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March 2013



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
Dogs and Open Space

## Welcome to the March 2013 Newsletter

How long is it since you saw the the V&S Video?

We've added a quiz to the website [at this link](#) for you to check your memory of the details, hit the START button to take the quiz. This quiz is not associated with the OSMP, no data is checked or saved, and FIDOS does not necessarily endorse the details of the video or guarantee the accuracy. Its just a fun check on your memory with a couple of comments on the practicalities of the program.

The meeting of the month was the proposed restrictions to **Chapman Drive**, more info below.

Finally, don't forget the "[Canine Classic](#)" [on Sunday, April 14, 2013, details here.](#)

## Lower Chapman Status Update

At the March 13th Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting, the OSBT overturned OSMP's recommendation to change Upper Chapman Drive from Voice & Sight to on-leash only dog access. Upper Chapman Drive, which loops between the southern and northern ends of the Tenderfoot Trail, will remain as a V&S trail. The OSBT, however, supported the OSMP recommendation to designate Lower Chapman Drive as on-leash dog access only. OSBT also supported Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) designation of the land around Lower Chapman Drive.

FIDOS had advocated that Upper Chapman Drive be maintained as a V&S trail. It has historically been a V&S trail since V&S designations began. Upper Chapman Drive was also part of a successful and hard-fought public process during the West Trail Study Area discussion in 2011, for maintaining

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V&S status. Upper Chapman Drive forms an ideal V&S loop along with the Tenderfoot Trail. FIDOS is pleased with the OSBT's support of Upper Chapman as continued V&S access.

Lower Chapman Drive is part of newly purchased OSMP property. It runs from the northern end of the Tenderfoot Trail down to the Red Lion Inn in Boulder Canyon.

FIDOS had advocated to OSBT for V&S designation of Lower Chapman, for consistency with Upper Chapman. In addition, the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance considers off-leash dogs to be safer than leashed dogs.

Neighbors of Lower Chapman Drive had also requested V&S access for dogs on Lower Chapman. The OSBT, however, supported on-leash access only for dogs on Lower Chapman. The OSBT did support bike access on both Lower and Upper Chapman Drive 7 days a week.

The neighbors of Lower Chapman are planning to appeal the on-leash designation of Lower Chapman to City Council, in favor of V&S access. If you are interested in supporting V&S access for Lower Chapman Drive, please contact [chapman@fidos.org](mailto:chapman@fidos.org).

## Green Tag Program

Nothing new this month - Watching.

## New OSBT Appointee

Boulders Open Space Board of Trustees is the most important board in the city to those who value V&S access in the Open Space. This Board oversees the operation of the OSMP staff and approves new regulations.

The 2012 OSBT consisted of

John Putnam  
Allyn Feinberg  
Tom Isaacson  
Shelley Dunbar  
Frances Hartogh

John Putnam has completed his 5 year term and is moving to the City Planning Board. Putnam proved an even handed member of the board, thoroughly considering all the issues brought before the OSBT.

He will be replaced by Molly Davis. We wish John the best in his future and look forward to working with Molly and the Board on V&S issues in the Open

Space in the coming year.

## Boulder County Issues

Thank you to those of you who responded to FIDOS' survey about interest in V&S access at particular County Open Space areas.

The top 3 highest scoring areas where there was either "strong interest" or "interest" in V&S access were:

- 1) Walker Ranch,
- 2) Niwot Loop Trail (this would only include the section that falls on County OS property), and
- 3) tie between Carolyn Holmberg Preserve and Mud Lake.

FIDOS plans to propose a trial of V&S access for at least one of these areas to County personnel. Our goal is to take some pressure off of V&S designated City Open Space areas and also to reduce car travel so that people could walk with their off-leash dogs locally instead of travelling.

## Photo Competition

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. It would be good to have at least one photo which includes a dog.

More information [at this link](#)

## McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails

As mentioned last month (and every month)

The meadow was reopened for V&S visitors, except for the area around the riparian area but the entire meadow is being **actively monitored for compliance**. 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 again.

## Fern Still closed in March 2013

Fern Canyon was supposed to be opened to V&S as part of the WTSA, but

despite a couple of requests to OSMP in 2012 it still had a V&S ban sign at the base in March 2013. Recent requests for a status have been ignored.

This is a problem as now Shadow Canyon is closed because of fire/water damage from the Flagstaff Fire, Fern is the only V&S accessible path to the top of Bear Mountain, though it is icy and slippery in the winter. More importantly, there was a city endorsed process, the West TSA, in which some trails were closed to V&S, and these closures have been implemented, but Fern was supposed to become a V&S trail and staff are simply ignoring the process.

OnGoing.....

## FIDOS Web Site

Couple of additions to the web site ([www.fidos.org](http://www.fidos.org)), We added a Green Tag Video review quiz, a plug for the upcoming Canine Classic, fixed up the Paypal donations page and added more reports to the library for your reading pleasure and comment.

## 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 cant 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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