

APPENDIX A. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

LOCATION: Council Chambers, 200 Broadway Street, Eagle

DATE: August 2, 2021

TIME: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Paula Peterson, U.S. Forest Service
Jay Lucas, Eagle County BMX
Fletcher Groff, Eagle County BMX
Ernest Sager, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA)/Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)
Rob Tadlock, Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC)
Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Peter Suneson, Eagle County Open Space
Jessica Foulis, Eagle Valley Land Trust/OSRAC
Alan Czepinski, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Colorado River Valley Field Office
Brian Bastuba, Rocky Mountain Sports Riders
Trent Swanson, Trent Swanson Outdoors
Erinn Hoban, VVMTA/OSRAC
Brian Hopkins, Assistant Field Manager Bureau of Land Management – Colorado River Valley Field Office
Janet Bartnik, Mountain Recreation/Town Council
Debra Dupree Batton, Equestrian
Abby Ratton, Equestrian
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle
Gabby Voeller, SE Group
Scott Prior, SE Group
Melanie McKenzie, SE Group

RE: Roundtable Meeting

MEETING NOTES

Desired Outcomes for the Open Space and Trails System

- Balancing uses (especially for the equestrian community)
- Balancing recreation and conservation

- Plan for growth

SWOT Analysis – Trails

Strengths

- Partnership driven system
- Access
- Variety of trail types and user groups
- Existing efforts to balance recreation and wildlife

Weaknesses

- Overuse
- Dominance of a single user group (others being forced onto single use trails, optimization)
- Maintenance challenge
- Etiquette
- Signage away from trailheads
- Challenging to know how to navigate between trails
- Confusion at Boneyard trailhead

Opportunities

- More dedicated trails
- BMX facilities
- How to use Brush Creek OS
- Implementation of Haymaker Trailhead Master Plan
- Revenues from groups/operators
- Infrastructure to better support more trail users
- Connectivity to Town/businesses
- Partnering with downtown development

Threats

- Littering
- Social trails (makes it harder to call for new trails)
- Funding
- Wildfire
- Road cyclist safety

SWOT Analysis – Open Space

Strengths

- Breaks up development and provides access
- Good wildlife habitat
- Diversity of ecosystems and landscapes

Weaknesses

- Consistency in management
- Wildlife conflict
- Limited signage/awareness
- Limited resources
- E-bikes are a big question

Opportunities

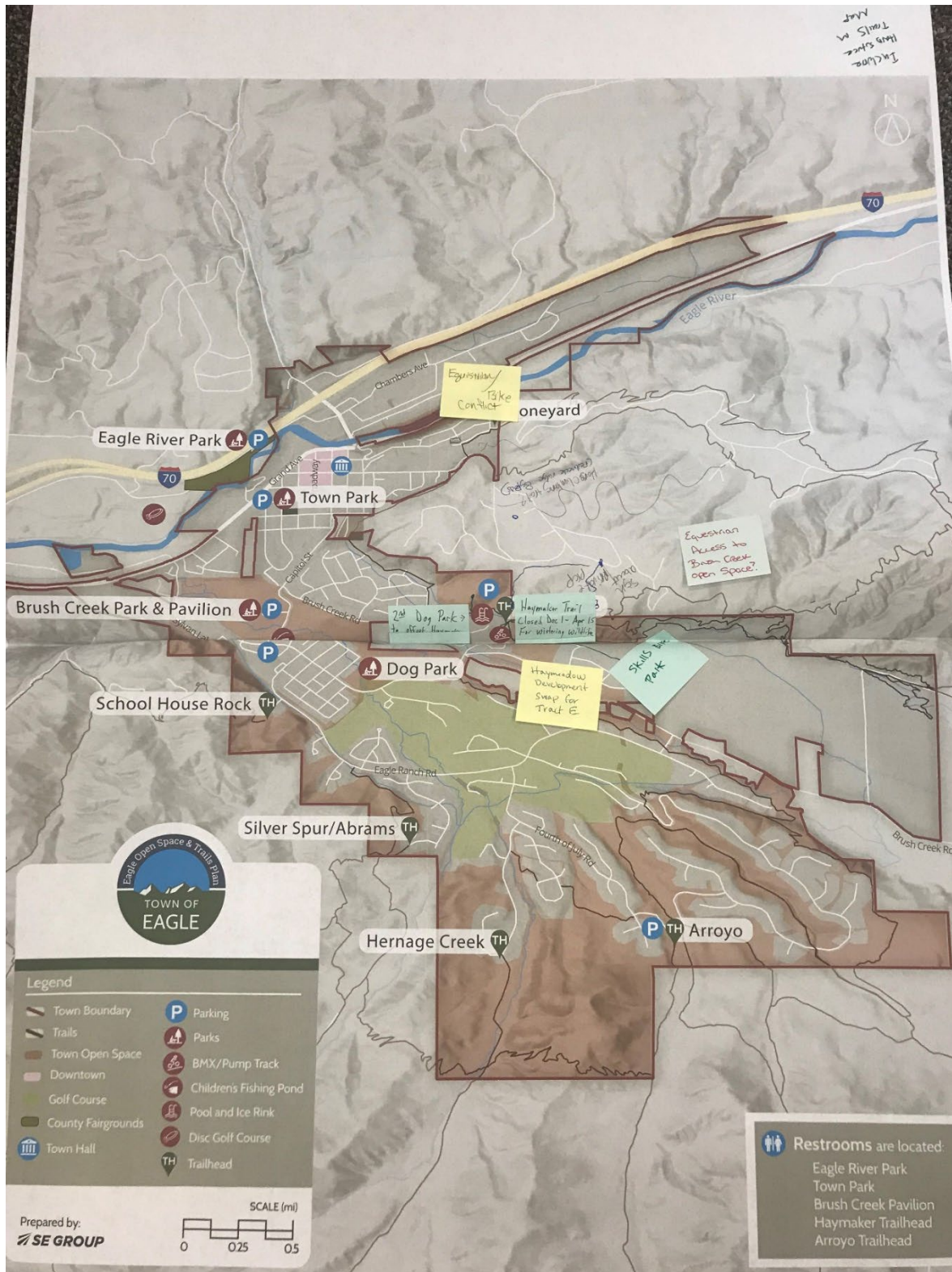
- Better signage
- More education
- Consistency
- More access for all

Threats

- Losing agricultural heritage
- Habitat fragmentation
- Appropriately locating/siting outdoor rec
- Over advertising
- Wildlife viewing
- Dispersed camping
- Poor user etiquette

Map Exercise

Town Map



Haymaker area

- High traffic
- Opportunities for: restrooms, overflow parking, better signage, a dog park
- Trail suggestions: walking trails, singletrack through Spud Cellar

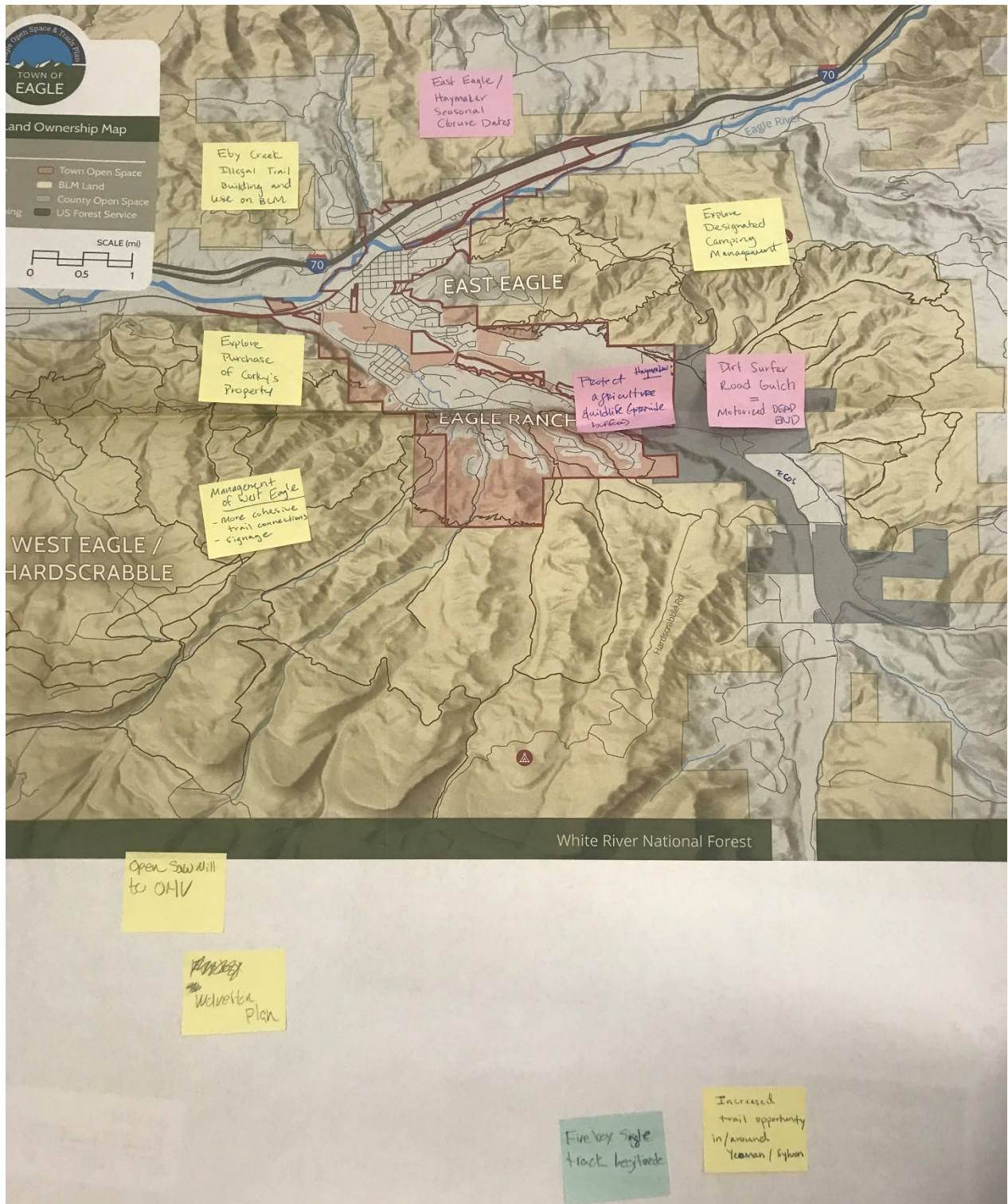
Boneyard trail

- Good for skills progression
- Weaknesses: parking, navigation, user conflict

Recommendations

- Better maps and navigation tools to direct trail users to routes and trailheads
- Partner with businesses in Town
- Bike skills park down Brush Creek Rd from Haymaker
- Additional restroom and trash facilities at trailheads
- Improve road cyclist safety

Regional Map



Recommendations

- Explore designated camping management on Bellyache Road
- Create more cohesive trail connections in West Eagle
- Improve signage in West Eagle
- Explore equestrian access to Brush Creek Open Space
- Create a buffer around Haymeadow to protect agriculture and wildlife
- Improve motorized trail connectivity



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle

FROM: Gabby Voeller, SE Group

DATE: December 6, 2021

RE: Visioning Open House and Survey Results

Visioning Open House and Online Survey Summary

The Town of Eagle hosted a Visioning Open House event to collect ideas and feedback on the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The event was held on October 19, 2021, at the Brush Creek Pavilion. The Visioning Open House was an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns towards establishing the vision and foundation of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The event was drop-in anytime format, with interactive stations and large-scale maps for commenting. Members of the project team were also available for one-on-one discussions. 29 people signed in and an estimated 50-60 people were in attendance.

Following the open house, an online survey was available for those unable to attend the event. To replicate the open house experience, the open house materials were available online for context and a survey asked the same questions as the boards. Map questions were replicated using a heatmap in the survey with an option to add additional comments. The survey received 234 responses and was open October 20 to November 12, 2021. The raw write-in responses are in Appendix A.

Background Information

The following questions asked basic information of workshop attendees and survey respondents and their use of the Eagle Open Space and Trails system.

Trail Use

ABOUT YOU

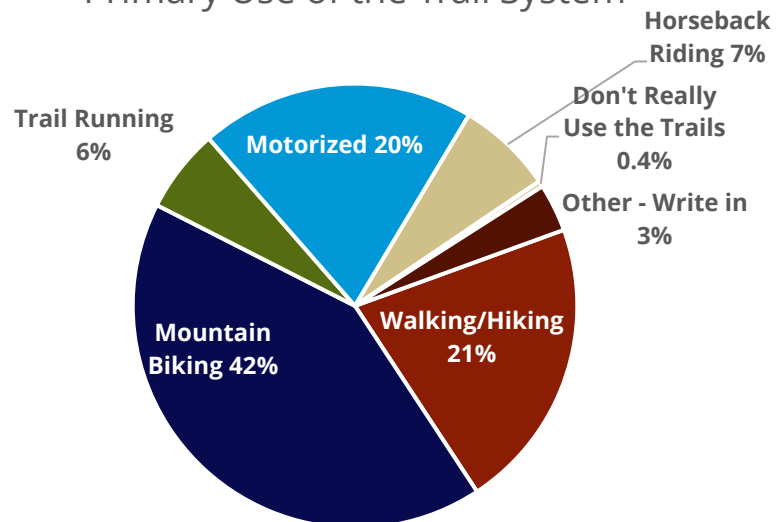
What is your primary use of the trail system and paved path network? Pick one.

MOUNTAIN BIKING	TRAIL RUNNING	WALKING/HIKING	MOTORIZED	HORSEBACK RIDING	DON'T REALLY USE THE TRAILS	OTHER (WRITE-IN)
						<i>Commuting to work</i> <i>DOG WALKING</i> <i>FAT BIKING</i> <i>NORDIC</i> <i>Snowshoeing</i>

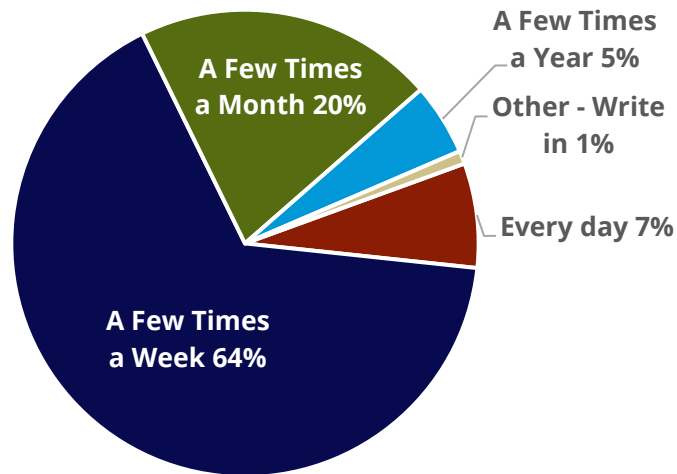
How often do you use the trails and paved paths?

EVERY DAY	A FEW TIMES A WEEK	A FEW TIMES A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A YEAR

Primary Use of the Trail System

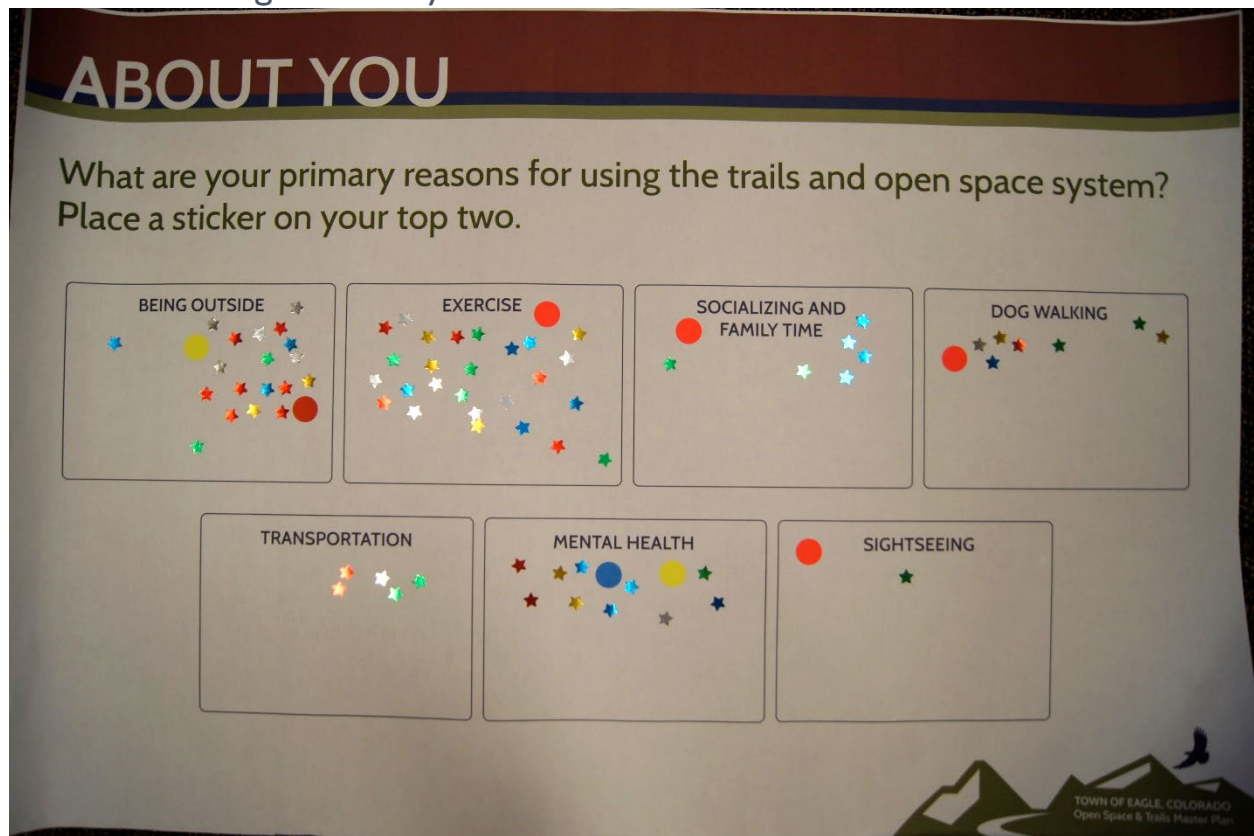


Frequency of Use

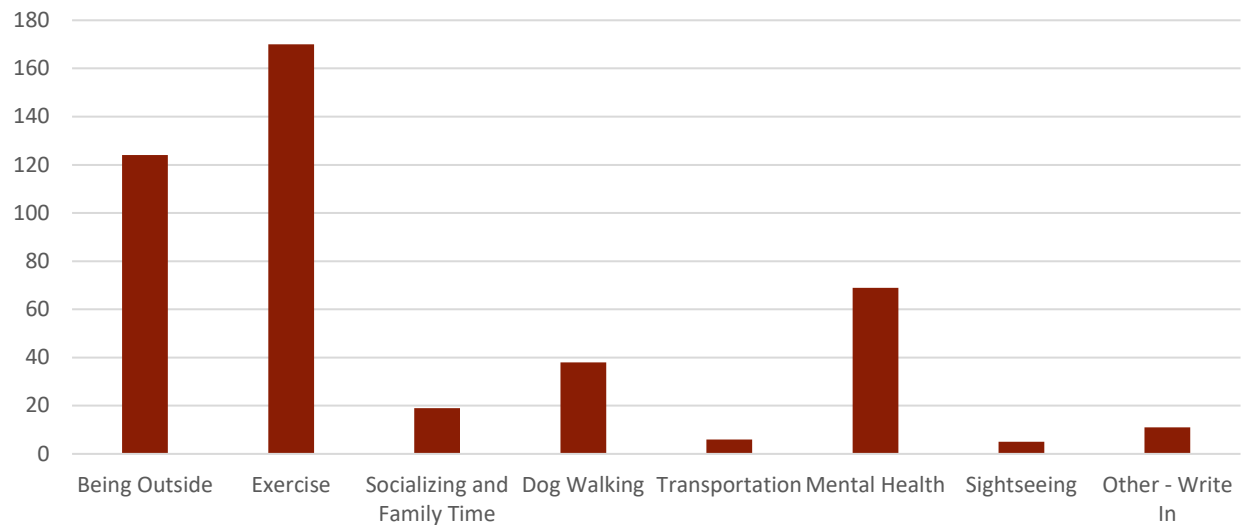


Survey respondents and open house attendees were primarily mountain bikers (42% of survey respondents, 52% of open house attendees) or walkers/hikers (21% of survey respondents, 25% of open house attendees). Of survey respondents, there were many motorized users (20% of respondents) and some horseback riders (7%). The majority of survey respondents and open house attendees use the trails and paved paths frequently. A large proportion (64%) of survey respondents use the trails and paths a few times a week and only 7% reported using it every day. A slight majority (53%) of the open house attendees reported using the trails every day. It is important to note that open house attendees report more frequent use of the trail system in considering responses to subsequent questions.

Reasons for Using the Trail System



Reasons for Using the Trail System



Exercise, being outside, and mental health, in order, were the primary reasons that both survey respondents and open house attendees use the open space and trails system.

When survey responses were broken down by user groups, these primary rationales as listed hold for both mountain bikers and motorized users. Walkers/hikers listed using the

trails for dog walking. A higher proportion of horseback riders listed being outside as their primary reason for using the trail system. Of the write-in responses, many survey respondents either indicated that they use the trail system for horseback riding, wildlife viewing, fun, adventure riding, training, or wanted to select more than two reasons.

Visioning

VISIONING

What do you value about the EXISTING Town of Eagle Open Space and Trail system?

- Proximity
- ✓ Easy access, being able to walk my dog off side-walks
- uncrowded ✓
- I love here because of the trails. I love everything about it - agree!
- ACCESS OUT MY DOOR, UNCROWDED ✓✓
- Easy access. Variety of trail types ✓✓
- ★ Year Round use ✓✓
- Access and visibility of access, adjacency to scenery ✓

What words or phrases would you use to describe your ten-year vision for the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trail system?

- Forward Thinking
- ★ Progressive ✓
- balanced for all uses
- dog walking/bikes
- accommodating growth
- wildlife still here! ✓✓
- Well-maintained
- more trails ✓✓
- well-signed (frequency, quality, orientation/directional/brand)
- NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION
- Sustainable for people & wildlife
- Preservation of wildlife
- Limited + highly strategic new trail development
- Balance use + time
- Year Round use
- Maintenance
- Management/Ecosystem Management Strategy
- Nordic Ski trails
- PAR Courses
- More Disc golf ✓✓

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Common themes noted in responses about the existing trail system include its accessibility, trail connectivity, proximity to town or home, variety of trail types and uses, fun, and beauty of the landscape. Common themes in responses about the ten-year vision for trails and open space include expansion and growth, maintenance, connectivity, variety of uses, and more motorized, e-bike, or horseback riding options. In addition to these themes, the open house attendees also noted the existing uncrowdedness and year-round use of the trail system and envisioned a future system with a focus on natural resource/wildlife preservation.

Trail System Values

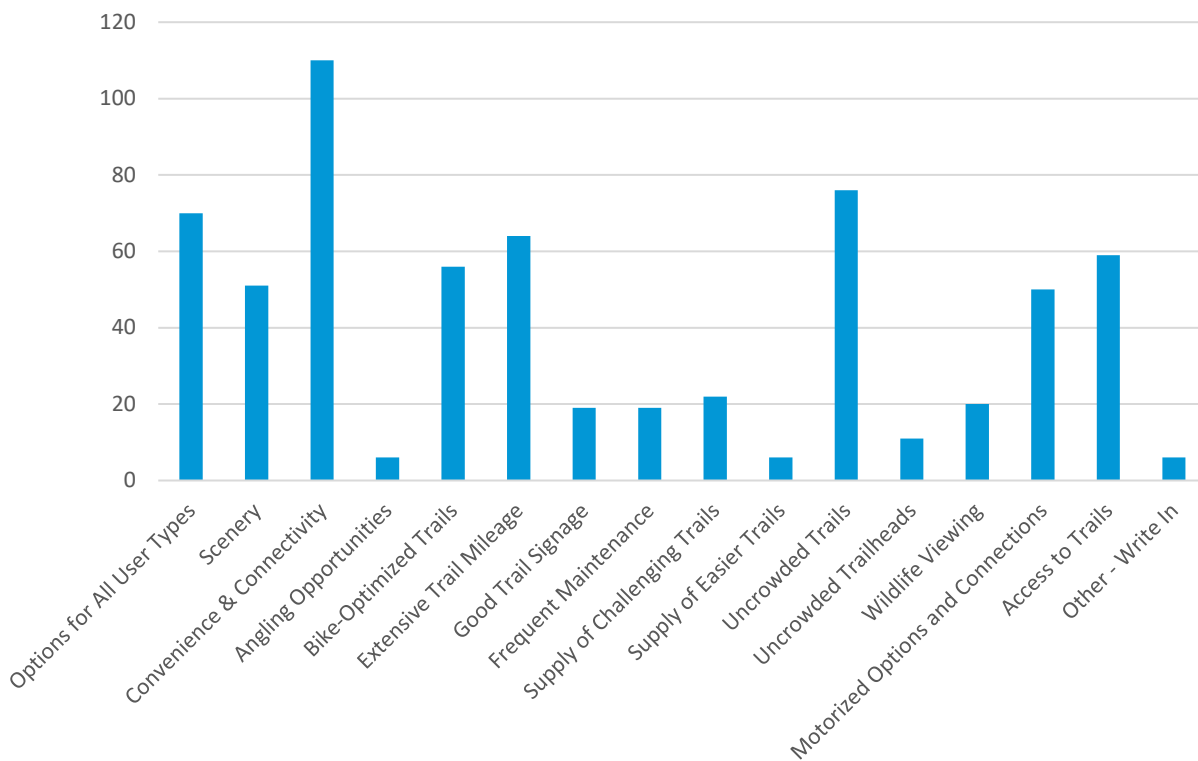
TRAIL SYSTEM VALUES

Place three dots for elements you value most about the existing trails system.

OPTIONS FOR ALL USER TYPES 	SCENERY 	CONVENIENCE & CONNECTIVITY 	ANGLING OPPORTUNITIES 	BIKE-OPTIMIZED TRAILS 	EXTENSIVE TRAIL MILEAGE
GOOD TRAIL SIGNAGE 	FREQUENT MAINTENANCE 	SUPPLY OF CHALLENGING TRAILS 	SUPPLY OF EASIER TRAILS 	UNCROWDED TRAILS 	UNCROWDED TRAILHEADS
WILDLIFE VIEWING 	MOTORIZED OPTIONS AND CONNECTIONS 	ACCESS TO TRAILS 	OTHER (WRITE-IN) Economic generator Access year-round		

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Open Space & Trails Master Plan

Trail System Values



Attributes most valued in the trail system by open house attendees were convenience and connectivity (18 votes), uncrowded trails (15 votes), access to trails (15 votes), extensive trail mileage (9 votes), and bike-optimized trails (9 votes), in order. Survey respondents placed very similar values, except they placed a higher value on options for all user types. When comparing overall results to those of different user groups, mountain bikers valued bike-optimized trails more; walkers/hikers valued scenery more; horseback riders valued scenery, options for all user types, and wildlife viewing more; and motorized users valued motorized options and connections the most.

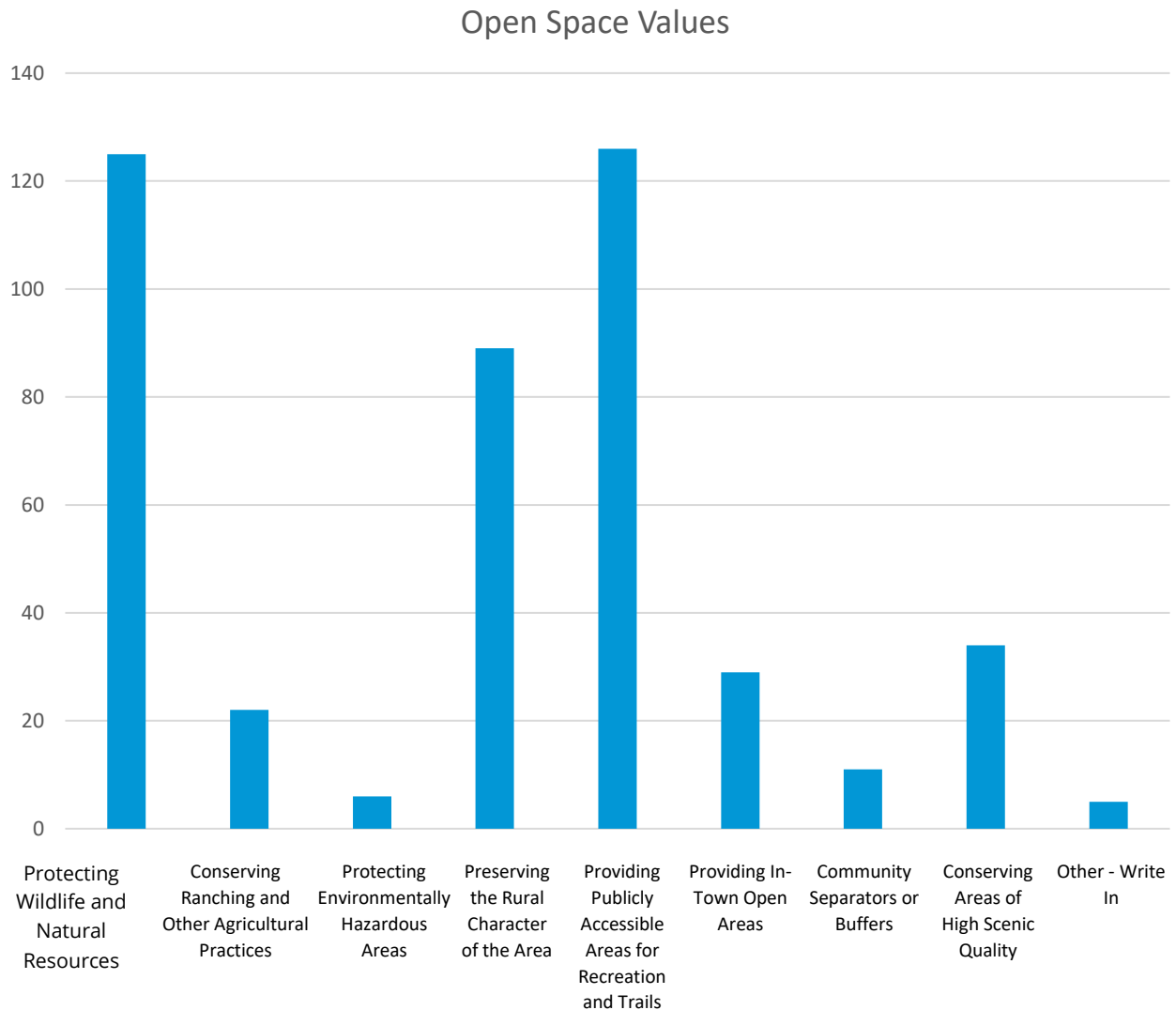
Write-in responses to the question noted the ability to ride horses, year-round access, and having the trails as an economic generator.

Open Space Values

OPEN SPACE VALUES

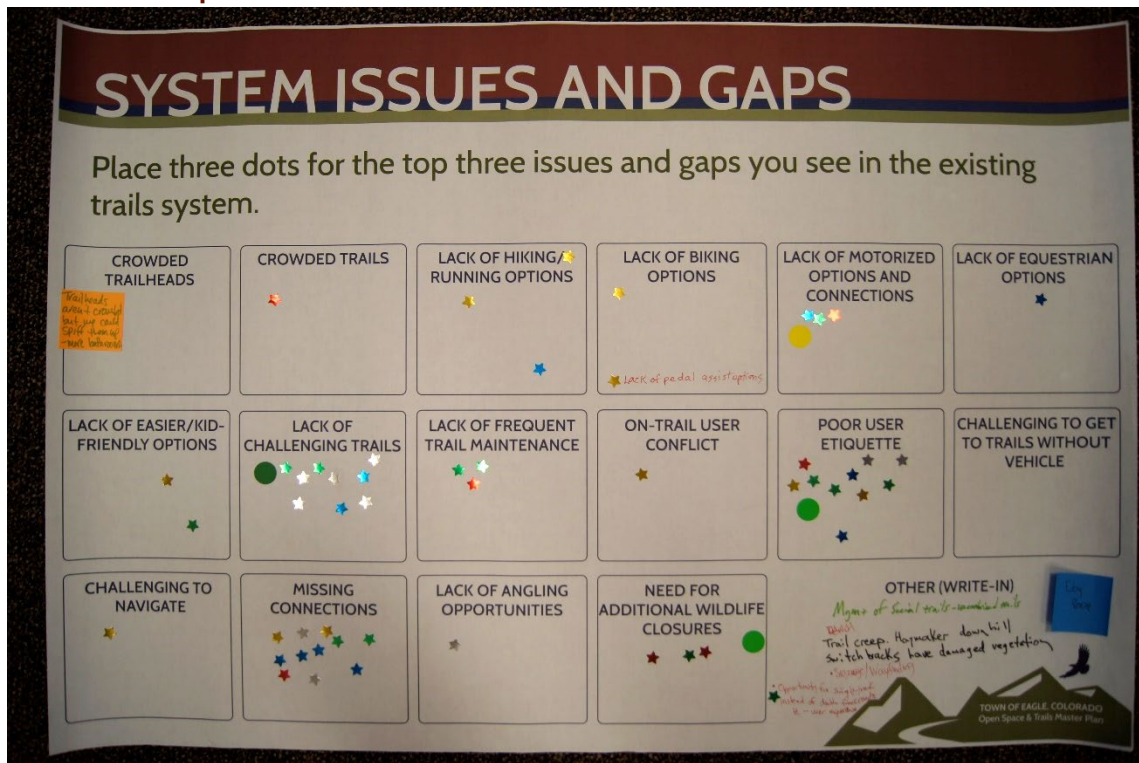
Place two dots for elements you value most about the existing open spaces.

<p>Town Open Space Map</p> <p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Public Open Space Private Open Space Conservation Easement Wilderness Scenic Area <p>Scale: 0 100 200 feet</p>	PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES 	CONSERVING RANCHING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES 	PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS AREAS
	PRESERVING THE RURAL UNDEVELOPED CHARACTER OF THE AREA 	PROVIDING PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE AREAS FOR RECREATION AND TRAILS 	PROVIDING IN-TOWN OPEN AREAS
	COMMUNITY SEPARATORS OR BUFFERS 	CONSERVING AREAS OF HIGH SCENIC QUALITY 	OTHER (WRITE-IN)

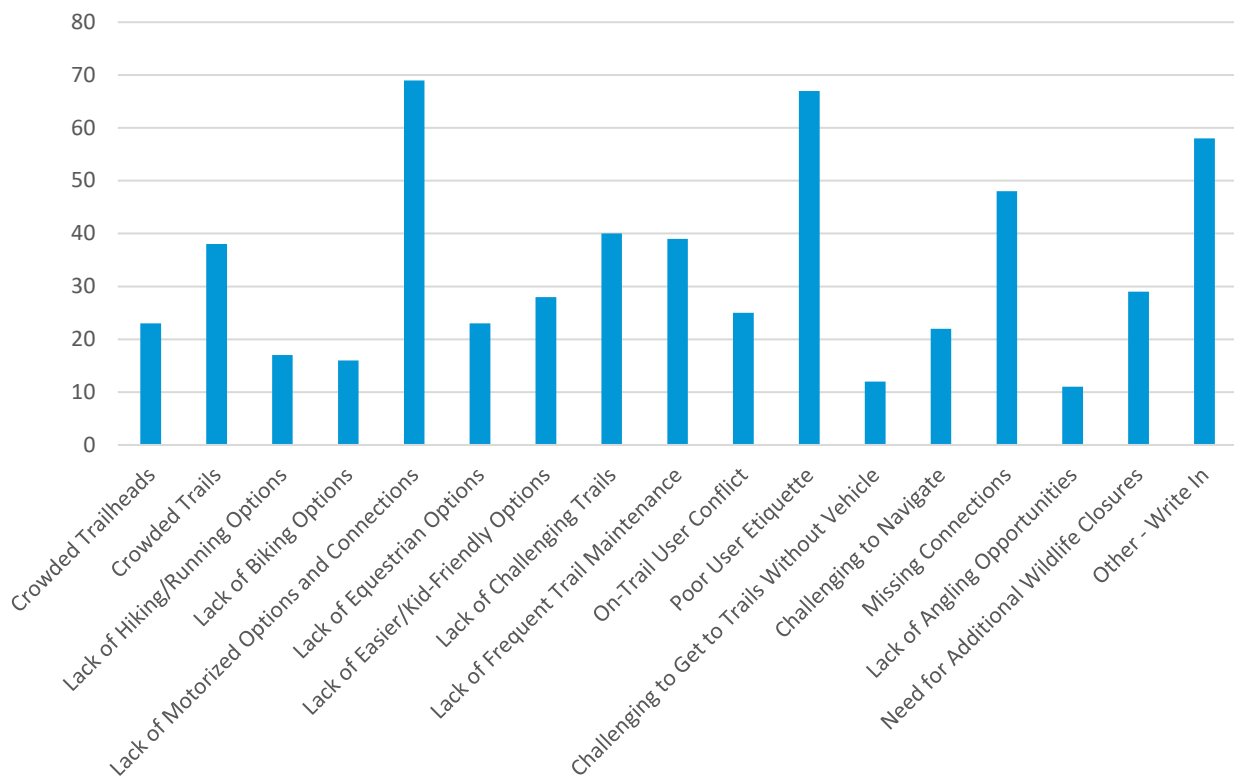


The attributes most valued in the open space system by open house attendees and survey respondents are providing publicly accessible areas for recreation and trails (34% of open house stickers placed, 28% of survey respondent votes), protecting wildlife and natural resources (30% of open house stickers placed, 28% of survey respondent votes), and preserving the rural undeveloped character of the area (18% of open house stickers placed, 20% of survey respondent votes), in order. Attendees and respondents could select up to two values. When breaking the survey data down by user groups, mountain bikers and motorized reported their values as listed. Walkers/hikers and horseback riders placed the highest value on wildlife and natural resource protection. Write-in responses noted year-round access, serenity, and community values.

Issues and Gaps



Issues and Gaps

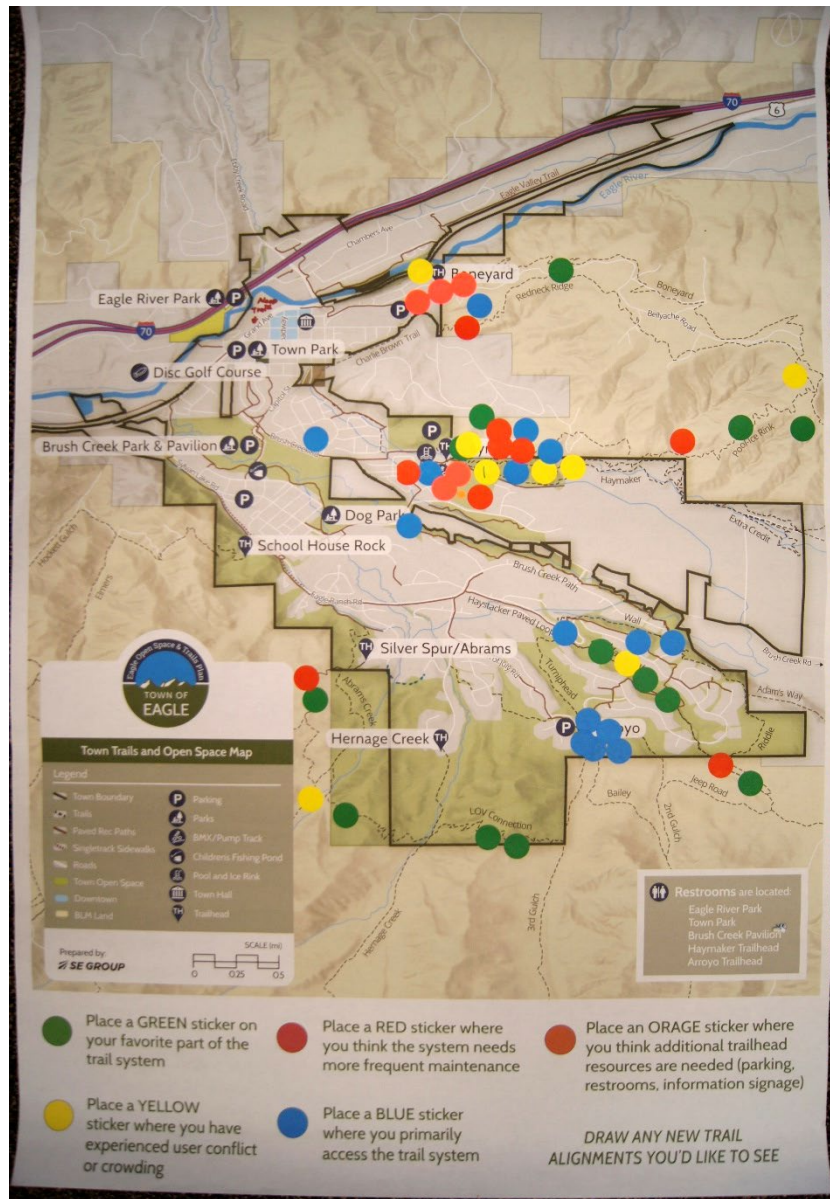


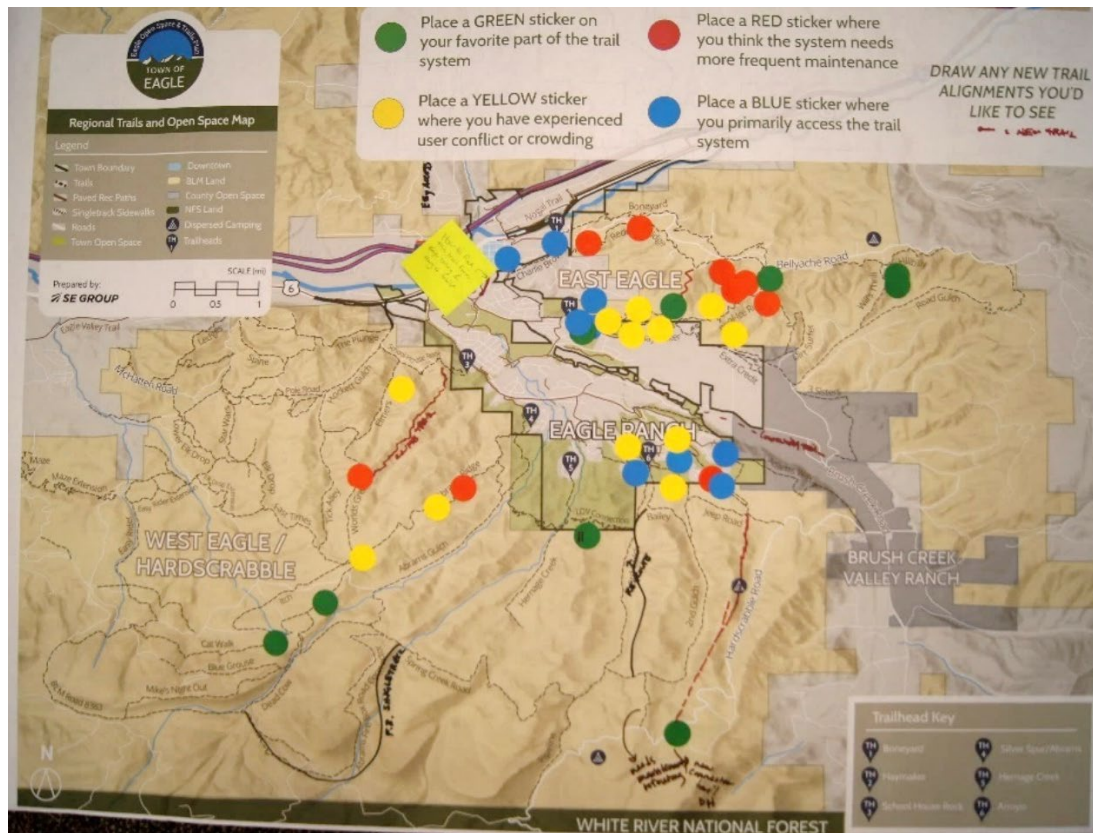
Open House attendees indicated the following as primary issues and gaps in the trails system: poor user etiquette (18% of stickers placed), missing connections (18% of stickers placed), and lack of challenging trails (16% of stickers placed). Survey respondents also indicated poor user etiquette (12% of survey respondent votes) and missing connections (9% of survey respondent votes), as well as a lack of motorized options (12% of survey respondent votes). There were also 63 write-in responses that touched on the following themes:

- Social trails
- Dogs off leash or dog poop on trails
- Lack of signage
- Lack of winter access
- Lack of e-bike/motorized access or trails
- Too much motorized use
- Lack of flatter trail options

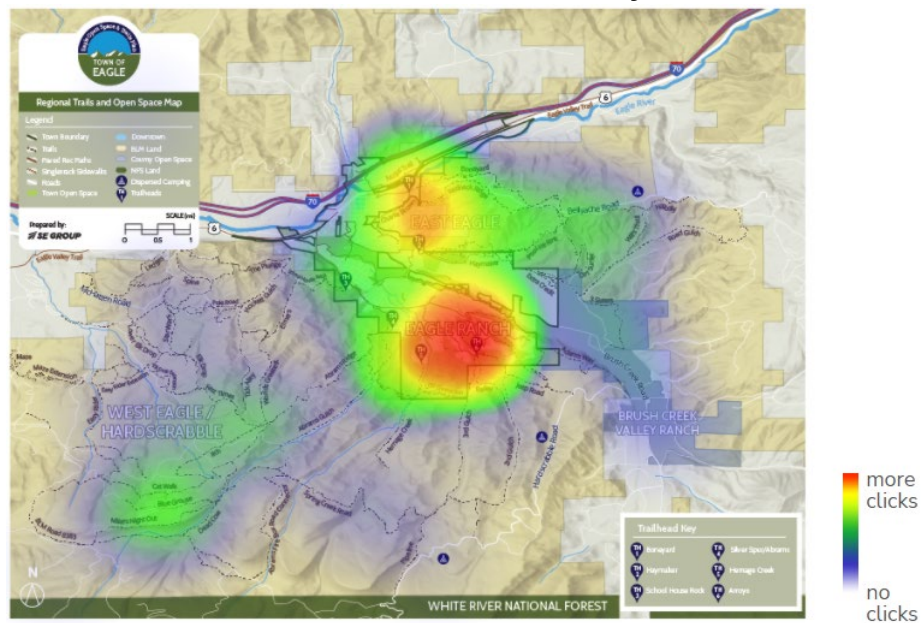
When looking at the responses by user group, primary issues varied. Horseback riders primarily indicated a lack of equestrian options; motorized users primarily indicated a lack of motorized options and connections; walkers/hikers primarily indicated poor user etiquette; and mountain bikers primarily indicated missing connections. In the written comments, there was discussion of bikers not yielding to pedestrians or the trails being mostly bike-friendly but not horse/pedestrian friendly.

Map Questions

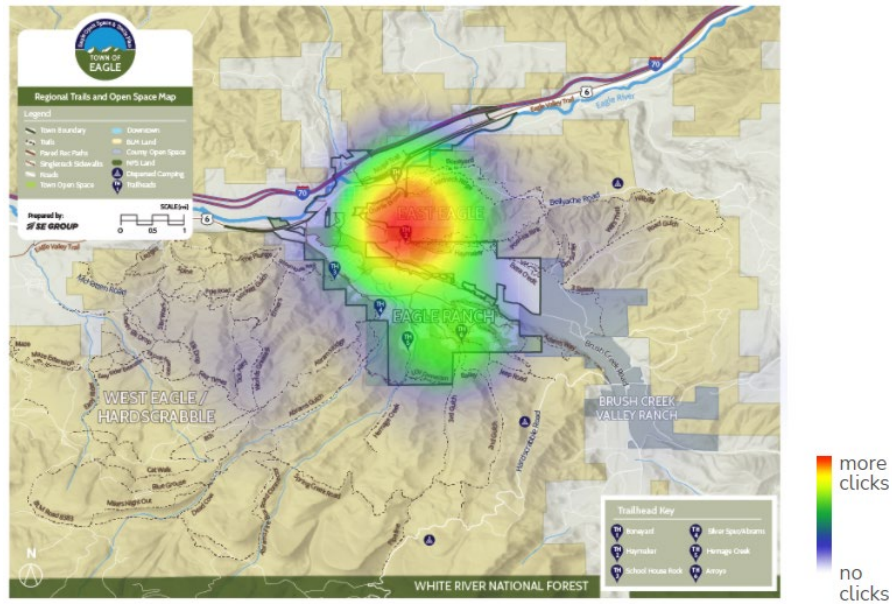




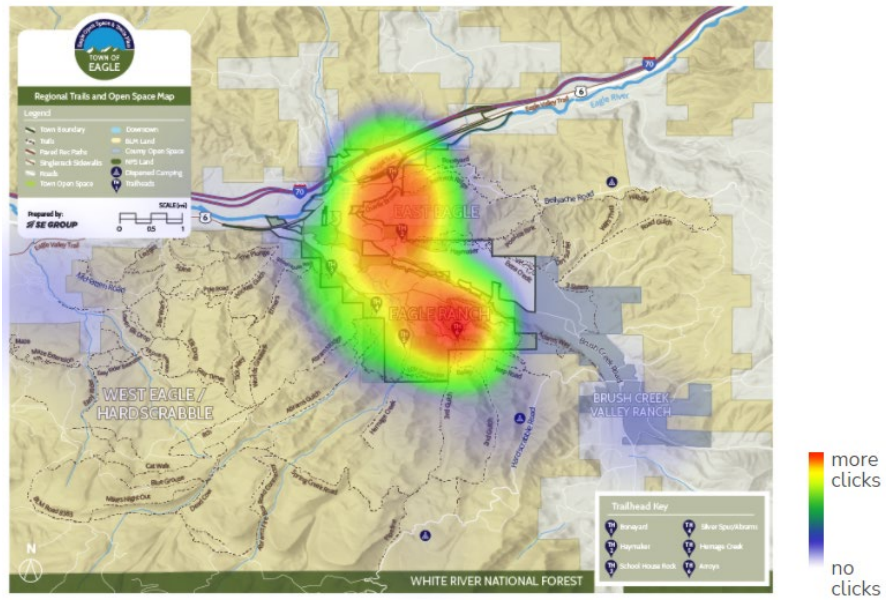
Favorite Areas on the Trail System



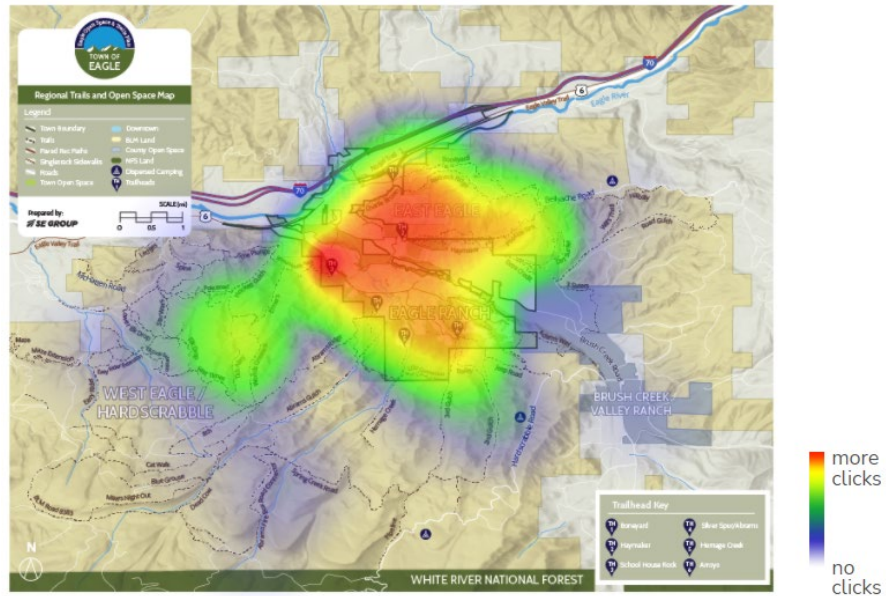
Areas of User Conflict



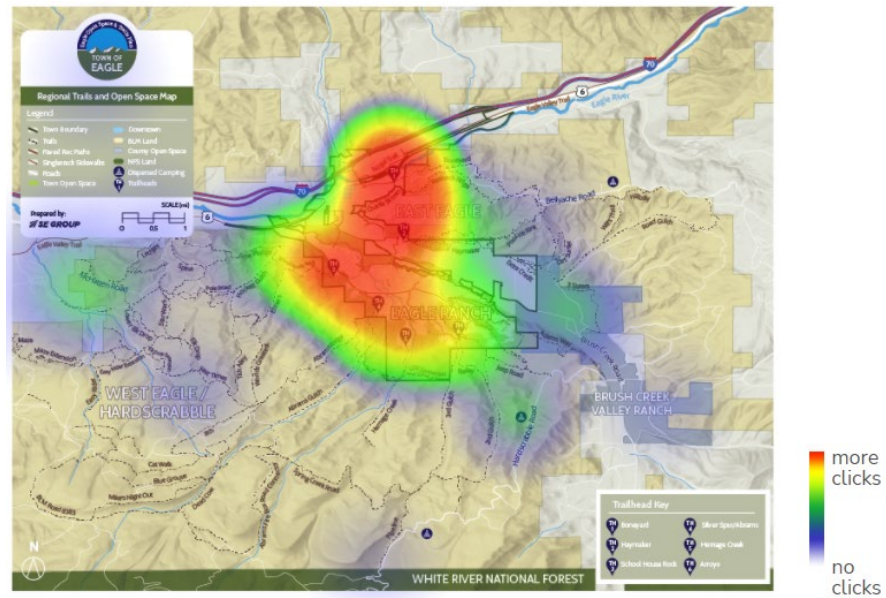
Areas in Need of Maintenance



Primary Access Points



Areas in Need of Trailhead Resources



also mentioned issues with parking and traffic, dogs, and downhill vs. uphill traffic, particularly between bikers and walkers. A handful of survey respondents also commented that they have experienced no conflict.

Open house attendees indicated that the following trails need more maintenance include Redneck Ridge, Pool-Ice Rink, Haymaker, and Mayer Gulch. Other individuals indicated a need for maintenance on Abrams Ridge and Worlds Greatest. Survey respondents indicated that maintenance is needed near the Boneyard and Haymaker trailheads and on trails in the Eagle Ranch area. Comments mentioned the difficulty of navigation and the need for more signage, issues with berms and steep switchbacks, and cracks in the paved paths. There were a few commenters who saw no need for more maintenance.

Open house attendees reported that their primary access to the trail system was through Arroyo, Haymaker, and Boneyard trailheads, or from neighborhood roads. Many survey respondents reported accessing the system from the School House Rock/Horton Street trailhead, and a lower proportion reported accessing via the Arroyo trailhead relative to open house attendees. A handful of commenters also said that they access trails from home and bike or walk to trailheads rather than drive.

Many survey and open house participants would like to see additional trailhead resources at Haymaker or Boneyard, and many survey respondents would like to see more amenities at School House Rock. A handful of survey respondents expressed a need for amenities near the Bellyache camping areas, crowded areas where people have observed trash and human waste.

Wildlife and Seasonal Closures

WILDLIFE & SEASONAL CLOSURES

The Town is chartered with protecting wildlife and providing recreational opportunities. Open space and trails in and around the Town of Eagle are closed seasonally to protect wildlife, soils, vegetation, watersheds, and fisheries. Elk and mule deer seek out lower elevations in the winter months, such as areas in and around Town and lower elevation trails. These two species have faced significant population decline in recent years. Winter wildlife closures are critical to protect their winter habitat and migration corridors. Predators of elk and mule deer, such as mountain lions or bears, can also be present in elk and mule deer winter habitat.

Spring closures protect calving and production for the elk and mule deer, critical for population health. During the warmer months, mule deer and elk are more dispersed, but trails can contribute to habitat fragmentation.

BLM trails and roads are closed between December 1 – April 15 for mechanized and motorized from Eagle. BLM trails in West Eagle are open and accessible from Gypsum or Hardscrabble Road until their closure on January 16.

Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space is closed to all uses December 1 – June 30.

Town of Eagle Trails are closed December 15 – April 15. The current exceptions are Haymaker (Loops 1 and 2), Boneyard, Redneck Ridge, and paved paths.

Wildlife Trail Ambassador Program 2020-2021
Winter & Spring Seasonal Wildlife Trail Closures

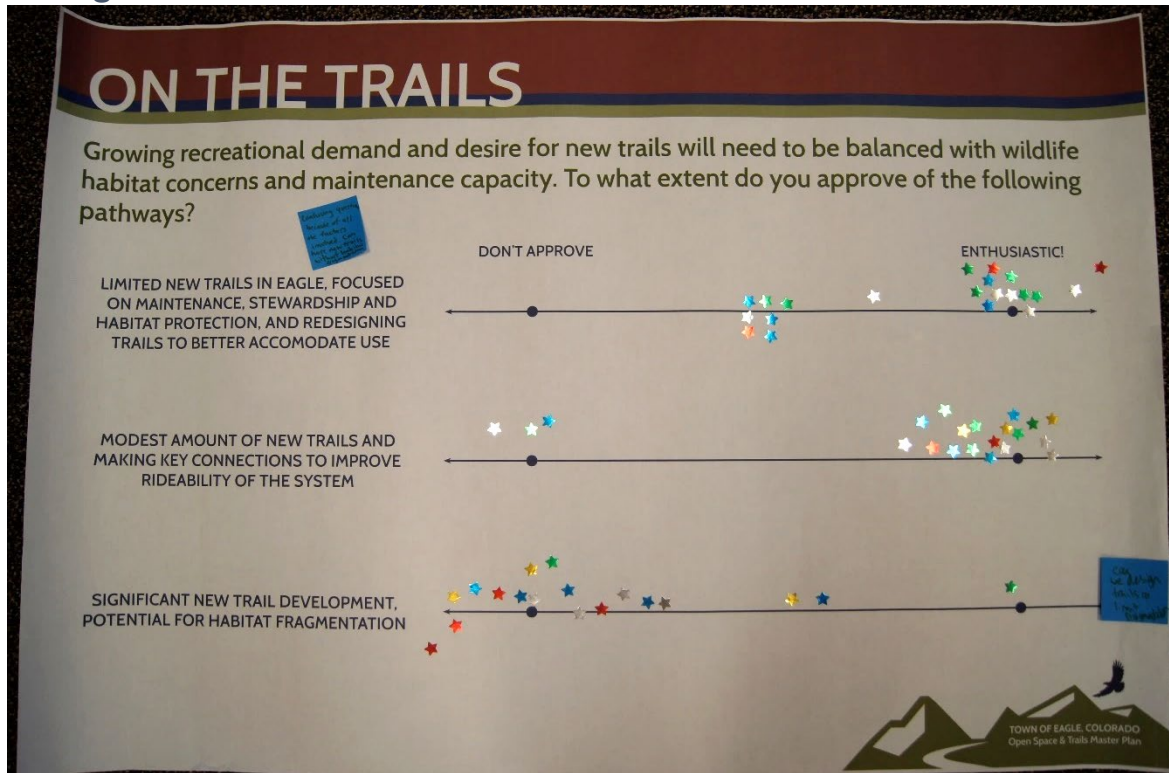
PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS ON WILDLIFE HABITAT AND SEASONAL CLOSURES.

Keep protecting Deer & Elk
Exclude winter routes - but not in critical winter areas
Partnership - on-site closures, trail off leash close - but not off leash open on Haymaker, Boneyard, Redneck with education, support + enforcement
Increase community education

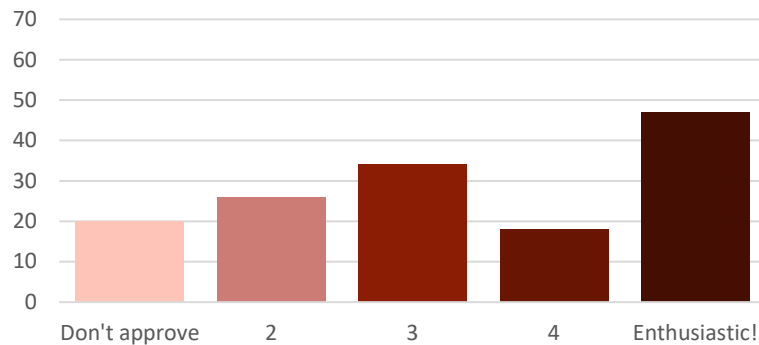
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- A desire for more winter recreation access
- Continue efforts to protect wildlife (particularly deer and elk)
- Do more to protect wildlife
- Concerns about wildlife interactions with dogs (especially when dogs are off-leash)
- Trails can still be built without impacts to wildlife
- An interest in additional trail development in areas with little wildlife presence
- Residential development has had a greater impact on wildlife than trails
- Increase community education

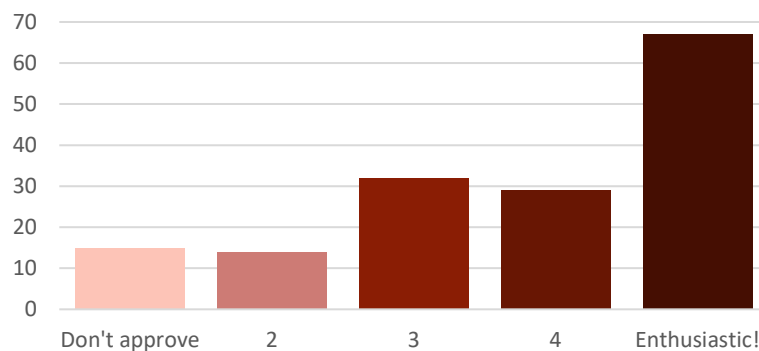
Balancing Wildlife and Recreation



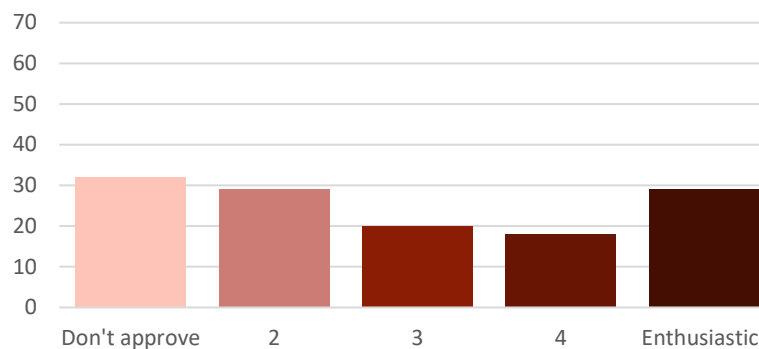
Limited new trails in Eagle, focused on maintenance, stewardship and habitat protection, and redesigning trails to better accommodate use



Modest amount of new trails and making key connections to improve rideability of the system



Significant new trail development, potential for habitat fragmentation



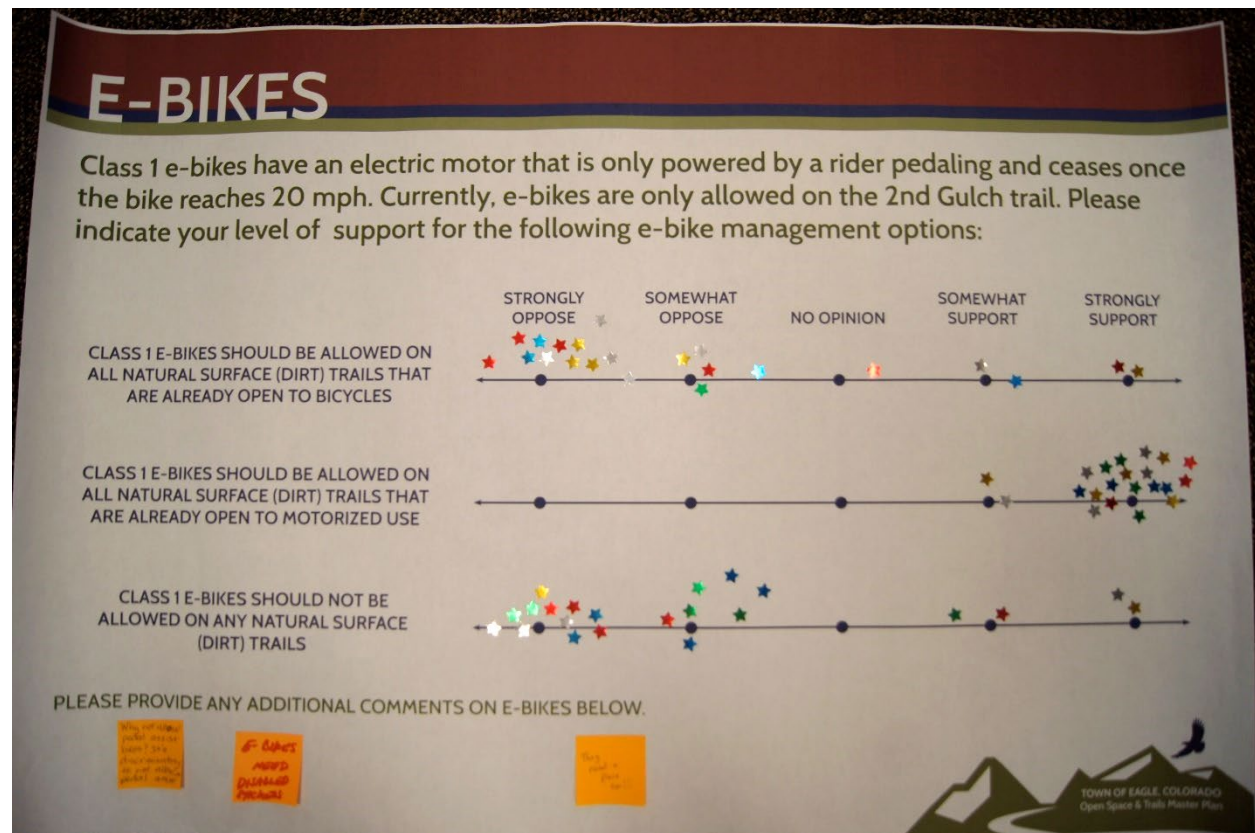
Many open house attendees supported limiting new trails in Eagle, focusing on maintenance, stewardship and habitat protection, and redesigning trails (62% with enthusiastic approval). No attendees did not approve of this option. Nearly all attendees expressed a level of support for a modest amount of new trails, with three attendees expressing disapproval of this option and no responses in between. Most open house attendees (83%) didn't approve of significant new trail development, although there was one enthusiastic response and two who were neutral.

Among survey respondents, limited new trails had mixed support, with an average ranking of 3.3 among survey respondents, with slightly more people who were enthusiastic (at a score of 5) than any other ranking. Survey respondents were most enthusiastic about a modest amount of new trails and making key connections to improve rideability of the

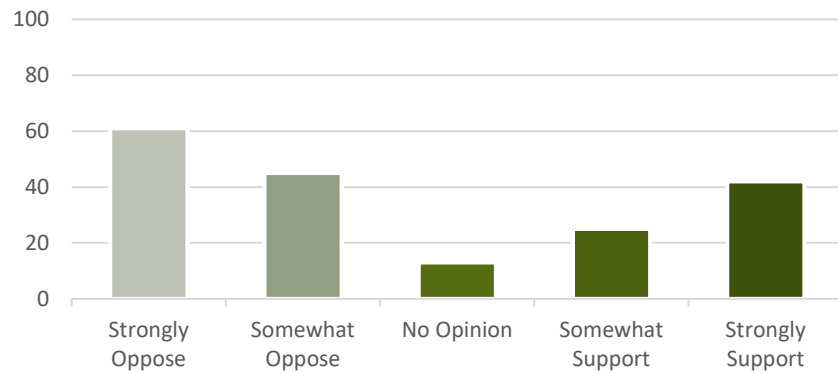
system, with an average ranking of 3.8. Significant new trail development was relatively polarizing amongst survey respondents, with both enthusiastic respondents and those who did not approve, for an average score of 2.9.

A few write-in comments from both survey respondents and open house attendees expressed concern for the way in which this question was asked; some argued that more trail development doesn't have to result in habitat fragmentation and favored more sustainable trail development.

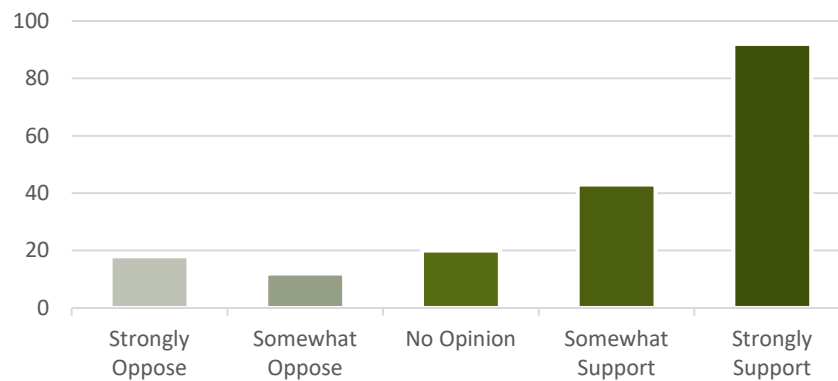
E-Bikes



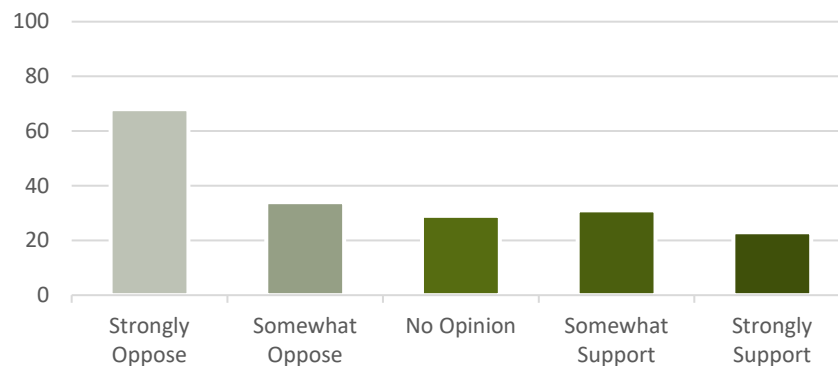
Class I e-bikes should be allowed on all natural surface (dirt) trails that are already open to bicycles



Class I e-bikes should be allowed on all natural surface (dirt) trails that are already open to motorized use

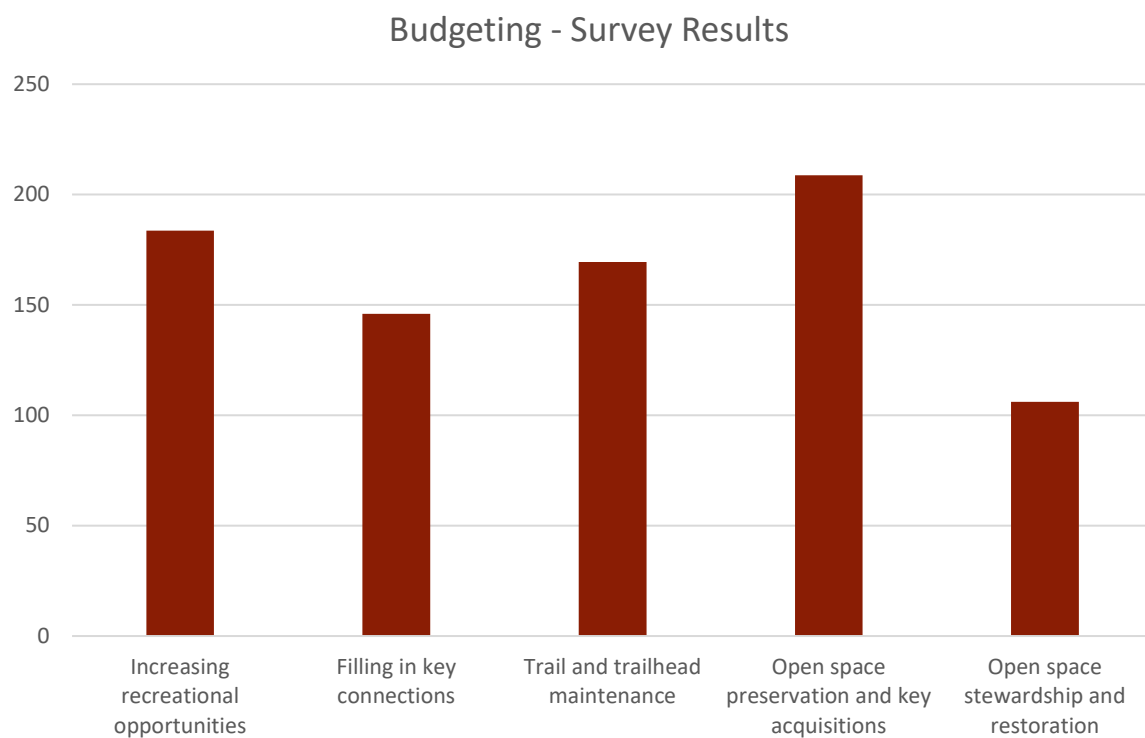
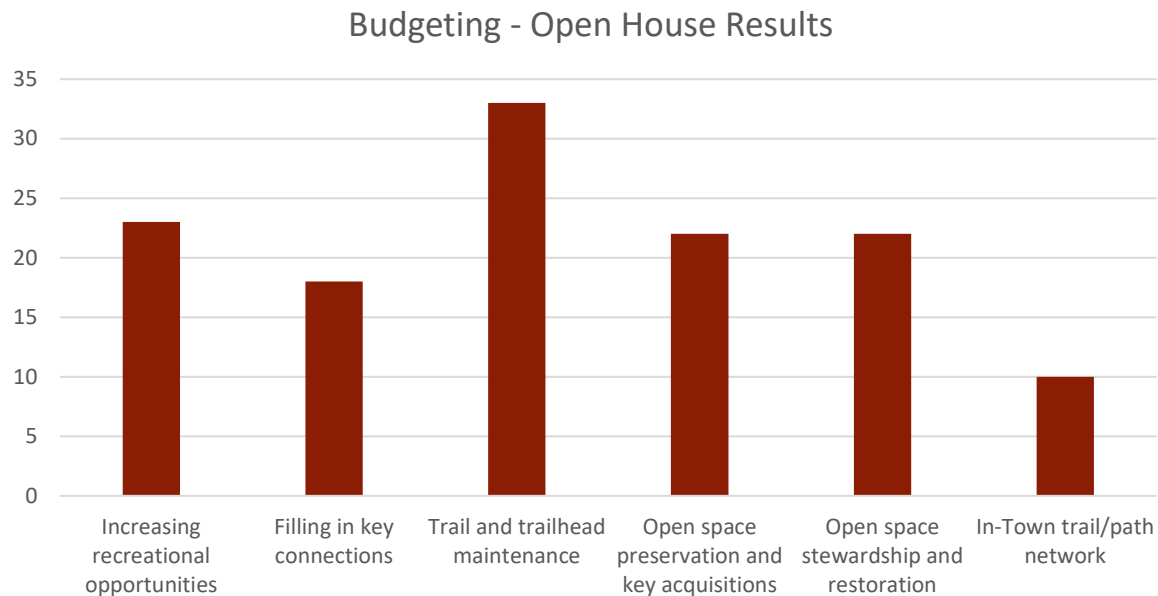


Class I e-bikes should not be allowed on any natural surface (dirt) trails



Of the three options, the highest percentage of both survey respondents (50%) and open house attendees (100%) were supportive of allowing e-bikes on trails already open to motorized use. There was less support for allowing e-bikes on all natural surface trails: 36% of survey respondents and 18% of open house attendees supported this option. There was general opposition among both response sets for prohibiting e-bikes on all natural surface trails, with 82% of open house attendees and 38% of survey respondents in opposition.

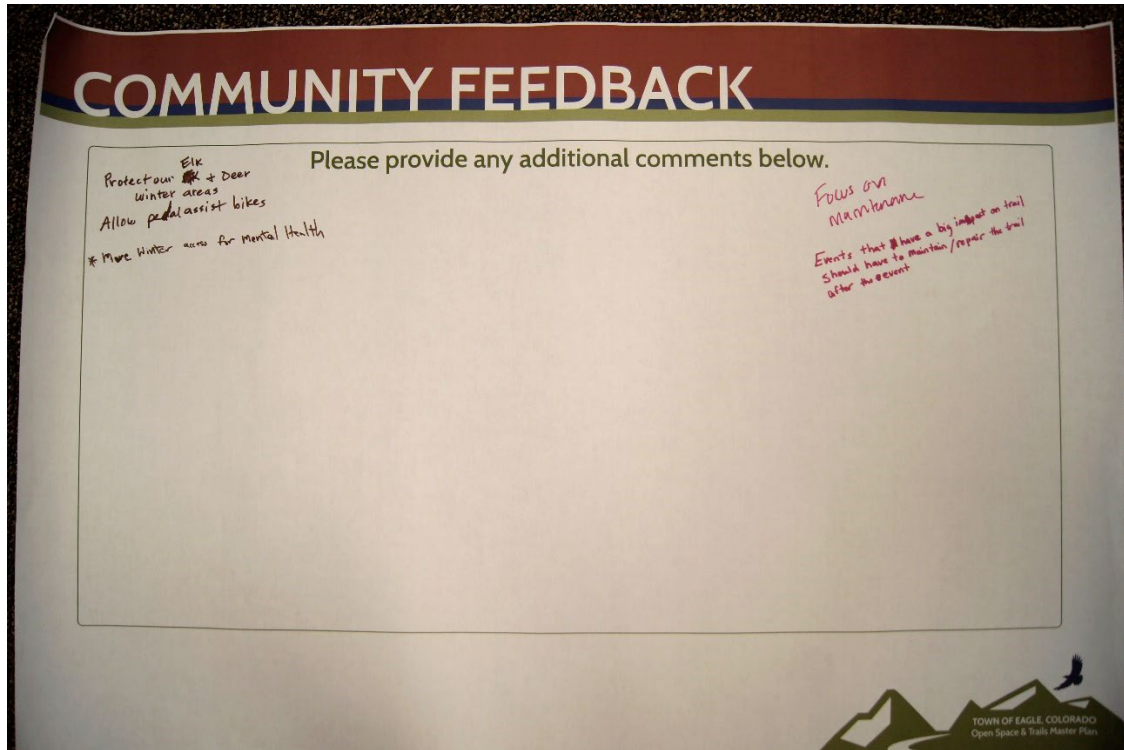
Budgeting



Survey respondents and open house attendees were asked how the Town should distribute its resources going forward by placing 0 to 5 votes and 5 total on each spending category. Across both groups, the highest spending priorities were open space preservation and key acquisitions (231 votes total), increasing recreational opportunities (206 votes total), and trails and trailhead maintenance (203 votes total). Open space

stewardship and restoration was also a key priority among many open house attendees. Open house attendees had relatively low interest in putting resources into the in-Town trail/path network. This option was not included on the online survey.

Additional Comments



Open House attendees and survey participants were asked for any additional comments, and 87 respondents provided their input. Common themes among these comments are:

- More terrain/features on singletrack trails
- Support for more e-bike and motorized access
- Comments on biases towards mountain bikers; some user groups feel overlooked
- Frustration about the loss of motorized access on trails such as Worlds Greatest
- Trash/dog waste on trails
- Dogs off-leash cause concerns for wildlife
- General signage could be improved
- Prioritize connections over new trails
- Keep open space "open"
- Support for wildlife conservation efforts such as Brush Creek Open Space
- Consideration of wildlife when planning new trails
- Continue to prioritize maintenance

There were also general supportive comments that appreciated the Town and other trail managers for their hard work, the opportunity for the survey, and the creation of this plan.



MEMORANDUM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, 200 Broadway Street, Eagle

DATE: December 9, 2021

TIME: 9 – 10:45 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland
 Ernest Sager, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA)/Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)
 Erinn Hoban, VVMTA/OSRAC
 John Bailey, OSRAC
 Jessica Foulis, Eagle Valley Land Trust/OSRAC
 Peter Suneson, Eagle County Open Space
 Phillip Kirkman, Eagle County Open Space/OSRAC
 Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
 Lizzy Owens, Mountain Rec/OSRAC
 Ellen Bodenheimier, Town Council/OSRAC
 Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle
 Gabby Voeller, SE Group
 Ellie Wachtel, SE Group
 Melanie McKenzie, SE Group

RE: Open Space Focus Group Meeting

FROM: Gabby Voeller, SE Group

Meeting Context and Purpose

On December 9, 2021, the Eagle Open Space and Trails Plan stakeholders, Town staff, and consultant team convened for a focus group meeting that discussed open space. 13 people attended the meeting in-person at Eagle Town Hall, and 1 person joined the meeting virtually.

At the meeting, the consultant team presented findings from a desktop analysis of open space, habitat, and natural environment conditions and a visioning survey that engaged over 250 local residents. The participants were guided in an open-ended discussion of

these materials and other key topics for discussion. The conversation provided recommendations and informed the plan direction.

Open Space Discussion Summary

The following summary presents the results from these open-ended conversations.

Existing Programs/Ongoing Efforts

- The Eagle Valley Land Trust participates in the Weed Warriors of Eagle Valley, a grassroots effort for weeds management and education
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has a seeding program to re-plant native grasses and improve soil quality
- Abrams Creek Open Space is currently working on a forest management plan with an outside forester

Issue/Opportunity Identification

- There has been an increase in noxious weeds in the Haymeadow area with the development of new roads; the development team has a dedicated staff member doing treatments on the weeds but the efforts are a work in progress
- Eagle Valley Land Trust would be willing to help find funds for holistic management of soil quality, native grasses, land restoration, weeds, etc.
- Climate change is expected to impact wildlife patterns; this may require an adjustment of seasonal closures
- There is concern about increases in recreational use with continued population growth in Eagle and impacts on wildlife habitat
- There is concern about dispersed camping and the waste on nearby BLM land
- There is interest in creating and maintaining equitable access to the trails and open space system
- Funding for open space management going forward is limited. Participants discussed a sales tax to put towards an open space management fund
- There is a lack of consistency around wildlife closures which creates confusion for participants and other trail users
- The Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable is interested in taking a wider approach to wildlife management

Places of Agreement/Disagreement

- Participants expressed support for controlled burns, a relatively inexpensive and effective strategy for habitat and vegetation restoration and pest management; controlled burns are already occurring in and around Eagle. Education is and would continue to be an important component
- Participants agreed that climate change is a threat to the future management of open space, especially in the context of wildlife management and closures as

habitat corridors and seasonality are changing. Participants discussed adaptive closures, but largely agreed the existing system is complicated enough

- Participants agreed that there is a need for better enforcement and education of wildlife closures; there are people who disobey the closures
 - Participants discussed adding wildlife closure enforcement and education to the Town of Eagle Code Enforcement Officer job description, as this position is currently vacant
- Participants agreed that while consistency of wildlife closures is important, closures should prioritize what is best for wildlife
- Participants agreed that habitat improvement projects should include areas beyond the Town boundary
- Participants agreed that dogs should be included in management planning as it relates to wildlife management
 - They were not interested in pursuing a dog tag program similar to the one in Boulder
- Participants are excited to see this plan start conversations with Town Council around funding and implementation

Potential Recommendations

- The Town of Eagle working with landowners of properties bordering areas with noxious weeds to multiply weed management efforts
- The management plan should focus on the bigger picture rather than specific areas in need of maintenance (such as the Haymeadow area). Those should be the focus of future studies
- Consider integrative methods for pest, weeds, and wildlife management such as controlled burns and raptor poles, or CO₂ fumigation
- Work with developers to establish ways in which new development can support open space management efforts. People were more interested in specificity around what the Town was interested in
 - Of interest were: an impact fee to account for increased trail use, a fee-in-lieu for capital improvements, land acquisitions for connectivity, maintenance of trails, and formalizing access and neighborhood connections
 - Participants emphasized the importance of formalizing access for new developments for preventing social trails and minimizing impacts
- Determination of areas to concentrate use/publicize for non-local use. This would be based on existing use patterns, habitat/natural resources, desired experience, and existing or potential parking and access facilities

Necessary Follow-ups

- Town of Eagle to connect with licensed herbicide applicators to gain a better understanding of where noxious weeds exist and when weeds are receptive to treatment methods for a more targeted, customized approach

- Research open space management efforts in surrounding areas to understand what has and hasn't been working
- Research Front Range open space policies/actions around ground squirrels and beavers

To Include in the Plan

- Express the importance of wildlife to the Eagle community
- Highlight the importance of finding a balance between the community's desire for more winter recreation and increasing the protection of wildlife



MEMORANDUM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, 200 Broadway Street, Eagle

DATE: December 9, 2021

TIME: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Ernest Sager, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA)/Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)
Jessica Foulis, Eagle Valley Land Trust/OSRAC
John Bailey, OSRAC
Peter Suneson, Eagle County Open Space
Phillip Kirkman, Eagle County Open Space/OSRAC
Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Ellen Bodenhemier, Town Council/OSRAC
Justin Jones, BLM Recreation Planner for OHV
Peter Barkley, The Cycle Effect
Alan Czepinski, BLM
Rob Tadlock, Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC)
Laura Turitz, HTC
Christopher Kehoe, HTC/OSRAC
Brian Bastuba, Rocky Mountain Sports Riders
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle
Gabby Voeller, SE Group
Ellie Wachtel, SE Group
Melanie McKenzie, SE Group

RE: Trails Focus Group Meeting

FROM: Gabby Voeller, SE Group

Meeting Context and Purpose

On December 9, 2021, the Eagle Open Space and Trails Plan stakeholders, Town staff, and consultant team convened for a focus group meeting that discussed the existing and future trail network in the Eagle area. 16 people attended the meeting in-person at Eagle Town Hall, and 2 people joined the meeting virtually.

At the meeting, the consultant team presented findings from a desktop analysis of the trail system and a visioning survey that engaged over 250 local residents. The participants were guided through an open-ended discussion of these materials and other key topics for discussion. The conversation provided recommendations and informed the plan direction.

Trails Discussion Summary

The following summary presents the results from these open-ended conversations.

Issue/Opportunity Identification

- There is a lack of connectivity in the motorized trail system; motorized use is fragmented and some trails dead-end onto non-motorized trails, particularly in West Eagle
- There is a lack of signage indicating the allowed usage on trails; some signs have been removed by users perhaps unhappy with the allowable uses. Other trailhead kiosk signage is lacking.
- Many people use the Brush Creek Elementary parking lot for trail access, but there have been complaints about people using this lot for such. Online information encourages people to use the Elementary school parking lot, and there is no information that suggests available parking and bathrooms at Brush Creek Pavilion.
- There is limited parking at many of the trailheads for West Eagle/Hardscrabble. There is the greatest misalignment at Hernage Gulch, particularly given its hiking only use.
- The frequent rutting of trails in the system is an issue. Among other potential solutions and strategies, the group was interested in looking into more innovative trail armoring techniques.
- Related to future trail access around Hockett Gulch, it is important to ensure Reserve at Hockett Gulch approved with parking lot/trail access plans in place.

Places of Agreement/Disagreement

- CPW expressed that extensive trail mileage exists (184 miles) and asked participants if there is a need for more trails or if the focus should be on maintenance; participants generally agreed that some additional mileage was necessary (and/or already approved) towards improving key connections and trail access was a priority
 - One participant also noted that while there are 184 miles of trails, only a fraction of these are used by the community because of the lack of access and connectivity; small improvements could help users better access existing parts of the system
- Participants agreed that there is a need for improved motorized access into West Eagle/Hardscrabble; an ideal place for this access is through private property. As singletrack motorized users can ride along Eagle streets, motorized access could

remain relatively informal, as most out-of-town riders should continue to access the system from Gypsum.

- Participants agreed that the Town of Eagle should not pursue more neighborhood trailheads in existing neighborhoods unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

Potential Recommendations

- The public is not well educated on local wildlife; creating an infographic or map identifying habitat locations for local species may be educational
- There is confusion about where parking is or isn't allowed; improving signage or correcting parking information on Trailforks would be helpful
- Creating a beginner skills park could increase beginner trail options and require relatively limited flat land
- To expand expert trail network, seek out opportunities to focus on more technical trails with rocks and other obstacles (better suited for West Eagle/Hardscrabble)
- The 2015 BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) has a capacity for additional trail mileage; there is interest in developing up to that mileage
- Trailheads should be designed according to associated trail uses; for example, trailheads that attract more walkers/hikers or out-of-town visitors may need more parking
- There is an opportunity to take some pressure off the Pool-Ice Rink, which sees high volume such as through an intermediate trail between Will's Thrill and Pool-Ice Rink
- Further publicize trail monitoring portals

Necessary Follow-ups

- Town of Eagle to continue working with developers for the Reserve at Hockett Gulch to support trail access in this area

To Include in the Plan

- Establish roles and responsibilities of the Town with key partners and stakeholders moving forward