

# POST Meeting Notes

December 12, 2019

## Attendance

POST members: Cindy Bruce, Glenn Drummond, Carol Hawk, Julie Kolar, Jason Groves

Staff: Susan Philp and Watkins Fulk-Gray

Guests: Jenn Riffle; David Hamilton, Executive Director, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers; Ted O'Brian, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails; Temple Glassier, Mid-Valley Trails Committee; George Trantow, Mid-Valley Trails Committee

## Trails

Susan stated that POST wanted to work on trails. Purpose of meeting was to see if there were some areas that the groups could work together.

**David Hamilton, RFOV**, gave some positive updates about their work with BLM. RFOV might look for a contribution from the Town. Work could start this summer. They had wanted to work on some of the Lake Christine fire area but US Forest Service is concerned about the danger. He also highlighted some of the other trail work RFOV will be doing on other trails.

**George Trantow, Mid-Valley Trails Committee** advised that priority projects for the Town of Basalt area included

- Vasten Loop Trail which is primarily in Garfield County but has pieces in three different counties. It will be above Buckhorn, and they hope to break ground this summer. There is a shortfall in funding of around \$30,000-\$40,000.
- Stage Coach Road Trail. Progress has been made but there are significant bottlenecks such as in Seven Castles and Cap K Ranch.

**Ted O'Brian – Pitkin County Open Space and Trails** reported that most of their 2019 trail projects were up valley. They will work on the Hay Park Trail. They have been working on Nancy's Path. They will be working on the Glassier Trail and improving a connection between the Emma Area and Light Hill.

- He noted that noncompliance with winter closures is often because of neighbors, not tourists or other trail users.

## Susan and POST members

- Priorities include Light Hill Trail, placing trails in and around the Fletcher, Basalt Ridge Open Space Areas. Need to work through parking, etc.
- Improve Hooks Spur Bridge to enhance access to Glassier trails from Willis, Sopris Village, and El Jebel. Widening the sidewalk was discussed, along with removing the grade-separated sidewalk to make the walking experience more comfortable.

- Improve Trails from Basalt Industrial Park to Valley Pines area, use Robinson Ditch.
- Improve trail through Ponderosa Park
- The Town is always interested in finding ways to connect to Arbaney-Kittle. Julie proposed using land in proximity to a water tank near the Basalt-Old Snowmass Trail.
- RFTA is in the process of updating its Recreational Trails Plan, which mainly involves the Rio Grande Trail. Basalt Planning's comments were about identifying and improving access trails to the Rio Grande.
- US Forest Service Salvage Project has some potential for input on trails. Comments due December 29<sup>th</sup>. Some concerns with leaving some burn areas intact for ecological reasons. The USFS hopes to clear hazard trees next to roads this coming summer. Concern that improvements to access roads make them undesirable for trails. Are there opportunities? Ted suggested that USFS wants to hear first about how to maintain existing trails, not build new ones.

### **Takeaways**

- Group to send letter to US Forest Service, including one message, that says that in salvage and reclamation efforts please incorporate the ability for one trail accessing El Jebel/West Basalt Area through public lands to Mill Creek Trail and another trail from Old Town Basalt that provides access to Mill Creek Trail.
- All groups to sign letter. This will be more powerful.
- Mid-Valley Trails Committee to take lead on Hooks Spur Bridge. They will work with Eagle County Road and Bridge to find minimum road width the Bridge can be and then potentially have two or three scenarios (one might include removing the raised sidewalk). Mid-Valley Trails had done a lot of work on this.
- Formalizing trails leads people to take care of them more than if they are bandit trails.

### **Follow-Up**

- Watkins to send information on US Forest Service to each of the participants
- Basalt Planning to write a draft letter and run it up the flag pole to see if POST can sign. Will send to group to comment.

**Next meeting:** January 9, 2019 (looking for Council Worksession Wednesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> if possible or at the January 22 Council meeting).