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February 2013



Friends Interested in
FIDOS
 Dogs and Open Space

February 2013

Couple of new items for this month.

There was a presentation on Chapman Drive at the City Offices on the 13 Feb followed by an OSBT meeting to discuss outreach for the Green Tag program. There is a quick summary of these events lower in the newsletter.

Some new features have been added to the website. We have been moving to a web based system to keep everyone informed on events.

BUT

If you are aware of people who are interested in V&S but are not on email [let us know here](#) and we'll look into producing a bimonthly digest delivered by the Post Office to keep everyone engaged.

Green Tag Program

Very interesting OSBT Meeting on 13 Feb after the Chapman presentation.

With no majors decisions on the agenda, and the goal being to discuss the outreach efforts, the meeting was sparsely attended, but there was a progress report on the Green Tag Program and other dog issues.

Board members expressed a number of thoughts and suggestions concerning dogs in Boulder and the Green Tag program. The important thing is that these were new, innovative ideas rather than just more restrictions. OSMP seemed receptive. The City's Outreach Department has been tasked

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with organizing an educational program to the V&S and dog owning community in general.

Not every idea mentioned was a potential winner, and FIDOS does have significant reservations about some of the more extreme proposals, but we are gratified to hear creative solutions to the issues around V&S in the Open Space.

We believe the V&S community should encourage and support this surprising new direction.

New OSMP Trail - Lower Chapman

A presentation of the plans for Lower Chapman Drive, from the Red Lion Inn on Boulder Canyon to the intersection with Tenderfoot, was made prior to the OSBT meeting on Feb 13th. The presentation consisted of three maps of the area for the various user groups and a general discussion which was dominated by the mountain biker issues.

Just a comment to anyone who attends these meetings. The bike community usually has a significant turn out of support, but that should not preclude other groups. If you do attend such meetings don't be worried about expressing your ideas even if you are significantly outnumbered. The officials need to record all sensible input.

Boulder County Issues

Thanks to everyone who responded to last months survey on which County Trails we should look to getting V&S. The three areas that generated most interest are:

- Mud Lake
- Walker Ranch
- Coal Creek Trail

It has been pointed out that other trails have a significant following, but these are the top three.

In addition:

Boulder County Parks and Open Space has created a new distribution list to help us stay informed about the management plans, policies and opportunities for public input. To sign up, go to this link [County Management Plans & Policies](#)

County Staff are working on a number of plans, including:

- Walker Ranch Management Plan update
- Reynolds/Rogers Management Plan update
- Rabbit Mountain Management Plan update
- Regional Mountain Trails Plan
- St. Vrain Greenway Regional Trail
- Cultural Resources Management Policy
- Grassland and Shrubland Management Policy
- Environmental Resource Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan update
- Open Space Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan update

Lot to keep a track of, you'll notice a couple of desirable new V&S areas in the list. You can find more on the [County Open Space Website](#).

McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails

As mentioned last month (and every month). The meadow is being **actively monitored for compliance for the regulations**. Please avoid creating new social trails in this area and let others know. We don't want to give ammunition to those looking to restrict this area.

Marshall Mesa



Visitors to Marshall Mesa will see some very serious signage along the fence near the parking lot with no explanation.

Apparently the fire which has burning underground in that area for the past 60 years is flaring and the closure is a precaution.

Trail access is not affected by this restriction.

2013 Canine Classic

The 2013 Canine Classic is scheduled for Sunday April 14. [The signup form is here.](#) Train, and get as fit as your pup! Its a qualifier for the Bolder Boulder which doesn't allow V&S :-)

... but perhaps that's a good idea.

FIDOS Web Site

We've added a Twitter Feed to the FIDOS website (www.fidos.org) on which we'll re-tweet relevant postings from over twenty organizations such as OSMP, Boulder Police, the Camera etc.

There are only one or 2 relevant tweets a week, and only the most recent 10 will be posted to keep the list reasonably fresh. Recent postings include OSMP looking for plastic bags at the Rangers Cottage and Cherry Vale for the Poop Program, and warnings from the Police on Coyote activity.

If you are active in the "twitter sphere" our tag is [@FIDOS](#).

Helping FIDOS

Its 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, attending a Council or OSBT 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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