

OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS MARSHALL MESA/SOUTHERN GRASSLANDS TRAIL STUDY AREA PLANNING ALMOST COMPLETE

The City Of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks(OSMP) Department has been holding meetings on thousands of acres of open space south east of the city limits in an area that is generally inside the old Morgul-Bismarck road course.

This is a planning project. OSMP is deciding what trails make sense, what trailheads make sense, and what to do about them. BMA representatives have been there throughout the process. We are elated to report that the final result is likely to look pretty good.

The most notable aspect of this process is the "cultural shift" we are seeing from OSMP staff. They are doing their best to embrace recreation and the concept of a high quality user experience doesn't seem to be such a foreign concept to them. Those of you who remember the history of exclusion and the negative approach to recreation once prevalent in OSMP will agree this is a major development.

OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS GRASSLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

While in the midst of the Trail Study Area (TSA) process as a follow-on to the Visitor Master Plan, the Open Space & Mountain Parks began a Grasslands Management Plan (GEMP) covering more than half of all open space properties and including most of the future TSA areas.

Although the plan claims to deal only with grassland resource management and deliberately excludes recreational considerations, the initial draft contains several recommendations for trail restrictions and closures.

BMA believes these recommendations do not belong in the Grasslands Plan. Recreational management and trail issues in particular are the explicit focus of the TSA processes.

BMA prepared an initial response detailing our concerns about the plan's inappropriate recommendations. We submitted it to OSMP staff and Board of Trustees. You can view the BMA comments at [Grassland Comments](#).

BMA prepared a second response reiterating our initial concerns and detailing our disagreements with specific items for the OSMP Board of Trustees Grasslands Management Plan Study Session. We submitted it to OSMP staff and Board of Trustees. You can view the BMA submission at [BMA Grassland Study Sessions Concerns](#).

Visit the official city OSMP GEMP website at [OSMP Grasslands Management Plan](#) for additional information and meeting notices from OSMP.

The community discussion is underway. We need residents of Boulder to represent the cycling community. If you are interested please contact Jason Vogel. We have well developed strategies and content that will make you an "expert" in this complex and sometimes emotional discussion.