

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

April 2013



Friends Interested
FIDOS
 Dogs and Open Space

April 2013

This month's newsletter is out a little early as the final OSMP proposals for the Green Tag program were released last Friday for presentation to the OSBT on Wednesday 10th April.

We were expecting modest enhancements to the program however, there are some problematic changes which will impact all guardians and need to be addressed, we have summarized and discussed the proposals below.

We also report on the result of OSMP's attempt to overturn the results of the West Trail Study Area (WTSA) decisions on Chapman Drive and note and upcoming County meeting on Walker Ranch.

Concerning Green Tag Proposals Going Before OSBT

What started as a fine tuning of an Open Space, Voice and Sight Control program has morphed into excessively punitive, city-wide dog management scheme and yet another assault on off-leash dog access in the Open Space.

The newly released Green Tag [proposal offered by the City of Boulder's Open Space Department](#), (linked) is confusing and necessarily onerous for all parties. FIDOS supports those efforts included the plan which focus on education and logical punitive actions, however we are now faced with a program that will add significant expense, inconvenience, and casts a net so large that many undeserving people will get caught in it.

These OSMP proposals will be presented to the [Open Space Board of Trustees \(OSBT\) for approval on Wednesday, April 10th, at City Council Chambers](#). (linked).

Of the new Green Tag proposals causing concern proposal #6, states a dog will lose their Green Tag for a single offense of chasing wildlife - even a squirrel. In addition **all dogs in the household and all household members will lose this Green Tag privilege for the offense of the first dog**. To regain the Green Tag, the dog will have to pass a yet to be determined test. FIDOS' position is that a dog should only lose their green tag for an egregious single offense that involves injury or death to wildlife, livestock, dogs, or humans. FIDOS believes that one minor offense such as chasing a squirrel up a tree should not result in the loss of the Green Tag.

OSMP is suggesting that any dog offense in the entire City of Boulder - on or off OSMP land - will count as a strike against the Green Tag and toward two strikes causing the loss of the Green Tag. **This suggestion alone divorces any pretense of "protecting wildlife and nature," in favor of building a bureaucracy.** FIDOS believes that offenses should only count against Green Tag privileges if they occur on OSMP property, or at places where the Green Tag is observed, such as Coot Lake or the Boulder Reservoir. We suggest that if dog violations anywhere in the City of Boulder will count against the Green Tag, participants in the program should enjoy Voice & Sight privileges in the entire city!

For two minor Green Tag offenses or for two dog offenses anywhere in the City of Boulder, the dog and all other household members will lose Green Tag privileges. FIDOS believes that only the person who commits the two minor Green Tag offenses (eg not carrying a leash or not picking up poop) should suffer loss of Green Tag privileges, not all household members.

The cost of the program to Green Tag holders is becoming overly burdensome. OSMP is recommending Green Tag renewal every year, involving a renewal fee each year for county residents. Also, the fines for Green Tag infractions are going to be much higher.

Finally, dog guardians will have to pay for their attendance at a required Information Session. FIDOS believes that OSMP has already made the newly proposed Green Tag program far too cumbersome. **No other user group must pay for their access to Open Space.** The administrative costs of dealing with annual renewal are unnecessary. FIDOS recommends a 3 year Green Tag renewal, with an option for 1 year renewal for interested parties.

Potentially, the Green Tag renewal could track City Dog License renewal or rabies vaccine renewal.

FIDOS is asking for your help so that the OSBT can hear from a wide group of dog guardians. Please take a few minutes to write a letter to the OSBT ([Contact information here](#)), or even better, come to the [OSBT meeting Wednesday and speak](#) (link). Letters are very powerful, as they are all read. Reasonable arguments made by rational people do have an impact.

Also, please forward this newsletter to your friends and ask for their support. FIDOS has been fighting the good fight to represent Boulder's dog owners. Please help by writing a letter or speaking at the Wednesday OSBT meeting.

Summary of the Proposals.

1. The proposals will be introduced in Jan 2014. Existing Green Tag holders will have until Dec 2014 to attend an information session. The cost of this session will be borne by participants in addition to the tag costs.

2. There will be an initial cost for entry to the green tag program, depending on where you live.

These costs will be in addition to the mandatory information session mentioned above. *(Comment, these amounts vary in the proposal, one set of numbers is below, but these need to be checked.)*

City Residents	\$10	Annual Renewal	\$0	Additional Guardian	\$5	Additional dog	\$10
County Residents	\$30	Annual Renewal	\$15				
Others	\$75	Annual Renewal	\$20				

3. Require proof of current rabies vaccination for all dogs to be registered in the program and we assume at annual renewals.

4. Various outreach/education activities will be initiated.

5. Fines are increased for "Voice and Sight Evidence Tag Required" and "Dog at Large"

convictions: First violation to \$100 (maximum), second \$200 (maximum), and \$300 (minimum) for subsequent violations

(There will be a mechanism for dismissal of tickets for lawful participants who inadvertently failed to display tag).

6. Revocation of program privileges will occur after **one** conviction of the following violations involving a dog:

- Aggressive Animal Prohibited,
- Failure to Protect Wildlife (or livestock), and
- Violations of City Manager's Rule involving wildlife protection.

7. Revocation of program privileges will occur after **two** convictions in two years by a single guardian or after three convictions in two years by any combination of guardians in a single household. The following violations involving a dog apply:

- Dog at Large
- Failure to remove excrement
- Guardians not displaying a tag on off-leash dogs
- Violations of City Manager's Rule (B.R.C. 8-3-3) not involving wildlife protection.

8. The Police have requested that

" off leash or voice and sight control convictions should apply to loss of Tag Program privileges regardless of the location within the city's jurisdiction where the violations

This means that if someone leaves your gate open, the dog escapes and is picked up as "dog at large" it will also impact your V&S privileges. This clearly has nothing to do with protecting wildlife on Open Space.

Boulder County Issues

A meeting to address the Walker Ranch Management Plan is scheduled for April 16th, details are at the County Web Site.

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/os/openspace/pages/walkerplan.aspx>

Walker Ranch is the most favored County Open Space area by FIDOS members for a V&S trail and FIDOS will be petitioning for V&S access in this process.

Lower Chapman

At the Chapman Drive review meeting the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) decided to retain Upper Chapman as Voice and Sight (V&S) so the existing Upper Chapman/Tenderfoot loop beloved by many will remain, but Lower Chapman became a leashed trail. This was a disappointment for those who live around the Lower Chapman Trailhead in Boulder Canyon and who

now drive up to Nederland or into Boulder to exercise their dogs off leash.

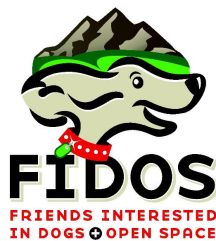
A petition is in progress by the local neighbors to investigate the possibility of allowing V&S a couple of days a week on Lower Chapman. The Chapman neighbours action group email (chapman@fidus.org)

Also note that all Chapman will become accessible to bikes in both directions. It should be noted that the Mountain Bike Community supported FIDOS efforts to make Chapman V&S as it is easier for bikers to negotiate people and dogs not connected by the leash, but the joint appeal was rejected by the OSBT.

Photo Competition CORRECTION

Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO) is sponsoring a photo competition with the theme of Boulders Open Space with a first prize of \$100. The best photos will be printed on the next release of the Boulder Trails Map which is being updated, so it would be good to have at least one photo which includes a dog.

We included a bad link to the competition site in last months newsletter , [the corrected link is here](#). Thanks to those who persevered and emailed entries anyway.



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

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to info@fidus.org by newsletter@fidus.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space | PO Box 17181 | Boulder | CO | 80305