



Newsletter of FIDOS, Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space

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December 2004

New Dog Management Rules on the Horizon

FIDOS vice president Lisa Carter has worked with Open Space/Mountain Parks (OSMP) staff and the FIDOS board to create a set of agreements that would allow dog guardians to continue to enjoy voice and sight control on many OSMP trails, with the trade-off of increased restrictions and enforcement.

City Council Study Session December 14

At a study session on December 14, City Council will discuss these and other aspects of the OSMP Visitor Plan. Shortly thereafter, OSMP is expected to deliver a final draft of the Visitor Plan. You and your dog will definitely be affected by the plan, and this may be your last good opportunity to affect the outcome. Public comment is not allowed at the study session, but dog guardians should attend to demonstrate their commitment to these issues. To communicate with Council members, see contact information on page 4.

Please be courteous and respectful! Disruptive behavior cannot help our cause.

Time: December 14, 2004, 6pm

Place: West Senior Center, 909 West Arapahoe (9th and Arapahoe)

Key Elements of the FIDOS Proposal

The following is an outline and brief discussion of the key elements of the FIDOS proposal. For more detail, visit our web site at FIDOS.org.

Educational Video.

A short educational video would be created, describing the expectations for dogs under voice and sight control on OSMP lands. Upon signing a statement promising to keep their dogs under control (by voice and sight, leashing, or a combination of both), guardians would receive a tag for their dogs. Dogs without the tag would have to be leashed on OSMP lands.

Three Strikes Policy.

Dog guardians who receive three tickets or a warning and two tickets within any two-year period would lose voice and sight privileges and could only regain them by completing a voice and sight certification program. Fines would increase with each successive offense.

New Leashed Trails.

The following trails, now voice and sight, would be leashed

1. Green Mountain West Ridge
2. Green Bear (part of the connection between Bear Peak and Green Mountain summit).
3. Bear Canyon (access to the peaks from the Mesa Tail)
4. Bear Creek Trail (access to the Mesa Tail from the Table Mesa neighborhood)
5. Bear Peak West Ridge (part of the connection between Bear Peak and Green Mountain summit)
6. Fern Canyon (access to Bear Peak from the Mesa Trail)
7. E. M. Greenman
8. Fowler (south of Eldorado Springs)
9. Boulder Creek Path (along South Boulder Creek) north of Arapahoe to KOA Lake.
10. Skunk Canyon (access to the Mesa Tail from the Table Mesa neighborhood)
- 11-13. Chautauqua Meadow (three trails)

No Dog Trails

FIDOS has agreed that the system should offer some no dog trails for those who do not wish to meet dogs. We have recommended that new no-dog trails should be built, and have suggested short no-dog nature loops at popular trailheads. The following existing trails would go from voice and sight to no dogs

1. Long Canyon
2. Greenman
3. Sombrero Marsh

On-Corridor Voice and Sight.

The agreement contains a provision allowing some trails in Agricultural and Habitat Conservation areas, which would otherwise be designated leash, to be instead designated voice and sight, as long as dogs remain on the trail corridor (within 20 feet of the trail). These include:

1. Ranger (access to Green Mountain Summit)
2. Bear Peak (connector between South Boulder Peak and Bear Peak)

Trails Under Discussion

FIDOS and OSMP staff were not able to reach agreement on the following trails. OSMP wants them leashed. FIDOS thinks they should be voice and sight on-corridor. Please write or e-mail City Council urging them to designate these trails voice and sight.

1. Bear Peak West Ridge and Green Bear. These connect Bear Peak and Green Mountain summit. Making these voice and sight on-corridor would make it possible for dog guardians to run or hike the mountain peak route from Eldorado Springs Road in the south to Baseline Road in the north, all under voice and sight control.
2. Green Mountain West Ridge. This goes to Green Mountain summit from the west and is the easiest peak access trail. It parallels a private road for over half its length.
3. Skunk Creek. Access trail between Table Mesa neighborhood and Mesa Trail.



Endangered trail? If dogs failed the test, the Sage Trail at Boulder Valley Ranch would be leashed.

Compliance Studies

The draft Visitor Plan designated the Sage Trail at Boulder Valley Ranch and the Big Bluestem-South Boulder Creek loop as leashed trails. According to the agreement, studies at these trails would measure compliance with voice and sight requirements and would note impacts caused by dogs. The following trails would be designated leash if dogs fail the compliance studies and voice and sight on-corridor if they pass (but with seasonal leashing restrictions on Big Bluestem).

1. Sage at Boulder Valley Ranch (northern half)
2. Big Bluestem
3. South Boulder Creek

New Restrictions

These trails would remain voice and sight, but with restrictions.

1. Bobolink (restrictions on where dogs may enter the creek)
2. Doudy Draw (seasonal leashing restrictions)
3. Ranger (dogs must remain within trail corridor)
4. Bear Peak (dogs must remain within trail corridor)

Trailhead Leashing

The agreement calls for pilot studies testing a management strategy requiring dogs to be leashed for a distance (to be determined) at the beginning of several popular trails. The studies would measure the effectiveness of the leashing strategy at the following locations:

1. Mt. Sanitas
2. Chautauqua
3. Marshall Mesa
4. Dry Creek

Policy Issues

Two OSMP policy issues will be discussed at the Council study session on December 14. While the issues do not mention dogs explicitly, they would have an impact on dog management.

Priority of Preservation

The present Open Space charter assigns equal priority to all uses of Open Space, but some groups are urging that a Precautionary Principle be included in the Visitor Plan. The principle states that, in cases of uncertainty, management decisions should err on the side of preservation. Even under the present charter, we are on the brink of designating over 40% of OSMP lands as highly-restricted Habitat Conservation Areas, so preservation seems to be receiving due consideration. Explicitly assigning preservation a higher priority than other uses of Open Space would upset the balance against recreational uses.

On-Trail Rule in Habitat Conservation and Agricultural Areas

OSMP staff has recommended requiring users to stay strictly on designated trails in Habitat Conservation and Agricultural Areas. Such a rule would conflict with our efforts to establish a voice and sight on-corridor designation for some trails in these areas. Besides, an on-trail rule is stricter than necessary. Encouraging, rather than requiring, on-trail use would adequately protect these areas without making it a crime to step off trail!

FIDOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

If there's a beloved dog in your family, please support FIDOS. FIDOS acts as the only organized voice of dog lovers who value access to Open Space on the Front Range.

E-mail is the fastest and most economical way of keeping our members informed. Please send us your e-mail address with this form, or send it to us by going to boulderfidos@yahoo.com (please include your name too). FIDOS does not share your e-mail address with other organizations (we sometimes share postal mailing addresses with the Humane Society).

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Membership (for individual or household) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting Membership (for individual or household) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Membership (for individual or household) | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other contribution (for individual or household) | \$ |

- new member renewing member address change

Human's name _____ Dog's name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Today's date _____

- Please do not send me e-mail and event announcements
 I prefer a hard copy of Voice & Sight (if this box is not checked, you will receive the e-version only)

Send form with check to: FIDOS • P.O. Box 18928 • Boulder, CO 80308-8928.

Getting Information and Giving Input

Information on the Visitor Plan

For more information on the Visitor plan, visit
<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/plan.htm>

How to Contact City Council

Send your input on the Visitor Plan and on dog management to City Council.
You can e-mail individual Council members or all Council members at once by going to:
<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/cmo/citycouncil/leaders.html>

Staff will distribute your letter to Council members if you send it to:

City Council
P.O. Box 791
Boulder, CO 80306

Please Support FIDOS

We need funds for postage, copying, printing, and advertising. Please send contributions to FIDOS, P.O. Box 18928, Boulder, CO 80308-8928.

How to Contact FIDOS

E-mail us, visit our web site, or send us a letter:

boulderfidos@yahoo.com
www.FIDOS.org
FIDOS, P.O. Box 18928, Boulder, CO 80308-8928

*This contains important
information about possible new
dog management rules on
Boulder's Open Space/Mountain
Parks lands.*

Attention Dog Owners!

FRIENDS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND OPEN SPACE

NEWSLETTER OF FIDOS

Voice & Sight



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