

BOULDER COUNTY HORSE ASSOCIATION

OSMP VISITOR PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT
March 2003

Overall Goals

- 1) Maximize human enjoyment while minimizing impacts
- 2) Don't prioritize OS purposes (the City Charter doesn't)
- 3) Do No Harm (Don't fix it if it ain't broke)

Visitor Experience Goals

- 1) Strive for a quality, safe visitor experience
 - Trails not next to roads, subdivisions
- 2) Build & maintain "enough" trails
 - Complete long-sought trail connections within OSMP& adjacent public lands
 - Build enough designated trails that most members of the public will stay on trail
 - Eliminate duplicative or unsustainable trails, re-route when necessary
 - Maintain trails adequately. Acknowledge that social trails get people where they want to go
 - Maintain policy of encouraging on-trail use but don't eliminate off-trail use by ped's and equestrians
 - Spread recreation over many trails to reduce both user conflicts and environmental pressures
- 3) Build some additional infrastructure
 - Rest rooms at trailheads
 - Sufficient parking at trailheads (incl. horse trailers)

Management Process Goals

- 1) Balance recreation and preservation in OS philosophy
 - Apply objective standards in decision-making (Limits of Acceptable Change, trail density, carrying capacity, etc.)
 - Evaluate % open, % closed space (public has expectation of reasonable access to public land)
- 2) Apply objective science to management decisions
 - Beware biased data collection and interpretation, leading questions, fears, opinions, assumptions
- 3) Balance recreation and preservation on staff and OSBT

Public Process Goals

- 1) Emphasize education over regulation
 - Will reduce user conflicts
 - Will result in voluntary compliance
- 2) Encourage volunteers
 - Will raise awareness and stewardship
- 3) Involve and respect the public and stakeholder groups
 - Organize and support forums, roundtable discussion groups
 - Formalize liaisons between OSBT and stakeholder groups
 - Sponsor field trips to encourage exchange of ideas, awareness of issues

BCHA Involvement in VPAC

- 1) Participate in interactive April 7 forum and other VPAC mtgs as knowledgeable equestrian/recreation representatives
- 2) Review VPAC's draft report and address VPAC with our analysis of the draft report, with recommendations as needed, before the report is finalized
- 3) Append a summary of our comments, analysis and concerns to the final VPAC report.