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December 2012



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
 Dogs and Open Space

## Looking Forward to 2013

Very best wishes of the season to you, your friends and family, both human and animal, and all the very best for 2013.

FIDOS had a pretty busy year. While we would all rather be enjoying the trails with our pups, the changes to the Green Tag program overshadow all activities for most of the year and occupied much of our time with meetings, reviewing proposals and working out reasonable positions (well, we think they are reasonable). Its been quiet in December but the next meetings are in January.

The Trails Group started to get some traction with trial programs during the summer but now have workable, reliable tools which volunteers are using to record their time and observations. In addition, we are working with the County on the Twin Lake West Trail. County staff reported they are happy with the V&S Program at Twin Lake for which we should recognize the responsible attitude of all the regular users of the trail.

## Green Tag Program

OSMP are reworking their proposals and will present them to the OSBT in January. We are waiting for the next draft. Nothing to report in December, though there was an item on "Inside Boulder News" on Nov 30th. [Boulder Channel 8 Link Here](#), the relevant item is at 60 seconds.

...Ongoing

## Quick Links

[Green Tag Program](#)

[Chapman Trail](#)

[Your Green Tag](#)

[McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails](#)

[Lower Big Blue Stem and Fern](#)

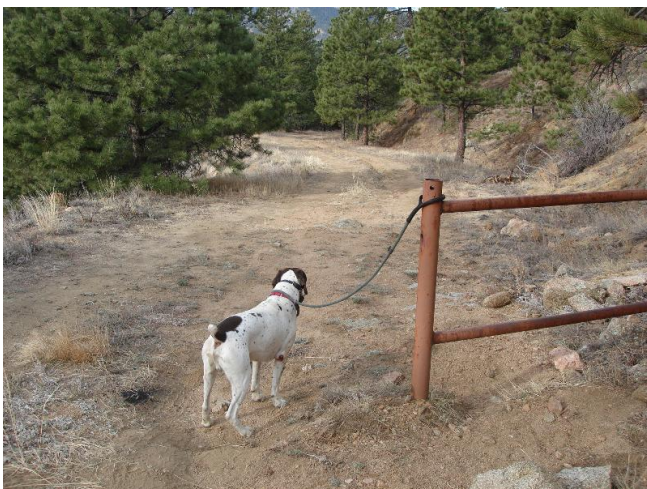
[Trails Group](#)

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## Lower Chapman Drive



OSMP recently bought the land around the Lower Chapman Trail which runs from the Red Lion Restaurant in Boulder Canyon to connect to the existing Upper Chapman Trail running up to Flagstaff Road and Realization Point.

Upper Chapman is a very pleasant, quiet trail which is currently used by hikers. V&S is allowed from Flagstaff down to the intersection with the

Tenderfoot Trail. There was then a stub of trail that was not discussed in the WTSA as it went to the private land. Lower Chapman is now open and it will become a multiuse trail for hikers, runners and bikers, we'd like to have V&S access to it .

As you can see from the picture above, its a wide road offering plenty of space for visitors. It has the additional advantage that running along the side of the hills, the sides are steeply inclined, forcing visitors with their dogs to stay on the road.

## Your Green Tag

How many Green Tags have you lost and replaced?

In a very unscientific survey we found that unless special measures were taken, people have lost and replaced their tags 2 or 3 times.

The point is, it is not enough to have bought a Green Tag. If the dog is not actually wearing the tag you are committing an offense and subject to a fine. This may seem straightforward enough but unless you take special measures to ensure the tag is not lost you probably will unknowingly lose it.

The problem is the material the tags are made from is very thin and wears easily. The tag in the picture is about 2 years old. Eventually the tag will wear through and become detached from the collar. The tag in the picture did fall off the collar, but fortunately it was in the driveway and was retrieved. If it happens on the trails you may not be so lucky.



It may be an idea to ensure your tags are secure, but if it is worn, get a replacement before it falls off.

## McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails

As mentioned last month proposed restrictions on the McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails were shelved and the meadow was reopened for V&S visitors, except for the area around the riparian area

***This area 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 the area again.

## WTSA V&S Closures implemented, Openings lagging

The West TSA identified a number of trails which would be closed to V&S, for example, Towhee and Lower Big Blue Stem. However the WTSA also identified trails which would remain or become V&S, such as Fern Canyon.

While the closures have been implemented, and signs restricting access posted, Fern is still marked as V&S. This is odd as it would simply mean removing 8 screws to take the sign down as required by the WTSA.

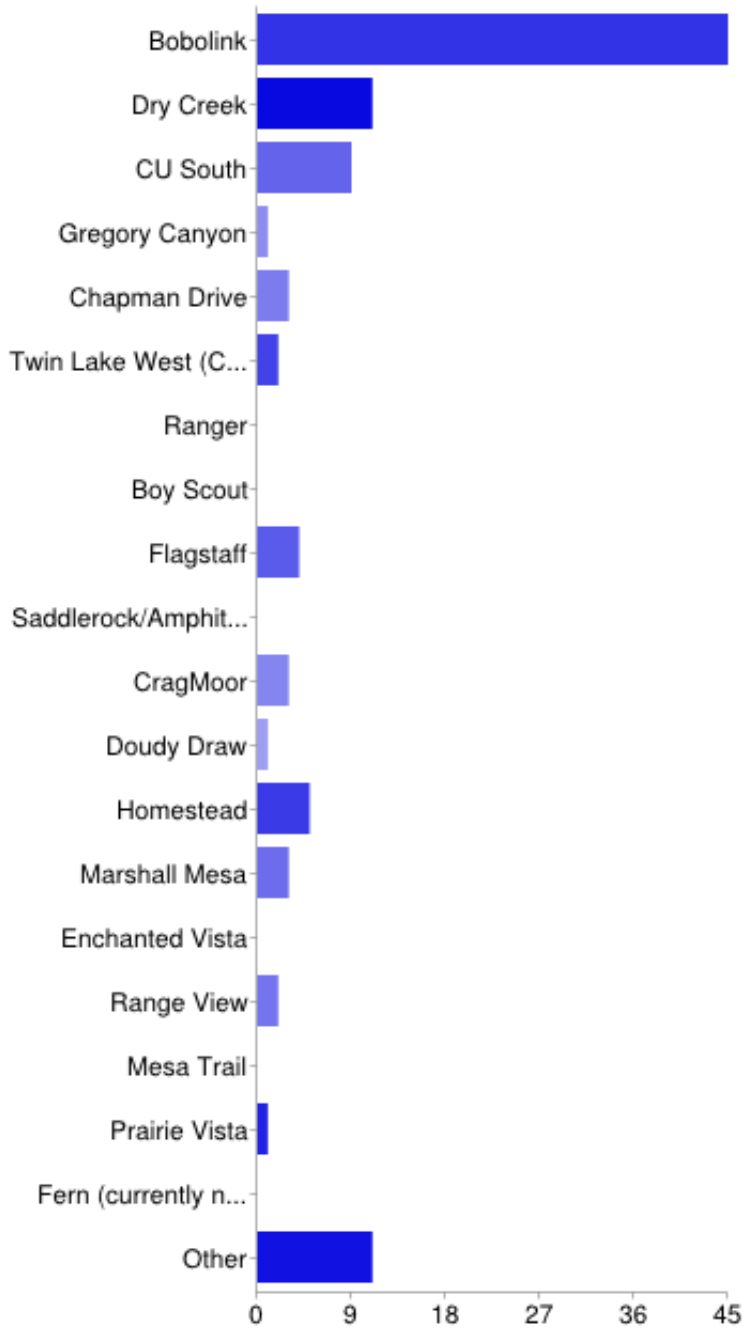
This does emphasize the point that restrictions are introduced quietly and informally, but then become fixed. If you see anything unexpected on the trails let us know.

## FIDOS Trails Group

A review of the Trails Group reports from Thanksgiving indicated we had reports on 11 trails over that period, despite the fact that many people were traveling over the vacation.

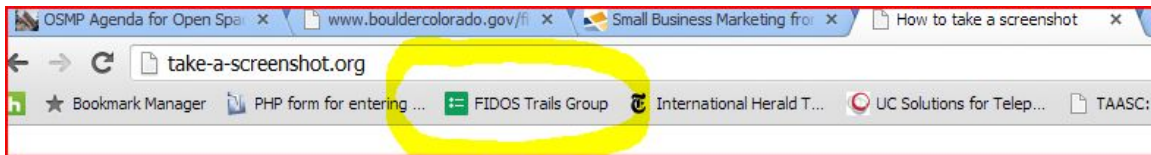
As expected there were minimal problems however, a portion of **Skunk** is reported as having too much poop (not a section in OSMP, but city property. Skunk is a very complicated trail!). If you use that trail regularly can you pick up an extra "deposit" occasionally, and we'll organize a formal cleanup along the trail in the next few weeks (weather permitting)

A summary of over a hundred reports received from the trails group between September and early December are below. The horizontal access is % of the total.



A link to the reporting system is found here [FIDOS REPORT](#).

Save this link to your browser Bookmark Bar or smart phone to make reporting easier.



Let us know if you have a problem with this.

## V&S on the County Trails

Nothing directly affecting V&S in the County this month. There was a review of the Union Reservoir Trail though this is a Longmont City trail. Part of this trail is V&S. Just need to make sure there are no adverse restrictions added to the process.

There will be a revised draft plan for the Walker Ranch released in December which we haven't seen yet which should take into account the input received at the Open House. Ongoing.

We will be e-mailing a VERY brief survey (one question) in January to gauge interest in off-leash dog access in specific County Open Space areas. FIDOS hopes to take some pressure off of City V&S trails by promoting some access in County.

## 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.

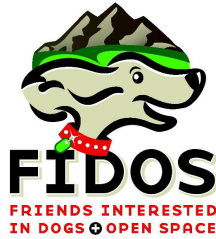
For example, organizing a social event or attending an OSBT or Council Meeting and reporting back. These meetings may seem dry, but when you have some skin in the game, such as preserving V&S access, they can be fascinating.

Let FIDOS know if you are interested in these ad-hoc activities and we'll put you on the mailing list. To those who have already stepped up, either to report on trails or other tasks, thanks, we are sorting out the mailing lists.

Finally, thanks for reading this far, here is [a video of working dogs](#) in the Mountains of Wales. Nothing to do with Boulders Open Space, but dog videos are usually fun.

Month Year

Vol 1, Issue 1



## 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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