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## Good Day!

This is the **August edition** of the FIDOS Newsletter and we must apologise for the lateness. There is yet another restriction to monitor. We were hoping it would be resolved quickly and we could move on, but apparently not. See the [McClintock Trail](#) section below.

**In house keeping news**, we have pruned the distribution list to delete recipients who may not be interested. We all hate spam, and it costs FIDOS money to send the newsletter, however we may have been too aggressive in pruning. We've received a number of complaints that interested folk are no longer receiving the newsletter. Sorry, about that!

If you know someone who would like to receive this, send a mail to [info@fidus.org](mailto:info@fidus.org) and we'll get them on the distro.

## Cragmoor Connector

During the summer fires, the Cragmoor Connector over in the Shanahan area was used as a firebreak to defend the nearby houses. This connector has now been closed to pedestrians "to recover". This is important as it provides pedestrian access to Fern Meadow, N. Shanahan and to Fern Canyon. The status of today (21 Aug) is:

"they have turned over the dirt, but they didn't add straw - it is just some dead grasses mixed in. There is no indication of the start of a new trail."

We urge OSMP to respect their process and quickly reopen this important trail which was a designated in the West TSA.

## Green Tags

The Open Space Board of Trustees met on Tuesday 24 July to discuss the proposals for changes to the Green Tag Program. The proposals can be found [here on the OSMP website](#). There will be another opportunity for public input sometime between now and the end of the year with the Council Study Session scheduled for November 27 2012.

## Quick Links

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## McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails

The West TSA decided on changes to the Enchanted Mesa/McClintock Trails which were agreed. On the 31July the City announced these changes in the Camera, but slipped in new dog restrictions on the area around the trails. FIDOS has provided input to the process, but also protested the way in which the additional restrictions were announced.

We are now waiting to see how this works out. While this is simply another restriction on the Open Space, the bigger issue is the process by which these restrictions are slipped through.

To quote Joni Mitchell "*you dont know what you've got till its gone*".

Watch this space.

## Outside the Valley - Anatomy of a Public Land Grab - Video

There is a move afoot to close the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco to V&S access. You may have read in the national news about the local dog walker being tazared by a ranger a few months ago, after his local hiking trail on Montara Mountain was absorbed into the GGNRA

The group has made a video of exactly how the restrictions are being implemented. The preview is at [Anatomy of a Public Land Grab](#) The first half of the preview is about the SanFrancisco situation, but the second half is strangely similar to Boulder.

Well worth 5 minutes of your time.

## OSMP Metrics

We often hear of surveys which indicate that dogs under V&S control are a serious problem in the Open Space, but we rarely, if ever, see the problems. Over the past few months FIDOS has been analyzing some of these surveys and have turned up some interesting interpretations of the data.

We'll be taking a look at some of these reported results to see why the official reported view of the impact of dogs differs from that observed by many dog owners.

Starting with the analysis of the [2004 Visitor Attitude Survey](#). Question 4 indicates 19% of the respondents had "dog related complaints". Thats serious, the highest number of all the questioned areas and 19% has been quoted in city meetings.

HOWEVER to get 19% OSMP had to add:

1. Poop complaints	8%
2. General stricter control by rangers	6%
3. Banning off leash dogs	3%
4. Better monitoring of dogs by rangers	2%
Total	19%

Interesting thing is that 3% of respondents wanted MORE V&S areas, but this finding was

simply discarded from the final calculation.

If we exclude items 2 and 4 as ranger issues, not dogs, and item 3 (3%) is countered by the pro-V&S (3%) number which they discarded, we end up with with the issues being:

- 1, Trails and Maintenance (Build more and maintain) 17%
2. Everything is OK as it is. 8%
3. Poop 8% (E before P)
4. Better education/information 6%

**Lesson to be learned?** People really would like more maintained trails, dog owners should pick up poop, and the results of surveys should be more carefully monitored for bias.

**Next Month** - How the impact of dogs by is magnified by OSMP math. (you may need your 14 year old to explain this math error).



### FIDOS Membership and Feedback

Members of FIDOS include a wide cross section of the Boulder Community, the common factor being an interest in enjoying and protecting the the Open Space, accompanied by our dogs. Many supporters are in fact "between dogs", but value meeting others with their dogs on the trail.

In order to retain and expand this access we each need to be "good stewards" of the lands around us and keep an eye on whats going on on the trails as well as in the meeting rooms.

Let us know if you have any ideas or observations on the direction of FIDOS. New perspectives on V&S are always valuable in developing our arguments.

Sincerely,

[Newsletter Team](#)

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