



# PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto*

## The PLAN Jeffco Monthly January 2024

# Warmest thoughts for a safe & healthy 2024

PLAN Jeffco is a non-profit citizen organization, based in Jefferson County Colorado. For more than 50 years, PLAN Jeffco has advocated for conservation of open space.

PLAN Jeffco authored the “Open Space Resolution” ballot initiative in 1972 that provided a one-half percent sales tax in Jefferson County to establish the award-winning Jefferson County Open Space program.

For more information on PLAN Jeffco go to our website

<https://planjeffco.org>

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## What's New in the Blogosphere?

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### **In Memoriam – John Litz, PLAN Jeffco Founder**

John Litz, PLAN Jeffco founder, Jeffco Open Space Advisory Committee member Emeritus, and member of the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, who was pivotal in shaping what has become today's Jefferson County Open Space, has passed:

<https://planjeffco.org/in-memorial-john-litz-plan-jeffco-founder/>

## **A Volunteer Park Patroller's Perspective**

What's it like to be a Volunteer Park Patroller with Jeffco Open Space? Find out from our 30-year veteran Volunteer Park Patroller:

<https://planjeffco.org/a-volunteer-park-patrollers-perspective/>

## **In Memoriam – Ann Bonnell, PLAN Jeffco Board Member**

It is with heavy hearts that we come to you with the news of the passing of one of our own, Ann Bonnell, long-time Board member and fixture in the Denver Metro area birding community...

<https://planjeffco.org/in-memorial-ann-bonnell-plan-jeffco-board-member/>

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## **KORRECTION KORNER**

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Last month we included a link that led to nowhere – oops! Here's a link that we hope will work better!

## **Video of the Month: Clear Creek Canyon Huntsman Segment Construction Update**

If you're a fan of the Clear Creek Canyon Open Space park, then you'll be awed by the beauty of the segment between Tunnel 1 and Huntsman Gulch... <http://tinyurl.com/2s36vea9>

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**It's a new year; it brings with it massive changes to our organization that were inevitable but nonetheless unexpected.**

**PLAN Jeffco has openings on the Board. We would love to hear from you, we would like to hear your thoughts, we would like you to consider a Board position.**

**If you're interested in exploring this possibility, drop us an email at [ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org](mailto:ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org)**

**Did you forget to renew your membership? Click on the button below and get caught up!**

**Join or Renew My Membership**

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## **Other New Stuff on the Website**

*We ask for your patience as we work through a long-needed review and rework of our website...thank you!*

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## Stay up-to-date with what's happening at the PJ Board meetings

### **PLAN Jeffco Board Meeting Minutes - December'23**

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-12-21-2023/>

### **PLAN Jeffco Board Meeting Minutes - November'23**

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-11-16-2023/>

### **PLAN Jeffco Board Meeting Minutes - October'23**

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-10-19-2023/>

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## What's been happening at the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meetings...

*Regular Open Space Advisory Committee meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every other month, starting at 6:00 PM.*

<https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>

**January 11, 2024:** Approved acquisition of 167 acre Tibaldo property in partnership with Denver Mountain Parks for \$3M. Property is located off highway 74, connecting Elk Meadow (JCOS), Bergen Peak and Mt. Pence (DMP), Bergen Peak State Wildlife Area, and Arapaho National Forest. \$1.25 M each DMP and JCOS. and hopefully a grant from GOCO. Demolition and cleanup of structures is estimated at \$1 million. Discussed Apex & Hall property in Executive Session.

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## Missed a PLAN Jeffco Monthly newsletter? Find them here...

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – December 2023

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-december-2023/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – November 2023

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-november-2023/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – October 2023

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-october-2023/>

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*Welch Ditch Trail, wooden flume - photo courtesy of MPoolet*

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## Our Conservation Partners

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### Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/birdconservancy>

The Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19 [Register for the GBBC Webinar](#)  
Summer Bird Camps Registration Open! [Click here for more information.](#)

Activity Calendar located at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/events/>

Bird Conservancy Blog located at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/news-and-events/>



# Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoOpenLands>

## **Moon Place, Moffit & Routt Counties**

Comprising 5,813 acres, the Moon Place property is owned by the Tuttle family and serves as seasonal grazing ground. The Tuttle family is a 7th generation sheep ranching family that manages land spread throughout the lower Yampa River Valley. The family has a strong conservation ethic, having conserved over 23,000 acres of land in total. The Moon Place property is located in both Moffat and Routt Counties, about 8 miles southeast of Craig and 6 miles southwest of Hayden. The property lies within the Williams Fork Mountains and is within the Yampa River watershed.

The Moon Place property consists of sagebrush shrublands and shrub steppe, Gambel oak mixed mountain shrublands, aspen stands, numerous ponds and springs, cliffs and rock outcrops. Habitat is provided for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, Greater sage-grouse, Greater sandhill crane, northern leopard frog, black bear, elk, moose, mountain lion, mule deer and pronghorn. Elk and mule deer use the property as part of a larger migration corridor. Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service and Routt County Purchase Development Rights.

## **Home Place, Routt County**

Located in western Routt County about 7 miles southeast of Craig and 6 miles southwest of Hayden, the 810-acre Home Place property is owned by the Barnes family, which manages the property for cattle grazing. Part of a land patent from the State of Colorado in 1964, the property was acquired by the Barnes family in 1974. The family has been ranching cattle for four generations.

The Home Place property consists of sagebrush shrublands and shrubsteppe, mixed mountain shrublands, grass pastures and swales. Habitat is provided for bald eagle, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (including 2 active leks), ferruginous hawk, Greater sage-grouse, Greater sandhill crane, northern leopard frog, black bear, elk, moose, mule deer and pronghorn. The property is part of a winter concentration area for elk and provides important winter habitat during the most severe winters. Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service and Routt County Purchase Development Rights.

More Conservation Updates located at <https://coloradoopenlands.org/latest-news/>

Get the Colorado Open Lands Fall 2023 Newsletter at <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>

## **Mountain Area Land Trust**

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainAreaLandTrustCO>

### **Wonderhaven in Boulder Permanently Protected**

*Posted on December 14, 2023*

Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) is pleased to announce the closing of a voluntary Conservation Easement on a unique property in a densely populated community within the Rural North Boulder neighborhood in the City of Boulder. The owners, Tim and Kerry Francis, founded Wonderhaven in 2014[,] establishing a half-acre garden on their 5-acre parcel. Over the last 9 years, they have grown the garden into a center of social connection for the community. The property is known by many locals as Dharma's Garden. Dharma was the name given to a baby deer born on the land in 2011, to the wonderment of the kindergarten students next door and is a constant reminder of the beauty of the meadow grasses around the garden.

Read about more News and Success Stories at <https://savetheland.org/news/>

Sign up for MALT's newsletter at <https://savetheland.org/category/newsletter/>

## **Keep It Colorado**

<https://www.keepitco.org/>

In Grand County, KIC banded together with residents and local organizations to support the renewal of Grand County's open lands and recreation sales tax! The sales

tax renewal vote in November: YES!

KIC has been working on amplifying critical cross-cultural community ties, exemplified by the relationship between the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Montezuma Land Conservancy (MLC). The partnership has resulted in the development of collaborative youth programs, Tribal land restoration support, and the Traditional Harvest Project, which seeks to restore cultural access to ancestral lands through partnership with private landowners.

Keep It Colorado Awards \$260,000 for Voluntary Conservation Projects: Congratulations to La Plata Open Space Conservancy, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Mountain Area Land Trust and Colorado West Land Trust. [Read the news release here.](#)

Stay up-to-date with Press Releases & Announcements:  
<https://www.keepitco.org/whats-new>

Read encouraging stories From the Field: <https://www.keepitco.org/stories-from-the-field>

## Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

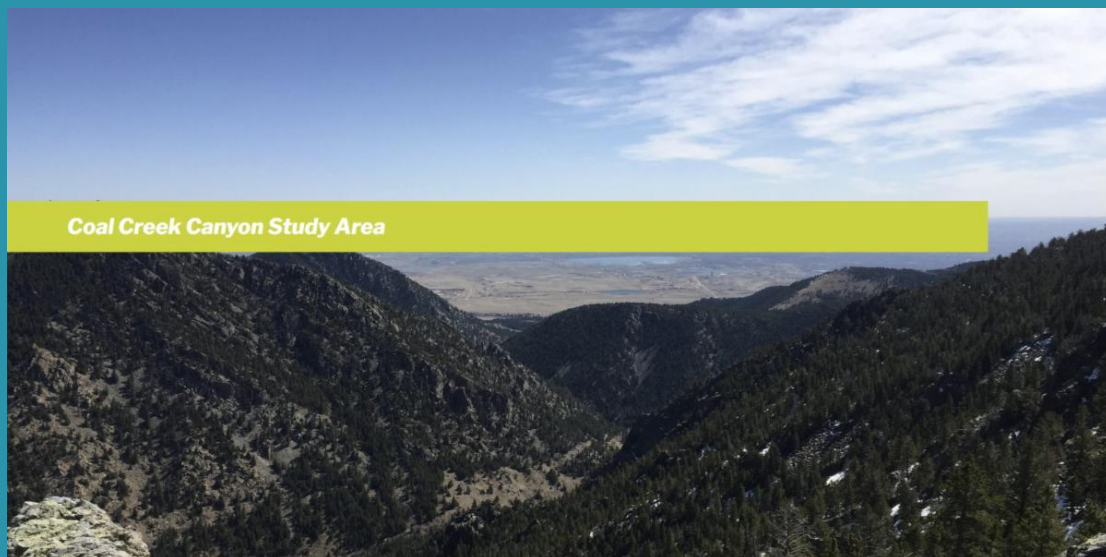
Check out their events page – there's always something going on at DLC:  
<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/events/>

Public properties: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/public-properties/>  
DLC photo contest 2023: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/natural-note-card-contest/>  
DLC gallery: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/gallery/>

## Follow the postings from other conservation groups, listed at the bottom of each of our web pages

<https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

[Colorado Open Space Alliance \(COSA\)](#)  
[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)  
[Douglas Land Conservancy](#)  
[Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#)  
[Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust](#)



# WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

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## Hogback mine expansion in North Golden gets State approval

Jefferson County Planning & Zoning Case Number: 22-128087CMT  
Case Manager: Nick Nelson, 303-271-8727, [nnelson@jeffco.us](mailto:nnelson@jeffco.us)  
<https://jeffco.us/planning-and-zoning/active-cases>

## Frei-Walstrum gravel quarry expansion, Clear Creek County

Quarry expansion is in progress.

## Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion Proposal

<https://www.lakewood.org/Government/Departments/Community-Resources/Projects/Bear-Creek-Reservoir-expansion-proposal>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board are conducting a feasibility study about making changes to increase water storage and reservoir size at Bear Creek Reservoir in Bear Creek Lake Park.

For more information, visit <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/bearcreeklake>  
Two-year study, on-going.

## Gross Reservoir Updates <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

Construction is underway. Blast notifications are being issued, usually early in the morning of the day during which afternoon blasting will take place.

Ice fishing at Gross Reservoir is permitted for the 2023/2024 season. Please remember ice fishing is at your own risk. Hiking and picnicking are open year-round from the North Shore parking lot. Please follow all signage and staff instructions while recreating at Gross Reservoir. Questions: [grossreservoir@denverwater.org](mailto:grossreservoir@denverwater.org) or 303-628-6348.

Recreation Activity Impact: <https://www.denverwater.org/recreation/gross-resevoir>  
Project Information & Impact: <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

## Shadow Mountain (formerly Full Send) Bike Ranch Updates

<https://shadowmountainbikepark.com/>

Conceptual site plan located at  
<https://shadowmountainbikepark.com/news/conceptual-site-plans-for-shadow-mountain-bike-park/>

*"...the whole team was burning the midnight oil compiling our latest research, revisions, and updates to the application, based on the feedback we got from the first referral round (related agency comments on the proposal like CPW, Road and Bridge, etc.) ... The application is now out for the 2nd referral period with those same agencies for any further comment or detail needed from us. We should be hearing back from the County by Jan 23rd..."*

Planning & Zoning Record Details

Address: Shadow Mountain Bike Park

Type: Rezoning - Commercial - Planned Development

Case Number: 23-102980RZ

Application Date: 2023-02-13

Permit Number: 23 102980 000 00 RZ

Status: 1st Referral Response

Expiry Date:

Case Manager: Dylan Monke - 303-271-8718 - [dmonke@co.jefferson.co.us](mailto:dmonke@co.jefferson.co.us)

Description: Special Use Application for Development of a day-use lift-served bike park as a Class III Commercial Recreation Facility. Acreage: 483.04 Acres

Here's a link to Jeffco Planning and Zoning, where the new interactive map showing ongoing applications and permits is located (scroll down to the bottom of the page): <https://www.jeffco.us/786/Planning-Zoning>

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## WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)

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## County News & Happenings

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### Jeffco Open Space News & Events

<https://www.jeffco.us/1523/News-Events>

Know before you go! Check these sites for additional information on Park and Trail closures, openings, and other operations that may impact your Jeffco Open Space Park experience...

[JCOS Alerts & Closures](#)

[JCOS News Releases](#)

[JCOS Newsletters](#)

### Jeffco Open Space Master Calendar <https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=26>

#### 1. Pop-up Volunteer Recruitment Events

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at various locations

<https://offero.jeffco.us/Calendar>

#### 2. In-house Volunteer Recruitment Events

Thursday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:30 PM and Saturday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 1 PM at Open Space Bldg

<https://offero.jeffco.us/Calendar>

#### 3. 2024 Land Steward Kick-off Meeting

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:00 PM virtual, Registration required

<https://offero.jeffco.us/Calendar>

#### 4. Certified Interpretive Guide Course

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Registration required

<https://offero.jeffco.us/Calendar>

*Please check the JCOS Master Calendar for detailed and upcoming event information.*

### Jeffco Fairgrounds

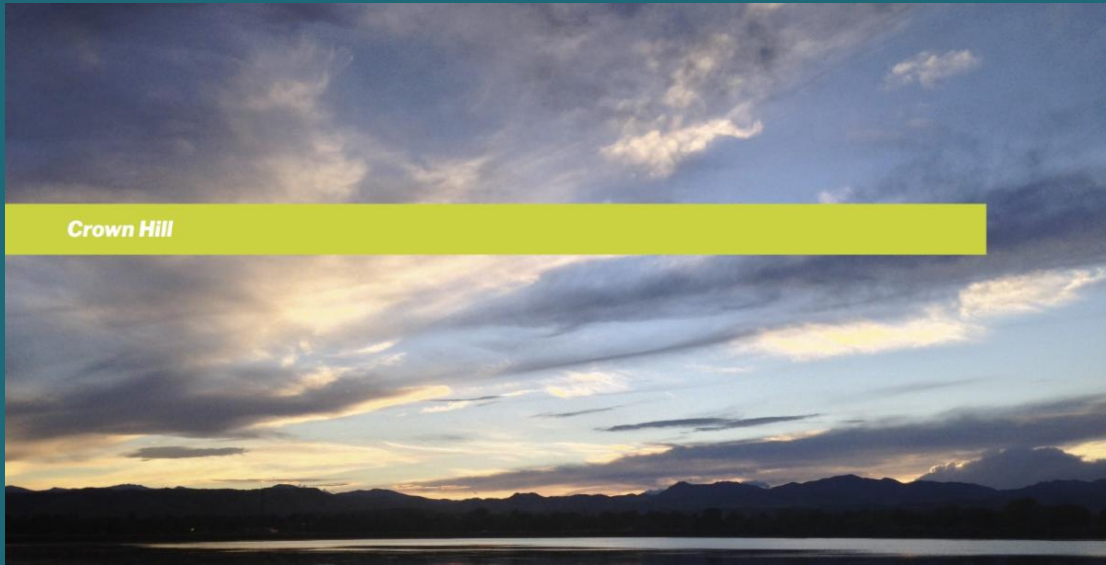
<https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=27>

Please check the Fairgrounds website calendar for detailed event information.

### Jefferson County – Sustainability Commission

<https://www.jeffco.us/3406/Sustainability-Commission>





**Support conservation in Jeffco, donate here so we can keep doing what we do!**

**JOIN or RENEW**

*Know someone who might be interested in this newsletter? Subscribe, like, share - forward this to them, and thank you!*



### About PLAN Jeffco

In 1972, PLAN Jeffco launched the citizen's initiative which created the Jeffco Open Space Program, protecting more than 70,000 acres comprising 27 parks and more than 270 miles of trails.

**Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#)**

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