

Blue Tag Metrics

When the new voice and sight plans were proposed there was an estimate of 17,000 participants. By July 2015, when the program had settled down, the actual numbers are below.

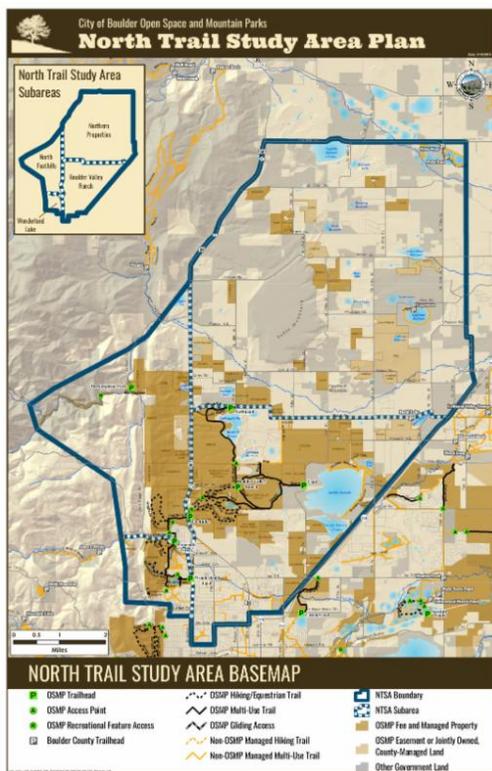
The number of V&S Class attendees -	8,458
Total # of Households Registered:	4,940
City-	2,689
County	1,903
Other	348
Total # of Tags Distributed:	6,464

The number of dog related violations for all the first half of 2015 compared to 2014:

Nature of Summons	2015	2014
	Feb-July	
Aggressive Animal Prohibited	1	4
Dog running at large, not in voice and sight control	18	28
Dog running at large, not on leash	34	59
Dogs prohibited	12	9
Voice and Sight Control Evidence Tag Required	116	69

No summonses were issues in January (we believe) as the rangers were just informing dog owners of the changes. To quote the (very old) TV show "be careful out there!".

North TSA - Progress and Status



Work on the North Trail Study Area (NTSA) continues throughout the year.

OSMP recently released a compilation of the public feedback that they have received through their workshops, website, and InspireBoulder.com. This compilation was released as part of the August 12th Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting and study session.

The request for more Voice & Sight trails in the North TSA has been acknowledged, as have comments such as -

- * Do not create more Voice and Sight trails,
- * Do not create more mountain biking trails,
- * Separate dogs from people and bikers,
- * Separate trail use by direction, day or type.

You can read the exhaustive compilation of diverse interests, starting on p. 38 at this link: <https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/15-0812-osbt-packet-1-201508061704.pdf>

Also, be sure to sign the petition asking for more Voice & Sight trails in the North TSA: <https://www.change.org/p/boulder-osmp-staff-osbt-and-city-council-add-additional-voice-and-sight-trails-in-the-north-trail-study-area>

Finally, OSMP has been recruiting panels of **subject matter experts** to discuss various aspects of the NTSA planning. There are two public meetings planned which the issues will be discussed which you may want to add to your calendar:

Wednesday, August 26
 6 - 8:30 pm in Council Chambers, 1777 Broadway
Expert Panel on Visitor Experience

Wednesday, September 2
 6 - 8:30 pm in the Main Library Canyon Theater, 1001 Arapahoe Avenue
Expert Panel on Natural Resources

[You can leave comments for OSMP on the NTSA at this link](#)

Attempted Trail Closures



Since the June Newsletter we have received some more information on the the efforts to reduce the usage of what OSMP considers "social" trails but regular users consider high value trails

OSMP has contracted with the Leave No Trace (LNT) organization to reduce the use of undesignated trails on Boulders Open Space. LNT will get \$9,400 for the first year of this study program which occurred in the month of June 2015. The report will be delivered in August 2016.

As it's now August 2015 some of the signs have been removed however, some appear to be forgotten, such as the one to the left near the Bobolink Trail. Its odd because the other end of the trail is clearly signposted as a trail (see below).

So far we have attempted closure at Dry Crook, Bobolink and a trail near Devils Thumb. If you come across such apparently forgotten signs you may want to let FIDOS know and we'll forward your information to the appropriate authorities.



OSMP has run a few tours of the Joder Ranch property to inform the community of the features of the area.

The property has some arid areas, as well as some scenic treed areas. A small stream even runs across the property.

Of the 8 miles of existing trails on the ranch, OSMP is only acknowledging the trail/road across the northern border of the Joder Ranch property that connects to the Buckingham property trail, which then ends at Olde Stage Rd.

OSMP has rebuilt the northern Joder trail/road, and they have relocated the Buckingham property trail. OSMP now refers to the other existing trails on the Joder Ranch property as "social trails", and they are allowing these trails to overgrow.

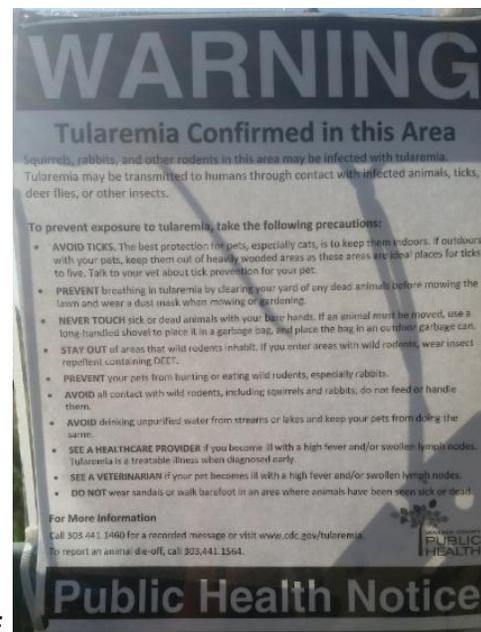
FIDOS hopes to have some of the 8 miles of the riding trails accessible in the form of varying length loops to accommodate hikers of varying ability, both with and without their V&S dogs.

Tularemia and the Plague in the Open Space

This is a repeat warning from the June Newsletter but its the disease season again in the Open Space, [Tularemia \(Rabbit Fever\)](#) or the [Plague from Chipmunks](#).

Having dogs we get a bit closer to nature than a regular hiker on the trails. A dog come across a sick or dead wildlife in the underbrush could transfer the disease.

Just need to be more aware of what the pups are up to along the edge of the trail when we are out and about.

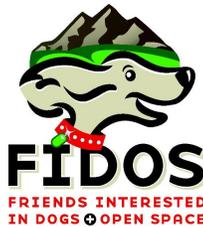


It's surprising how much V&S activity is going on in the City of Boulder and in Boulder County which FIDOS members try to cover.

If you'd like to help out but can't make long term commitments, we are pulling together a list of volunteer activities which simply involve turning up. For example, organizing a social event or attending an OSBT or Council Meeting and reporting back. (These meetings may seem dry, but when you have some skin in the game, such as preserving V&S access, they can be fascinating).

Let FIDOS know if you are interested in these ad-hoc activities and we'll put you on the mailing list.

[Join our Mailing List!](#)



FIDOS Meetings, 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 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 what is happening 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.

FIDOS board meetings take place in the Alfalfa's Community room at 7pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. The agenda is always published in advance to make sure we hit all the issues. If anyone would like to address the group let us know in advance (mail here) and we'll make time in the schedule.

NOTE: Please do not use Alfalfas Parking lot to attend the meeting. The private Council Parking lot across the street can be used after 5pm in the evenings.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Team

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space