

TIME TO SHOW UP

ELDORADO MT – DOUDY DRAW TSA MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Mountain bikers are not second-class citizens!

It's time to stand up for mountain biking in the City of Boulder's open spaces.

OSMP will hold two and only two meetings on this TSA. They are

Tuesday, May 9, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the city of Boulder Municipal Building Lobby (SW corner of Broadway and Canyon)

Thursday, May 11, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the Open Space and Mountain Parks Cherryvale offices (66 South Cherryvale Road)

Now is the time to act to get more singletrack you can ride from Boulder without getting in a car. The Eldorado Mountain – Doudy Draw Trail Study Area is located south of the Eldorado Springs road and west of Highway 93. Although we are almost certain to get more opportunities there than we have currently, we need to turn some heads in the City to make sure we get more than just a couple of old roads.

The City's draft plan includes many "no trail" options. It lists many potential problems from recreation access, but barely acknowledges the high value of giving people opportunities to experience natural places. BMA needs you to show up at City open houses and make these important points:

- We want singletrack! Riding on dirt roads is not a fun, desirable experience.
- We want multiuse, shared trails! The City shouldn't arbitrarily ban bikes from singletrack trails. Most trail users can effectively, politely share trails and there are already huge opportunities to hike on trails that ban bikes.
- We want a remote backcountry experience, the same as hikers and equestrians. Give us loops and options so we can 'get away' from city traffic and crowded trailheads.
- Bikes belong on trails in Habitat Conservation Areas. Bikes stay on trails and have the same degree of environmental impacts as hikers, so there's no reason to keep us out. The Visitor Master Plan allows bikes in HCAs.
- The Eldorado Mountain – Doudy Draw TSA is important to bikes. It holds the greatest opportunity for new, singletrack trail mileage to redress our historically under-served user group.
- Trails are a management tool. They may cause impacts to the environment, but their harm is less than unmanaged, unplanned, user-created trails and random wandering. The City does not have the resources to enforce complete bans on human use, so it needs well-designed, attractive trails to steer people to the "right" places.

The Eldorado Mountain – Doudy Draw TSA is **THE MOST IMPORTANT trail study area for mountain biking**. It has spectacular views, ponderosa forests, connection possibilities in every direction, and enough land to get that feeling of being "out where the wild things are." What the City does here will affect all the other trail study areas and set a precedent about whether they can keep treating mountain bikers as second-class citizens. So it's very important for you to show up.

It's time to get political. The City's Open Space department is starting to "get it" about mountain biking and we have seen recent changes for the better, including the Cowdrey Draw Trail that BMA helped to build last fall. If we show them just how many people want more SINGLETRACK CLOSE TO TOWN, we can empower city staff who are already on our side.

For more info: www.bouldermountainbike.org