

July 2013



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
 Dogs and Open Space

## July 2013 Summary

We have just two important issues month and an occasional restriction

- OSMP's updated proposals on the Green Tag program are released. After extensive discussion and input from members, we believe the best way forward is to just leave the existing program as it is. More info below.
- The idea of having V&S access to one of the Walker Ranch trails has been rejected "because its against the rules", but the point of the study was to review the rules!
- Some trails will restrict dog access while goats are used to clear weeds

There are more details on each of these below.

## Green Tag Program - Petition

FIDOS has been working hard with City Council and the Open Space Board of Trustees to decrease OSMP's excessively punitive Green Tag revision proposals

The revised proposals can be [found at this link](#) . Attachment A on page 9 of this document offers a more concise summary of these complex proposals.

We have been disappointed with OSMP's disregard for public input, as well as their disregard for direction given by City Council and the OSBT.

***We have decided at this point that it would be more fair to dog guardians to leave the Green Tag Program unchanged.***

## Quick Links

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[Please sign our petition at this link](#) and sign our petition. Also please write a letter to City Council to express your feelings on OSMP's Green Tag proposals.

The proposed changes are costly and complex, and they disproportionately target the single user group of dogs and dog guardians.

The proposed changes are arbitrary and unreasonably punitive. They are not based upon either sound science or unbiased observations of dog behavior.

Details:

- a) OSMP is proposing changes to the Green Tag Program that will result in loss of Green Tag privileges for only one offense of chasing wildlife. This could even include chasing a squirrel into a tree. No other user group faces loss of privileges for any offenses, let alone a single offense.
- b) OSMP is proposing annual renewal of the Green Tag, with annual fees. No other user group must pay annual fees to enjoy the Open Space already funded by their tax dollars.
- c) OSMP is proposing higher fines for offenses.
- d) OSMP's proposals cast a wide net that will entrap many innocent dog guardians.
- e) The visitor experience of dog guardians risks being diminished, as guardians are targeted by excessive rules, regulations, and penalties.

Please let your friends know. FIDOS is looking for volunteers who would be interested in gathering signatures for the petition, whether among friends or as they walk along the trails. Contact us at [info@fidus.org](mailto:info@fidus.org)

## Walker Ranch

There are only two trails on all of County Open Space lands where visitors can enjoy nature with their dog off leash. County Residents must come onto city Open Space to enjoy nature with their dogs off leash and they are charged more for the Green Tag privilege.

FIDOS has been looking for opportunities to introduce some V&S Trails into the county lands.

For the past year or so we have been working on the Walker Ranch, attending the meetings and submitting proposals. The draft of the [Walker Ranch Management Plan](#) has just been published and while the requests for V&S access are noted in the document they are quietly ignored in the

proposals.

We followed up with the County Open Space and the response is that V&S is against the rules, but the whole purpose of the review was to write the rules!

There are 3 major trails at Walker Ranch, ([Map Here](#))

The **Walker Ranch loop** much of which is a narrow bike trail, particularly dangerous to leashed dogs on the downhill sections.

The **Mayers Gulch Trail**, which is a road but of particular interest to the ornithologists, and then there is the **Ethel Harrold Trail** from the Trail Head down to the South Boulder Creek. This trail is part of the Walker Ranch Loop but it's a wide road and would make an excellent V&S Trail.

If you are interested in a V&S Trail at Walker Ranch, you can let the County Commissioners know at their email. "commissioners@bouldercounty.org"

## Temporary Restrictions

It was reported in the Camera that OSMP has recruited a herd of goats to handle weeds on some of the properties, for example, Bobolink Trail. They are requesting dogs are leashed while the goats are working and apparently there will be a guard dog protecting the goats. [More information in the Camera](#) here

## Helping FIDOS

It's surprising how much V&S activity is going on the Boulder and the 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.



## 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 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.

FIDOS meets on the first Monday of each month, 7pm at the Outlook Hotel, Boulder. 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.

Sincerely,

[Newsletter Team](#)

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space

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