



Contents

[Review of 2015](#) - Behind the scenes in 2015

[NTSA Update](#) - Where we are with the NTSA

[Preview of 2016](#) - 2016 could be a big year

[V&S at Wonderland](#) - NTSA plans for Wonderland

[Blue Tag Renewal](#) - Blue becomes gold

[Nonsense at the end, Merry Christmas!](#)



2015 in Review

There was quite a bit of activity behind the scenes in 2015.

The "Blue Tag" scheme was introduced in January which was expected to involve 17,000 participants. By July there were only 6,464 blue tags distributed.

In August, OSMP and the "[Leave no Trace](#)" organization, tried to close off a number of popular trails in the Open Space by posting signs and assuming everyone would obey. The report of the "experiment" (land grab) is due in August 2016 which we are looking forward to reviewing based on input on a number of trails from FIDOS members.

The "**elephant in the room**" in 2015 has been the North Trail Study Area (NTSA) which FIDOS has been following closely along with other recreation groups.

There is a detailed status report below.

North TSA Update and Request for Comments

OSMP presented two new scenarios at their latest North TSA workshop on Dec 10th (Details at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/north-tsa-refined-scenarios>).

Scenario A is more favorable to dogs from a Voice & Sight perspective.

Scenario B, unfortunately, has fewer Voice & Sight opportunities for dogs, but it is more favored by mountain bikers and equestrians, as it includes a trail across the West Beech property (designated On-Leash). This West Beech Trail connects the Hogback Area in North Boulder to Joder Ranch, on the west side of Highway 36.



FIDOS feels that it is unacceptable that OSMP is trying to balance recreational use in Scenario B by taking Voice & Sight access away from dog guardians in order to give more access to bikers and equestrians. FIDOS feels that Voice & Sight access should be equally balanced in both scenarios.

OSMP is accepting public feedback on these latest Scenarios until Jan. 3rd. Be sure to submit your comments on their comment form:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/north-tsa-scenario-survey>

sharing your personal experiences and preferences.

The North TSA is an opportunity to finally gain some Voice & Sight access, after facing increased restrictions on over 40 trails since 2005. FIDOS needs your help to gain this access! Be sure to submit a comment form and include the following requests, which we feel are fair requests of OSMP for the dog guardian community:

1) Designate the "Interim" Joder Trail as Voice & Sight. This trail is a wide road that allows sharing among multiple user groups. Also, a Voice & Sight trail at Joder will balance the proposed No Dog trail at Joder in Scenario B. If Joder Ranch must remain designated as an HCA, then designate the Joder "Interim" Trail as Voice & Sight On Corridor.

2) Keep the historical Voice & Sight designation on the Buckingham Trail that connects the Joder "Interim" Trail to Olde Stage Rd. (NOTE: In both Scenarios A and B, OSMP changes the designation of the Buckingham Trail to On Leash, so this is a V&S loss.)

3) Designate Joder Ranch as a Natural or Passive Recreation Area. The considerable trail building proposed in both scenarios for Joder Ranch indicates that it does not meet the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) guidelines. According to the Visitor Master Plan (VMP), HCAs "typically represent the largest blocks of an ecosystem type, with few, if any trails or roads," and HCAs also have "no or few trails or trail heads." Joder Ranch should be designated with its true designation of Natural or Passive Recreation Area, where the addition of trails is acceptable per the VMP.

4) Keep the Voice & Sight On-Corridor designation for the trails west of Wonderland Lake, as shown in Scenario A, in the final chosen scenario configuration.

For readers who would like more detailed information about OSMP's latest refined NTSA scenarios, we list a brief summary of dog access items here. Features of Scenario A include the following. A map of dog regulations for Scenario A can be found at:

https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Map_A_Dog-1-201512111458.pdf



1) Re-designating the Left Hand Trail, which runs from Neva Rd. to Boulder Valley Ranch, as Voice & Sight On Corridor. The Voice & Sight On Corridor designation allows your dog to be off leash, but your dog must be within 20 feet of the trail. The Left Hand Trail lies in a Natural Area, but per the Visitor Master Plan (VMP), it also lies in a No Dog Area. The Voice & Sight on corridor designation on the Left Hand Trail will at least give partial Voice & Sight access on the trail. In the past, the Left Hand Trail has been designated as On-Leash.

2) Creating some new loop connecting trails west of Wonderland Lake, restoring the northern portion of the Old Kiln Trail, and designating these trails as Voice & Sight On Corridor. These trails lie in a Passive Recreation Area, but per the VMP, they also lie in an On-Leash Area. Again, the Voice & Sight On Corridor designation will give partial Voice & Sight access on the trail. Currently the Old Kiln Trail has an On-Leash designation.

3) Creating a new Papini Connector Trail, in the southeastern section of Boulder Valley Ranch, and designating the trail as Voice & Sight on Corridor.

4) Creating two new loop trails at Joder Ranch. These loop trails will be designated On-Leash August through April and No Dog May through July.

5) Re-designating the Buckingham Trail, which runs from Olde Stage Rd. to the Interim Joder Trail, from its historical Voice & Sight designation to On-Leash.

Scenario B shares Items 1, 3, and 5 above. Other features include (a map of dog regulations for Scenario B can be found at:

https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Map_B_Dog-1-201512111500.pdf)

1) The new loop connecting trails west of Wonderland Lake and also the Old Kiln Trail would be designated On-Leash, rather than Voice & Sight On Corridor, as proposed in Scenario A.

2) Scenario B has two different loop trails at Joder Ranch. One of the loops is designated as No Dog, and the other loop is designated as On-Leash.

3) Scenario B includes a new north/south connector trail across the West Beech property that connects the Hogback Area to Joder Ranch. The proposed designation of this trail is On Leash.

Preview of 2016

OSMP's activities of 2016 will be:

- the conclusion of the North Trail Study Area (NTSA) activity,
- the review of the Visitor Master Plan (VMP)
- and maybe the East Trail Study Area, which will include trails like ***Dry Creek and Bobolink.***



The original VMP was implemented about 2005. It was during this exercise that extensive restrictions on V&S were introduced.

We will be tracking these activities in 2016 with particular care and ***will be looking for your support when necessary.***

Sadly, 2016 will not be as quiet as 2015 for dog guardians in Boulder.

As part of the North TSA, OSMP has a couple of plans for the Wonderland Lake Area. One includes some V&S access, the other is all leashed.

Wonderland Trails are used mainly by the residents of the surrounding area and while FIDOS promotes V&S access in general, we are not sure what the Wonderland Lake "locals" wish.

So far the single input we have received is that all dogs should be leashed. One is not a consensus, and we certainly don't want to make assumptions.

If any FIDOS members in the area have strong feelings let us know to track at info@fidos.org, but more importantly, [let OSMP know at this link.](#)

Blue Tag Renewal

Blue tags will expire on Dec. 31. We can renew at Cherryvale, the Municipal Offices, or online until the 1st of Feb. After that the renewal fees will no longer be valid and an initial registration fee will have to be paid.



You need a rabies certificate, but if you can't find it, they have it on record so on-line is the way to go.

Full details at the OSMP site at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/voice-and-sight>

Little seasonal music to end with

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b3hfepgZxg>

The members of FIDOS wish you a happy holiday season and we look forward to meeting you and the pups on the trails in 2016.

Merry Christmas!

Helping FIDOS

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