



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
Dogs and Open Space

## November 2013 Summary

A quiet month, the changes to the Green Tag program are on the shelf till the new Council settles in and comes up to speed on the issues.

The "Rights of Nature" was included in the proposed County Visitor Plan and there are two closings announced, Flagstaff Summit is now closed to dogs for the winter, and we heard of a new closure in Summit County on land controlled by Vail Resorts.

Anyway, FIDOS wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, and hope you get to enjoy the trails with your pup over the holiday.

## Green Tag Program

The proposed changes, and the schedule of changes to Green Tag Program are still pending These changes can be found [AT THIS LINK](#) starting on page 227 (a challenge to find).

Please consider signing FIDOS' Green Tag petition [at this link](#) and please tell your friends about this petition.

Another group, Boulder For Reasonable Open Space is also advocating for fairness for dogs in open space policies. You can find their web page at [B4ROS.com](#).

## Rights of Nature

In the October Newsletter we touched on the "Rights of Nature" which is was proposed for introduction to the County Open Space Visitor Plan.

## Quick Links

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Despite the County Staffs position that it was a bad idea, and the fact that 27 people submitted comments against the idea against the 26 for the idea the decision was to include the "Rights of Nature" in the County Visitor Plan.

if you Google "Rights of Nature" you will come up with a number of references but if you go to Boulder "Right of Nature" [website](#) and check the "Draft Ordinance" tab you come up with a boring document. The last few lines on page 1 state:

"While not eliminating property ownership, these new laws seek to eliminate the authority of a property owner to destroy, or cause substantial harm to, natural communities and ecosystems that exist and depend upon that property".

That would stop construction of houses in the county which may not be a problem, but, but it would also stop construction of trails, or keep dogs off trails under the oft quoted "Precautionary Principle" (see Section 4.4).

Finally checkout Section 6, an absolute gift for the lawyers, to prevent access to any and all trails. If we think HCAs are restrictive this is an entirely new ball of wax.

The idea is dangerous because every conservationist would support it, but if you study the details, it would mean the end of access to the Open Space in case they disturb nature.

Of course the problem then is that future generations will not have had the chance to connect with nature. An article in The Economist discussed how people are no longer visiting the Smokey Mountains [\(Link Here\)](#)

This is a very dangerous and short sighted feel good initiative.

## Trail Status Openings and Closures

OSMP is opening trails at a commendable rate.

[The current status is at this link.](#)

Two trails which have recently and unexpectedly closed to dogs are Flagstaff Summit which as well as being closed to cars for the winter, is now also closed to dogs.

In addition Marshall Valley Trail recently closed due to subsidence.

The announcement is below.

*The Marshall Valley Trail is closed due to a mine cave-in approximately 100 yards east of the trailhead. The Marshall Mesa trail system sits on top of several old coal mines. Users of the area should always be cautious due to the potential for mine cave-ins at any time. State Mine Safety staff has been*

*notified and will be coordinating mitigation starting on Monday. Users are highly encouraged to respect the closure for their own safety.*

## New Dog Restrictions on Vail Resorts Properties

This is not a Boulder issue, but many will take their hounds into the hills, especially if you are up skiing and may want to exercise your dog before or after the days exercise.

The Camera recently printed a [letter from a teacher up](#) in Summit County reporting new restriction on dogs on the mountains by Vail Resorts Properties.

This was odd as Vail Resorts are usually very particular about their visitor experience.

## 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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