



Board of County
Commissioners

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June 4, 2009

Jefferson County Open Space Trail Users

Dear Trail Users:

Jefferson County Open Space is reviewing and working towards an update of its current Yielding Regulation, Jefferson County Administrative Policy 6.4.1.C.25 – Failure to Yield Right-of-way. It is important to note that the existing regulation is in place and continues to be enforced across the Open Space system.

Attached are two documents: A Regulation Summary describing the background, objective and draft recommendation to update the current regulation and proposed language to update Yielding and Passing Regulations that define yielding protocols and expectations.

Jefferson County Open Space is interested to hear your comments to the following question either individually or as a user group/organization:

Does the updated regulation reasonably address user safety, yielding expectations and understanding of protocols for you or your user group as an equestrian, pedestrian or bicyclist?

Hardcopy replies can be mailed to Jefferson County Open Space, 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100, Golden, CO 80401. Attention: Colleen Gadd, Supervisor of Visitor & Resource Protection, or by email with subject line "Yielding Regulation" to cgadd@jeffco.us Please reply with any comments by Monday, July 6, 2009.

Comments will then be reviewed and compiled for consideration. An Information Item will be placed on the August 6, 2009 Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) Meeting Agenda for discussion of the draft regulations, public comments and staff's draft recommendations. An Action Item will be placed on the September 3, 2009 OSAC Meeting Agenda to consider adopting a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for the Board's formal approval and adoption.

We look forward to hearing how this regulation update addresses user safety and yielding expectations.

Sincerely,

Don Klima
Manager of Administration & Education
Attachments

Colleen Gadd
Supervisor of Visitor & Resource Protection



Regulation Summary

Background:

Since 1996, Jefferson County Open Space implemented a regulation to address yielding expectations on Open Space trails. In 2007, there was a significant increase in trail user complaints regarding safety and conflict. In 2008, there was an increase in citations written to mountain bikers for failing to yield properly. As a result, Open Space received feedback that the Yielding Regulation and visitor expectations were vague and unclear. In order to provide clarity to users and to address key safety and conflict issues, amended regulations have been drafted.

Objective:

To increase trail user safety and clarify language in Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) regulations regarding yielding the right-of-way and passing other users on JCOS trails.

Discussion:

The majority of safety and conflict issues occur when two users are passing one another on a trail when traveling at different speeds. The new regulation language is intended to address user expectations and protocols for passing one another.



The current yielding order and international yield symbol will be retained.

Measurable elements and trail user expectations are now included in a “passing” regulation. All users on natural surface trails need to communicate and slow to a walking pace by the time they are no less than ten (10) feet from one another. This helps assure that a pass will take place safely and that users are positioned and speed adjusted, accordingly.

A walking pace is typically accepted as a speed of two to four (2-4) miles per hour. A passing speed not to exceed five (5) miles per hour is specified in order to accommodate passing situations where a faster pace would be needed to affect the pass.

In the case of natural surface trails where the lateral distance between users is greater than five (5) feet, without leaving the trail users will be expected to slow down, communicate and gain the attention of the user(s) being passed and pass safely. Obey posted speed limits.

Trail width and trail tread (natural surface, paved) were also considered in determining appropriate passing protocols. These are included in the regulation language and specify appropriate user behaviors according to the type of surface and trail that may be involved.

Recommendation:

Implement an updated yielding and passing regulation to clarify expectations of all trail users whether on natural or paved surface trails. The intent is to address conflict and safety issues, while optimizing recreation experiences. See Existing and Draft Revised Yielding Regulations.

JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE
EXISTING AND DRAFT YIELDING REGULATIONS

Existing Yielding Regulations

C.25. Failure to Yield Right-of-way:

It shall be unlawful for any trail user to fail to yield to other trail users in the manner defined by Open Space while on Open Space Lands. Fine: \$50.00

Yielding on the Trail

Definition of regulation 6.4.1.C.25.: The appropriate order for yielding the trail right-of-way is as follows: All users yield to equestrians. Bicyclists and all other non-motorized wheeled modes of travel yield to pedestrians. Trail users traveling downhill yield to like trail users traveling uphill. Yielding the right-of-way requires bikers to slow down, communicate and to pass safely. If unable to establish communication, bikers are required to stop.

DRAFT Yielding Regulations

6.4.1.C.25. Failure to Yield Right-of-way:

For the safety of park users, all users must yield the right-of-way to equestrians; bicyclists and other wheeled users must also yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

6.4.1.C.26. Passing on Trails:

C.26.a. Natural Surface Trails At no less than ten (10) feet of approaching another trail user from any direction, slow to a walking pace, communicate and gain the attention of the user being passed. Pass single file at no more than five (5) miles per hour when oncoming traffic is clear. Stop when necessary to allow passage.

When the lateral distance between you and the user(s) being passed is greater than five (5) feet without leaving the trail, you are required to slow down, communicate and gain the attention of the user being passed, and pass safely. Stop when necessary to allow passage. Obey posted speed limits.

C.26.b. Concrete and Asphalt Trails All trail users are required to stay right. Pass single file and on the left when oncoming traffic is clear. When passing other users from behind, communicate and gain the attention of the users being passed, and pass safely.