



Position Statement

March 5, 2006

To: Open Space and Mountain Parks

Re: Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw Trail Recommendations

Unless there is an overriding reason to exclude bicycle access, new and existing trails should be multiple-use trails that allow bikes.

- In the Conditional Analysis for the Visitor Master Plan and in the Visitor Master Plan itself OSMP has noted that "the extent and variety of cycling ...experience is limited" and there is room for improvement in "access for mountain bikes". Of the 130 miles of OSMP trails, only 38 (29%) are open to bikes.
- The Visitor Master Plan Recreational Opportunities Initiative Management Strategies include "Retrofitting Trails for Bikes" and "New Bike Trails". The former strategy envisions providing bike access to presently closed trails. The later strategy includes "connections to Walker Ranch" and "more mountain biking opportunities west of Hwy. 93".

General objectives:

- Stacked trail loops west of the Flatiron Vista trailhead to the south and north of the Doudy Draw Trail
- A new bicycle trail loop west of Doudy Draw and north of the Denver Water Board road and canal
- Off-road bike access from the Community Ditch via Doudy Draw to Eldorado State Park with an ultimate object of providing a biking connection to Walker Ranch
- Future access to Jefferson County Open Space and the Rocky Flats Refuge

See the attached map and comments for specific trail alignment proposals.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Boulder Mountainbike Alliance

Specific trail alignment comments:

- The section of Doudy Draw Trail that descends from Flatiron Vista to Doudy Draw should be extended southwest to the Lindsey Pond, take a right turn and follow the railroad grade. The current switchback is too steep and should be moved further to the southwest.
- The Doudy Draw Trail should have a trail junction that allows travel south across the Denver Water Board road and then northwest paralleling the canal. This loop should connect with County Road 67 and to the State Park's Fowler trail.
- The stacked loops southwest of Flatirons Vista trailhead should not use the existing Doudy Draw Trail road alignment. New trail alignments to create flow with climbs and descents should be developed to the south of the road and a new trail alignment should be developed to the north of the road.
- The existing cattle underpass near the old Matterhorn site should be linked to the loop north of the Doudy Draw Road to connect to the City Limits Trailhead east of the Highway
- A trail connection north from the Community Ditch Trail (at the box culvert) to the junction of Highways 93 and 170 is also required.
- The trail plan should include provision for a future connector to Jefferson County Open Space west of Highway 93.