition of a 0.87-acre property along 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at Vance. The property will let Westminster move the Farmer's High Line Trail from the street to a much safer location.

## **January 6, 2022 - Regular meeting**

As part of the County's efforts on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the JCOS Heritage Stewardship Team presented the following land acknowledgment that was approved by the Advisory Committee..

The original caretakers of the lands we now call Jefferson County Open Space Parks include the Tabeguache and Moghwachi bands of the Ute Nation, the Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes, and other Indigenous Peoples. Their knowledge, resilience, and cultural and spiritual ties to these lands inspire us to continue their legacy by practicing informed stewardship, providing equitable access, teaching sound outdoor ethics, and treating nature and humanity with respect.

An Executive Session was held for presentation of some conservation opportunities in the Douglas Mountain area.

## **February 3, 2022 - Study Session**

Reviewed staff's "50 Years of Conservation Celebration Plan."  
Discussed the upcoming Advisory Committee retreat.

## **Regular Session**

Approved granting a utility easement in the Coal Creek Study Area for a utility line for which the easement had never been recorded.

Approved the acquisition of a 604.5-acre property from Colorado Open Lands that is west of Windy

Saddle Park and south of Clear Creek Canyon Park. The property is along the Beaver Brook Trail.

## **March 2022 no meeting**

## **April 7, 2022 - OSAC Retreat**

Staff discussed and presented principles and suggestions for the use of respectful, inclusive, and welcoming language. OSAC was provided with a list of inclusive language suggestions.

Staff presented their findings on a study of the effect of a sign alongside a trail on trail runner courtesy. They learned that the sign was seen and its message, "Be Considerate When Passing - Slow down and communicate before you pass" was noted, but their behavior was not influenced. The sign did not make runners more likely to slow and announce themselves, and it did not influence their beliefs or attitudes towards the behavior.

Trail Courtesy continues to be a universal problem for all facilities with trails.

## **May 7, 2022 - Field Trip**

The Advisory Committee met at Meyer Ranch Park to view the tree thinning project. Both a contractor and staff are working in different areas of the project. One of the goals is to encourage a mixed forest-regrowth.

## **June 2, 2022 - Field Trip**

An almost all-day field trip was made to the north, east and south sides of Mount Tom. Parts of this area are adjacent to a Colorado Wildlife Game Preserve, and other parts are adjacent to Jefferson County Open Space. See details in the July meeting.

# OSAC NOTES, OSAC NOTES, OSAC NOTES

## July 7, 2022 - Regular Session

Jefferson County Open Space manages about 25,000 acres of forested land. JCOS has had forest management plans for more than 30 years. A new plan for future management was presented to the Advisory Committee. The Forest Health Plan used the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute’s Risk Assessment Decision Support (RADS) tool to inform management planning by assessing wildfire risk to community assets and prioritizing treatments to decrease risk most cost-effectively to those assets. The final outcome is a treatment priority map that shows land managers where to implement treatments that have the greatest impact for the lowest cost.

An article on the plan is included in this newsletter.

OSAC approved partnering with Lakewood on the acquisition of a 2.4-acre property on South Wadsworth that is adjacent to Bear Creek Park, and a 2.9-acre property on South Kipling that also is adjacent to Bear Creek Park.

The acquisition of a 0.47-acre property on the east side of the Welchester Tree Grant Park was approved. This acquisition allows a trail connection from Welchester Park to Welch Street. This trail then provides an off-street connection from Welch Street to Welchester Elementary School.

The Advisory Committee approved JCOS participation in the conservation of the Douglas Mountain – Mount Tom Land Conservation Area consisting of more than 3,000 acres of undeveloped land in northwestern Jefferson County. This undeveloped land is located east of the Douglas Mountain Study Area and west of White Ranch Park, between Golden Gate Canyon Road and Crawford Gulch Road. The

acquisition will conserve critical Front Range habitat for big game, protect the headwaters of Van Bibber Creek, and provide public access to Mount Tom (9,741 feet), a Front Range sentinel that has never been open for public access and a “top 10” tallest peak in Jefferson County. The acquisition will be in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Conservation Fund, and Mountain Area Land Trust. JCOS will be acquiring 805 acres in fee and will hold conservation easements on 1252 acres.

An article on the properties is included in this newsletter.

Gina Barton presented the recommended Open Space Budget for 2023.

Starting balance	\$23,618,475
Revenue	
Sales tax	\$45,080,937
Fees & Interest	1,446,188
Grants	<u>6,452,620</u>
Total	52,979,745

Expenses	
Bond Debt Service	\$ 2,188,212
Stewardship & Opns	21,849,550
Park & Trail Improv	19,955,000
Acquisition/Conserv	7,000,000
Trails Partnership	<u>3,000,000</u>
Total	53,992,762

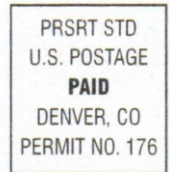
Sales tax increases:	2017-2018 4.7%
	2018-2019 7.4%
	2019-2020 6.8%
	2020-2021 13.0%

The budget requests 14 new full-time employees, 12 to work in the field.



PLAN Jeffco  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Check our website  
[www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org)

Jefferson County Citizens for  
Planned Growth with Open Space

# PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER

## OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES CONTINUED

### **August 11, 2022 - Field Trip to Peaks to Plains Trail - Huntsman Segment**

### **September 8, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

Presentation by the Open Space Wildland Fire Team. Recognition of Service for Kelly Wasserbach, 3-year member of OSAC, who will be retiring.

Approved adoption of termination of a 1981 agreement between JCOS and the Evergreen Metro District, which was set up to provide recreational programs at Evergreen Lake, with pro-rated reimbursement to JCOS for preliminary termination of the agreement. A new agreement is being developed.

Approved grant of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Easement to the

Hogback Metropolitan District for a Drainage Easement for offsite drainage improvement that will discharge onto the Meadows Golf Course..

Approved acquisition of a 4.8-acre property, one of the last in holdings adjacent to JCOS property, at the northeast corner of Mount Glennon. Future for this property may include expanded parking and a new Mount Glennon trailhead.

