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## Good Day

Welcome to the September (just) edition of the FIDOS Newsletter.

Its been a quiet month. We are tracking impending changes to the status of Cragmoor and McClintock trails in West Boulder, the latest information is below.

Next month will probably belong to the County Visitor Plan.

There are seasonal closures for the bears being introduced which we wont bother about (details below) unless the closures are expand to your local trail, please let us know.

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## Cragmoor Connector

..continued from August...

During the summer fires, the Cragmoor Connector in west Boulder was used as a firebreak to defend the nearby houses. It was of course, closed to access at the time, but rather than being reopened when the danger passed, it is now being "reclaimed" as OSMP plan to reroute the trail away from the houses.

While we do sympathize with the neighbors along the trail, which is close to their properties, the only access to the Fern Meadow area is by two other private access points, according to OSMP staff.

We need to ensure public access to this trail so Boulder residents (this is not just a V&S issue) can access that treasured area.

There will be a meeting with FOBOS/Neighbours and others who wish to attend to discuss the new route of the trail on Wednesday 3rd October, 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Colorado Climbers Club (below the community room) at Chautauqua. This is an informational meeting.

It's also the night of the First Presidential Debate which, it seems, absolutely everyone will be watching, but we'll find someone to attend this meeting and report back.

Ongoing.....

QUESTION: Why does this particular trail warrant a "treasured" status??

## McClintock and Enchanted Mesa Trails

At the August 29 OSBT meeting, plans for Enchanted Vista and McClintock trails were reviewed ([report and diagram here](#)). The decision was that the proposals advertised in the Camera were an overreach by the staff and most of the area should be returned to V&S access.

The discussion pivoted on the fact that the West Trail Study Area Final Plan (WTSA) differentiated between a no dog "trail", as McClintock was designated in the plan, and a no dog "area", for example Towhee. OSMP staff proposed turning the McClintock no dog trail into a larger no dog area with no review.

There are a couple of VERY IMPORTANT points to remember:

- The area along the riparian corridor has been made no dog which in fact will reach out to the trees in the meadow, Its not much of a loss to respect this compromise, just keep away from the trees.
- The situation will be reviewed next year for adherence to the rules against creating new social trails in this area, specifically linking the surrounding neighborhood to the Voice & Sight Enchanted Mesa trail. We know it's uncomfortable, but if you see dog owners violating the rules please let them know that the area is under observation and could still be closed next year if there are too many violations.

## Green Tags

The next Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting to discuss the Green Tag program will be at 6pm, October 10 in City Council chambers. The proposals can be found on the OSMP website (check the dates and location in case there are changes).

OSBT will be asking for recommendations on modifications to the Green Tag program. This is a regular board meeting, not a study session, so there is the normal allowance for public input.

November 13 will be a City Council Study Session where OSMP will ask Council to weigh in with their recommendations/preferences/mandates, again, check closer to the date.

## Seasonal Closures

A number of seasonal closures are in force at the moment in the Open Space, the details are [found here](#).

While everyone understands the need to respect the natural cycle, in this case its bears stoking up for winter, we also need to be aware that these closures are introduced with little or no public review or notice, the Coot Lake Closure earlier this year is an example. Let us know if you come across an unexpected or arbitrary closure.

## OSMP Metrics - Conflict!

We often hear that dogs are a big problem in the Open Space. Under the Colorado Open Records Act, (CORA, a "Freedom of Information Act"), FIDOS bought (your memberships at work) the raw data used to come to these conclusions.

We wanted to look for ways in we could focus educational efforts on the problem areas. There is some interesting math in the calculations which we'll address next month, but when OSMP reports "conflict" with dogs in the open space, what do they really mean?

We may think of dogs chasing wildlife or injuring people, but there are NO reports or dogs injuring wildlife, people or livestock in the raw metrics we received. NOTE, they are counted, its just no incidents reported.

The top 3 reported "conflicts" are:

1. Dogs chasing dogs (playing),
2. Barking more than 2 times,
3. Sniffing

Imagine the difficulties of training dogs not to play with other dogs, sniff, or stopping a dog at 2 barks rather than 3? Staff or consultants on the payroll are actually counting.

We know Boulder has a highly educated population. Any suggestions on how to train a well balanced dog not to play with another dog which does not involve cruelty will be received with interest.

We'll go over the precise numbers next month,



### FIDOS Membership and Feedback

Members of FIDOS include a wide cross section of the Boulder Community, the common factor being an interest in enjoying, accessing and protecting the Open Space, accompanied by our dogs.

In order to retain this access, we all need to be "good stewards" of the lands around us and be aware of whats going on the trails as well as in the meeting rooms of our local government

Let us know if you have any ideas or observations on the direction of FIDOS. New perspectives on V&S and access are always valuable in developing our arguments.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Team

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