

South Table Mountain Park Open House Comments - October 24, 2006

Date	Source	Input	Input's Relevance	Recommended Response
10/24/06	Jessica Graves	<p>1) I would like to see sections of trail rerouted that go down the fall line of the slope. 2) I would like this space to included some kind of trash pick-up. It's nice to have some of the Jeffco Open Space be a little more "wild" with less organizational aspects such as large parking lot, outhouses, etc. However, some signage for appropriate trail usage (i.e. IMBA rules for bikers vs. horses) would be helpful. I really enjoy this space!</p>		
	Kathy Campitelli	<p>Have meetings for the individual areas on the Table Top – very few have strong opinions on the entire area however, they care about specific areas. Would like to try to keep to immediate community if possible. Would like Coors area to be voice/sight command off leash area for dogs.</p>		
	Steve Richardsopp	<p>As a Golden property owner in the vicinity of STM my first concern would be that STM as Open Space be a good neighbor. Keep all parking away from the neighborhood and not repeat the unacceptable experiences from access to the climbing areas on NTM. Problems include trespassing, garbage and using private land to urinate & defecate. There are numerous commercial areas adjacent to STM where parking & access can be located without intruding on the neighbors. Mountain biking should be carefully managed so it doesn't effect the park & drive out other users. The biking community is very organized & its voice is "over heard. NTM & STM should be considered together as one park & coordinate users.</p>		
	Norm Ron	<p>Don't reclaim the old road to the top after the new trail begins. It has been mostly sustainable since some improvements were made a few years ago and hasn't eroded significant since. This is a historical route to the top and is used significantly as a primary and alternate trail or a way to loop around. Closing this section will create congestion on the new section. I would be glad to help with trail maintenance on this trail. Please find some creative way to keep the Bear Creek Property trails open.</p>		

	Ann Bonnell	First requirements for opening or encouraging public use of Open Space in an appropriate manner is to furnish parking, restroom facilities, trash receptacles. Marking private properties is also essential. The natural resources should be carefully inventoried, base lined & protected. Some areas set aside for wildlife & closures are recommended to during high use times by public. Plan for NTM & STM use should be coordinated. Hi speed bicycle use should not be allowed. Trails should be planned to not impact sensitive wildlife & botanical resources. Social trails that are not part of the plan should be closed & restored.		
	Rob Williams	Increase access to the Welch Ditch and make the acquisition of Welch Ditch a priority. Work with Coors to get access to the "No Public Access" area on the north side. Do not eliminate access and use of the old road to top of STM on the east side from Foothills Circle. Highlight the K/T boundary at one location as a geological feature. Do not restrict or limit bicycle access. Educate bicycle community to respect other users. Get as assessment of wildlife populations: including plants.		
	Colorado Mtn. Bike Association	The Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA) appreciates your continued support for multi-use trails on JCOS Property. Thank You		
	Eugene Horsman	Please do not allow any kind of parking at Lookout View Court. The social trails on map are trails made from horses being pastured there for many years. There is no room for parking other than street. The social trails from that point are very prone to erosion; particularly with heavy rains. Not conducive to usage when wet.		
		I think we need communication on a regular basis until 2008. Regular updates/meetings/input. I'm appreciative of the concerns for Foothills (on the south side) and the erosion issues. Mark mentioned that Welch Ditch was cleaned up in 2003. I appreciate the comment about preserving the mesa and not making it a destination spot.		
	Judy Denison	Have bikes on separate trails because they zoom past the hikers without any warning and dangerous. Also they are bad for the environment so I'd be happy to have them banned. Please keep development minimal, we like the feel of nature, it is so rare.		

Dave & Marla Showalter	Important to us:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi use, including mountain bikes consistent with other Jeffco Parks. 2. Access from 3-4 areas including Chippena or NREL to spread out impact. 3. Signage similar to White Ranch, Apex, Green Mountain. 4. Restore native grasses habitat – these meadows are rare on the short grass prairie. Other than trail building please work to restore the land to historical landscapes- no pond building & no cement/asphalt trails. Thank you for working so hard to manage this resource for us. You're doing a great job! 		
Adene Sod		<p>What kind of trails are we talking about? Biking, walking, & horses? KT boundary? What's going to happen to the wildlife? Water rights. Birds? Developers-for what? The pink on the maps. Would there be some walking only trails, i.e. no bikers? With only corner marking. I would have no way from going there at all. What about trail erosion? Geology? Clean up trash? NREL parking? Kiosk-Denver West parking. Dog Poop stations? Horse access.</p>		
		<p>Marking of private property. Marking the parcels of private land where social trails would help people be more respectful. Marking at corners may be helpful for the county, but doesn't get the information to most people who use it frequently.</p>		
Doug Reddish		<p>I live in the Applewood area & will volunteer with the APOA to work with you. I feel strongly that multiple use (bikes, horse & hikers/runners/walkers) continue to be permitted. Require separate trails for bikers. Parking–public access points: NREL visitors center, but not along the NE side at Cactus Drive. What is wrong with social trails, other than erosion! It spreads out the people! Bringing water to the top is as unnatural as idea as I can think of short of development.</p>		
Sandy McCray		<p>I'd like to see passive usage of STM – not a lot of hype! Let's keep the deer feeling at home. Thanks for protecting our lovely mesa.</p>		
Tom Reiley		<p>Hi- I'm Tome Reiley, a local physician and member of the Rimrock HOA. I will be inviting you to attend an ROA mtg, so that our neighbors can ask questions such as: Assuring</p>		

		access to the Park will be friendly to our neighborhood. The wildlife will be protected. The Bradley property can be purchased. Please contact me treiley@du.edu		
		If you build it, they will come. No parking or kiosks. No horses, No Mtn. Bikes, Very passive use: hiking & running.		
	Eric Flasticle	North and South Table should be planned in consent. Need to consider differences and similarities and relate to users. Need to provide opportunity for hiker/equestrians to escape the speed of the bikers on some trails, especially near access points where use is heaviest. Parking lots should be very small emphasizing neighbor use.		
	Harley Benz	We would like restrictions on Mountain Bikers on the Lubahn trail. MB's have damaged the already narrow and steep trail. Because of vegetation there is also visibility problems for bikers and hikers.		
		Really important to find a way to supply water for animals. Perhaps limit access to bikers only.		
	Gary Myers	Seems like a nice resource and compatible with Open Space use the area seems to have endured quite well with varied and some heavy use. Some water access would be nice for the wildlife.		
		Leave South Table Mountain alone. No parks please. No parking lots. No more trails. The neighborhoods will resist. Leave it alone; Save The Mesa for Open Space Why do you have to develop everything? Maintain existing trails, but nothing new please. No parking lots it encourages traffic.		
	Brice Schwartz	I do not want the new trails to be there, if it runs on a place that can be easily seen from 2915 Sunset Drive. I like how it is so peaceful and the look is natural. I don't want people to look at me every second. My mom and dad don't know who is speaking to me. They could even become untrustworthy of me. So please don't put the trails in. We don't have an HOA that I know of, can you contact addresses along the border. Work to buy Castle Rock first. Make trails varied- steep, flat rocky, through pastures etc. Keep trails accessible to hiking, biking, horseback riding. Keep the access at the water tank and at Chippewa open- they are used by a lot of people, but not crowded. Also, there could be parking easily at these two spots. Keep trying to acquire a lot of the mountain.		

		<p>Respect private property rights. Several people this evening commented that they think they are free to use private property unless told otherwise - this is contrary to the law- vacant land does not mean that it is land automatically available for anyone's use. Need to include information about this in future presentations. Do not allow motorized use of South Table - or any mountain bikers- too damaging to the property and disruptive to a peaceful and quiet use of the mountain. Parking lots need to be located by NREL or the shopping center area. Not neighborhoods. Remember the problems caused by the Access Fund on North Table Mountain? After it was purchased, the users of the land parked in neighborhoods, blocking driveways, defecated on peoples lawns, put trash on peoples lawns and in general caused many problems before added property was purchased and a parking lot constructed with port a potties & trash receptacles. Let's learn from the past and avoid problems in the future. The process going forward to decode users in the future is very important and needs a lot of public input as evidence by the attendance of the meeting this evening. Thank You</p>		
	<p>David Rothenburger</p>	<p>If no easement for access to Castle Rock then no vehicle traffic except for Xcel they can access their property from the North. Sign the trails you would like used and mark trails not wanted to use will keep resources management issues down. These are should be managed as Open Space not developed space- those are parks not Open Space. Develop the North easement trail down to golf course as a stop trail- no problem. On south trails to NREL sign as US Government Property no entry before security barriers to help avoid security concerns. If fencing off property on NW corner fence so that not gate / vehicle access is allowed. They can build a road tot he NW. Love the arrangement with NREL.</p>		
	<p>Mary Parker</p>	<p>South Table Mountain is very wind. Let's put up wind generators and work to get Golden using mostly renewable energy! It would set a great example for the U.S. and world. Upgrade the old outdoor theater by NREL to have outdoor concerts and movies. The horses do a lot of damage on the social trails, they mostly create them. You may want to</p>		

		warn people of lightening. Save the Mesa ahs offered to pull up the invasive leafy spurge that is creeping up the south slope. Could we work together on this? Note: For every 1 KWH of Electricity we use we burn 1 LB of Coal. The average house uses 800 KWH per month. That is big pickups load of coal every month, every house.		
	Deron Dilger	First of all, thank you for all your work to save so much of South Table Mountain for all of future generations & us. As you consider changes to the park please remember neighborhood concerns. E.g. provide enough parking, but not too close to houses. Traffic through the neighborhood to park trailheads and no parking trailheads for neighborhood users. One suggestion for parking is to push back the gate on Quaker & build a parking lot & Golden Hills Road. This would shelter from all residences by the natural lay of the land. Thank you!		
	Dru Dunham	No hang gliding or helicopters. Please protect Castle Rock & cliffs & 259 feet from cliffs & slopes. Please remove motorcycle ramps that recently have appeared. Please have hiker trails only without mountain bikers. Before creating trails please review bird studies & wildlife patterns, geology, grasslands & sensitive areas. Please keep the recreation passive no dog parks, no ballfields, soccer fields. Please connect with City of Golden trail, but protect private land Bear Creek. Please communicate the process to the public-once you have the bird, wildlife, and geology studies, develop trail systems and close off all the social trails. Please consider South & North Table Mountain together. Please post signs on the private property so people will know where they are. Please have the trails –dog on leash so they will not chase wildlife or get bit by rattlesnakes. Please provide poop bags for the dog owners and trash cans at trailheads. Please have more meetings like this through out the process. Please involve local HOA when you plan parking lots.		
	Evan Chismark	I think that Jeffco Open Space (STM in particular) could benefit from working with an organization like IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association) based in Boulder. Their mission is to develop trails in the most sustainable way possible. By working in conjunction with IMBA, Jeffco		

		<p>could expand the use of the available areas in a more legitimized way. Be more likely to offer greater amounts of their land for use. I would be more than happy to act as a intermediary & discuss with IMBA the potential of expanding the trail network of doing so in the most sustainable manner. Please contact me if I can help. I also think that organized trail maintenance days could help people understand erosion sustainability. Even dividing these maintenance days by user group – ie 1st weekend of the month all hikers do maintenance, 2nd Mountain Bikers, 3rd Equestrians, etc. Again, please don't hesitate to contact me as I would love to help & love to elaborate on these. Thanks for all of your hard work.</p>		
10/26/06	Email from Don Cameron	<p>Parking Proposals- I think that Jefferson Open Space should work with the City of Golden to provide hiking access via the Luban (sorry, don't have the spelling correct) trail head, and work to close the access more effectively that cuts into the private land near the castle rock. I also think they should provide biker access via the Chippewa trailhead. This area could be readily improved with some gravel, a pit toilet, kiosk and doggy bag local and trashcans. If parking runs out there, then good signage that sends people to South ridge park on 16th Ave. would be good. I also think that parking at NREL visitor's center, after 5:00 p.m. could probably be encouraged with an okay results. On the North side, there are challenges, but parking in Denver West seems like a reasonable approach.</p>		
10/26/06	Email from Don Cameron	<p>The area near Denver West near Jeffco access, where all the trails come out of the condos and wind up the hill (East Hill) is a problem. But rather than shut them down, consider, perhaps putting in a park in ride since that terrain is limited and could be used for jumps, hucks, banks, etc. This would keep some of the crazier bikers off the trails on top. Unfortunately, I see that areas so messed up I don't know short of bringing in some serious equipment to regrade that area into more of just a down slope how you'll shut it down.</p>		

10/26/06	Email from Don Cameron	<p>Your map of the area on top was pretty complete, but shows animal trails mixed with people trails. I think the guy who suggested getting water for animals on top had a good point. I live below the west side and have deer in my yard all the time. You will have a hard time eliminating opportunity trails when animals will just do what they want to do. Also, this brings up one of my bigger concerns. If you look at where the trails go through the private property on the NW corner of the mesa, you see that the trails are near the perimeter. Some of the best prairie dog and coyote territory is near the SE corner of that property. So, if the trail is moved only onto Open Space you'll actually encroach into some nice area for animals. But people are going to want to do the whole perimeter, So this is a great challenge. I'd suggest putting in some directional signs, so that all trail users go the same direction, and direct them back under the power lines (NS) and head around the private property and avoid castle rock area. But, I would not recommend new trails in the interior of the mesa top. Obviously it would be nice if the property could come into ownership by the county. But that is a challenge I'm sure you're facing. Let me know if this input is not clear.</p>		
11/27/06	Tom Wildeman	<p>If there is access from Rimrock Subdivision it should be off of Rimrock Drive across from the churches. This would be access for hikers, but perhaps not for bikers and equestrians. This would keep the cars parked along the street to a minimum. On street parking with a proper trail to help eliminate social trails. This would be the same concept as the Mount Galbraith Trail through the Johnson Subdivision.</p>		
11/29/06	Matthew Burde	<p>Currently both mountains offer habitat for many species of plant and animal, and we would like to see that JCOS do all it can to protect that habitat.</p> <p>As you consider creating new access routes, parking areas, and buildings, please do so with the idea of minimal impact, from the new infrastructure, as well as from us, the people.</p> <p>One other point regards the neighborhood around Chippewa. Currently there is a small dirt parking area at the</p>		

		<p>corner of Golden Hills Road and Salvia St.</p> <p>Many neighbors in the area are concerned that this be kept as close to what it is now as possible. Neighbors want to ensure that access stays open, but also that there is no large increase in parking at this location.</p> <p>People have also expressed that if you were to need a large parking area, it would be ideal if you could get rights to use the access road at Quaker, and put a parking area next to the State Police track. It is felt that while this may require some negotiations with the state, it would be the best site with the least impact on neighborhoods.</p> <p>Again, of most importance is the overall impact to the natural settings of both mountains, but as neighbors of Chippewa we would like to ensure that the current parking on Golden Hills Road not be changed in any major way.</p>		
11/27/06	John Saxe	<p>Trails – use existing social trails to build a loop around the mesa edge, with a few across rim to rim.</p> <p>Consider Quaker Street for primary access from the south. It is centrally located and is isolated from the majority of homes and has the potential for parking.</p>		
11/20/06	Julia Mulligan	<p>I would advocate dedicated trails (upper and lower ditch trail, only) for mountain biking. Other trails should be available for foot traffic and horse traffic exclusively. The number of mountain bikes per family is often one per family member. The number of horses? Well, as I said, what was once horse property is now new homes.</p> <p>I am a mountain bike owner, myself. Yet I feel the need for protection of the Mesa outweighs my need for recreation on this and other stretches of open space. Unlike Chimney Gulch, with its sheer mountain sides, bushwhacking is easy on the Mesa. Often, bikers mistake a deer trail for a bike trail (how, I don't know) and cut a new trail into the Mesa.</p>		

12/01/06	Adam Feerst	<p>If you want people to stay off of private land, then you should put up barriers.</p> <p>I really like the NREL access. You could designate this as the bike access to help separate them from the hikers and horses. It will keep traffic down in the residential area (Pleasant View).</p> <p>You are going to need to build some fencing to keep people out of NREL, even without this lot. One idea is to expand their visitors lot, in exchange for allowing continuing access. There is plenty of room to extend the lot to the N and E.</p> <p>The roller coaster area (marked with "RC") is a lot of fun. You might want to make some of these trails one direction because of the blind climbs and drops. The small, rectangular, private plot, just to the SE, limits some of the biking route options.</p> <p>It would be nice if you could keep the steep, short trail section, on the NE side (yellow line). I know there are some erosion concerns.</p> <p>The trails on the NE side, below the top, are not as complex as they appear on the map. There is really only one, easy to follow trail, from the steep section (and the new trail you built last year), down to the neighborhood and highline canal.</p> <p>South Table is a good park to allow night usage. There is access away from residential areas (NREL). The trails are not too technical, so they're fairly safe to ride (and run) in the dark (with lights).</p>		
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12/01/06	Josh Pollock	<p>I urge the Open Space staff to plan the management of both North and South Table Mountains together, viewing the two subunits as one unit instead of two distinct park areas. This approach allows the Open Space Department to consider the values, opportunities, settings, and threats to the adjacent mesas simultaneously, as well as the impacts and benefits to the surrounding communities. This will result in a much improved plan.</p> <p>I urge the Open Space staff to minimize impacts to Golden's viewshed that result from the construction of trails on the slopes and parking lots. Scars on the slopes of the mesas are easily visible from the surrounding communities, who deeply value the open space quality and views that the mesas offer. In fact, the mesas are the symbol used by the city in all of its outreach and marketing.</p> <p>I also urge that the Open Space Staff plan recreation such that 1) trails are kept out of important habitat zones, 2) new trails up the mesa that are visible from the town are not created, and 3) mountain biking is restricted to South Table Mountain. It makes sense, when viewing the two mesas as one unit, to manage one for quieter and more nature-based experiences and manage the other for more recreationally based experiences (although never ignoring the importance of protecting the resources including viewsheds and habitats).</p> <p>I urge the Open Space Staff to not undertake planning until all of the scheduled natural resources inventories are completed on both mesas.</p>		
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12/01/06	Edee Gail	<p>I suggest there be a pilot study of the effect of bicycles (should they be approved for south table mountain). The study could be over a couple of years to have a base line evaluation to see if the concerned trails are deteriorating and how bicycles in general are effecting usage of the site.</p> <p>Citizens could be made aware of the study and it may cause for bicyclists to have a more mindful/less aggressive nature -knowing of this study and of the merits of being generous/kind multi on the trails.</p> <p>I suggest the decision on land use, keep in mind the idea of balancing trail improvement and possibility of over use. (For example if crusher fines were put in for the trails we may have a new need for many new parking lots and trash removal? I prefer the idea of being more conservative towards any improvements. I believe less is more in that way and consolidating trails makes sense for the health of the vegetation and beauty of what's up there.</p>		
11/30/06	Vera Smith	<p>I urge the Open Space staff to plan the management of both North and South Table Mountains together, viewing the two subunits as one unit instead of two distinct park areas. This approach allows the Open Space Department to consider the values, opportunities, settings, and threats to the adjacent mesas simultaneously, as well as the impacts and benefits to the surrounding communities. This will result in a much improved plan.</p> <p>In addition, I urge the Open Space staff to minimize impacts to Golden's viewshed that result from the construction of trails on the slopes and parking lots. Scars on the slopes of the mesas are easily visible from the surrounding communities, who deeply value the open space quality and views that the mesas offer. In fact, the mesas are the symbol used by the city in all of its outreach and marketing.</p> <p>I also urge that the Open Space Staff plan recreation such that 1)trails are kept out of important habitat zones, 2) new trails up the mesa that are visible from the town are not created, and 3) mountain biking is restricted to South Table Mountain. It makes sense, when viewing the two mesas as one unit, to manage one for quieter and more</p>		

		<p>nature-based experiences and manage the other for more recreationally based experiences (although never ignoring the importance of protecting the resources including viewsheds and habitats).</p> <p>Lastly, I urge the Open Space Staff to not undertake planning until all of the scheduled natural resources inventories are completed on both mesas.</p>		
1/02/07	Nathan Walker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking improvements are required along Golden Hills Road. Parking in this area inadequate, in poor condition and sees relatively heavy use for access to the south side of the open space. 2. Provide kiosks that depict the open space trail system and provide rules and regulations. 3. Provide doggie bags at parking areas. Many people bring their pets to South Table and do not pick up after them. 4. Provide signs and barriers prohibiting motorized vehicles at all trailheads. Many people use dirt bikes on the trails in the summer, which causes a conflict of use; safety issues; and contributes to trail erosion. 		
	Applewood Property Owners Assoc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APOA believes the mesa should remain accessible to all hiking, biking and equestrian recreational users. Should be off limits to access using motorized vehicles, except electric wheelchairs. 2. A trail system should be developed that minimizes conflicts among different recreational users and reduces deleterious impact to natural habitat and vegetation. Only natural materials should be used in trail construction (on asphalt or concrete paving). 3. Consideration should be given to designating large unfenced areas within the South Table Mountain Park for off leash dog play areas, provided that dogs respond to voice commands from their owners. 4. APOA is opposed to development and/or designation of public access points or parking facilities within APOA boundaries (the Old Quarry Road, Cactus Circle, Elderberry Road or West 26th Ave.). 5. Adequate public parking and access can be established to the south at NREL or Pleasant View. 6. Oppose Development of Welch Ditch north of Old 		

		<p>Quarry Road into a designated Open Space trail system. Recognize that the Welch Ditch south of the Old Quarry Road may need to be developed for public access to the mesa from parking facilities and access points at NREL or Pleasant View.</p> <p>7. APOA encourages Open Space to actively pursue acquisition of the entire mesa for protection and preservation.</p>		
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